

November 2018

Gratitude



We Can't Let Evil Prevail
[Rev. Bonnie Bates, PENN NE UCC](#)

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Christian Action Compelled by Faith
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Gratitude is such a personal feeling. Gratitude sometimes fills every sense of my being at times when I drive this territory of the Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference UCC. It is such an overwhelming beautiful landscape and sky-scape. But my gratitude is more than the awesome scenery I travel around, it is the also the destination. Destinations I will have been too this month include eastern Montana, People's UCC in Sidney, and Baker UCC, as well as University UCC in Missoula and our former Kalispell Community UCC. I know that my way is so much smoother than the journey of those who established these churches as missions, and I am filled with gratitude for their ministries. I know that the future of ministry is as uncertain as those days when our first churches met in miner tents, bar rooms, and community halls, and I am filled with gratitude for the "great cloud of witnesses" who continue to believe that faith can make a difference in a community.

I am mindful that I am filled with gratitude as this land and this people of the MT-NWY Conference UCC remind me that I am significantly connected with a sacredness so much deeper than my own self. For being so personal, gratitude is not about any self-satisfaction of me and my awesome moments. Gratitude happens because there are others for whom, and with whom, to be thankful. And, too, there are social-political-cultural-religious movements for whom, and with whom, to be thankful. I have so much gratitude for each and everyone of our pastors and lay leaders, and I also am so thankful for our Board of Directors, our churches, the UCC denomination, Rocky Mountain College, Intermountain Children's Home, CUE (Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries).

I have found that gratitude is a gift that is both received and given. Gratitude is a gift received by being in covenant with each other as well as in covenant between our settings of the church. As a Conference Minister I am blessed to be an expression of covenant that brings our largest churches and smallest churches into relationship. One Sunday I will be at University UCC Missoula, the next Sunday I will be at Baker UCC. Each has their own way of being that church in their community that is welcoming of all people. University UCC has a new pastor while Baker UCC is seeking a new pastor, and both pastoral searches have received my full attention. I pray that the gratitude I know for churches such as Baker UCC and University UCC Missoula being in covenant is not only mine, but also yours. May you be blessed with gratitude for who are as leaders within churches, as churches with a Conference, and as a Conference within a denomination.

You are invited to join Marc Stewart for a monthly conversation about church vitality

computer, tablet, or smart phone through this link:

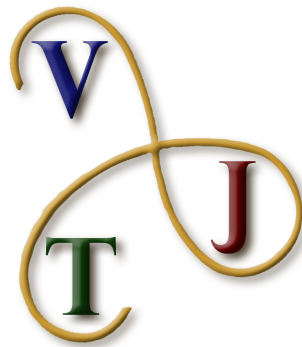
Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16465588656,,5163956042# or +16699006833,,5163956042#

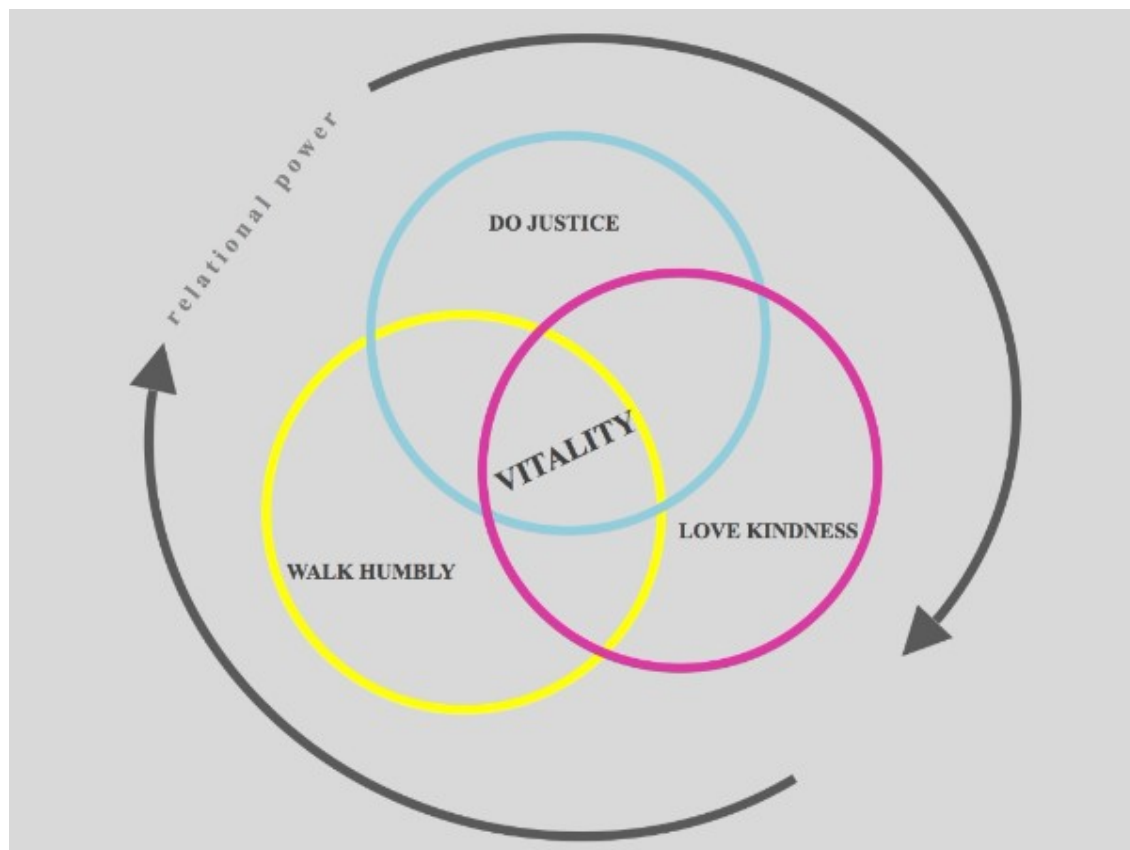
Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 516 395 6042



The Three Mission Priorities of the MT-NWy Conference UCC:



1.
All congregations

“What does the Lord
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?”

--Micah 6: 8 [NRSV]



As one of the ministry settings within our Conference, it is appropriate to ask what it means for Mimanagish to be vital and viable. The Conference is 2 years into a 3-year refocus on camp vitality and viability that has introduced new staffing and programming, addressed some deferred maintenance issues, create more adult-friendly accommodations, and developed partnerships with other organizations that might be able use Mimanagish during our open weeks.

Our Board of Directors has convened an Advisory Council of business leaders to assess the sustainability of Camp Miminagish, develop a business plan, and to recommend whether the Conference is able to carry out the business plan. Some options for the Advisory Council to consider:

1. the Conference continue to manage Camp Mimanagish
2. Camp Mimanagish become its own non-profit entity, with its own board
3. the Conference contract with a camp management company to run camp operations
4. the Conference sell Camp Mimamagish.

Meanwhile, we are called to be good stewards of this sacred space. At our Conference budget meeting on October 22, the Conference voted 37-17-2 to approve the 2019 budget recommended by the Board. The Camp Mimanagish budget has been called a "buy time" budget by the Board. It includes a \$100,000 deficit to be met by a 50/50 split of fundraising and endowment draw. We have bought time to do some significant work that needs to be done:

1. provide for the third year of the turn-around plan
2. develop a workable longterm business plan
3. assess together whether being good stewards of Mimanagish might mean giving up management of Mimanagish.

The Committee for Outdoor Ministries will be engaging in three forms of Mimanagish promotion this winter:

1. sharing stories of lives impacted and transformed by Mlmanagish
2. seeking financial support for the 2019 budget
3. inviting local church leaders to recommend partner organizations that might

2. The Conference will be appropriately staffed and the staff will be justly compensated.

Staff costs present the major challenge to most of our church and conference budgets. It is tempting to reduce compensation without reducing expectations. For example, a part-time pastor may still be expected to be available every Sunday and then may also have their vacation time halved. Our [Clergy Compensation Guidelines](#) suggest that it is appropriate that "part-time ministry may include part-time monthly coverage, ie a three-quarter time position would include one weekend off every month." Justly compensating clergy is all about quality of ministry rather than quantity of time worked. When we can not afford full time pastoral coverage, we get our best pastors by offering commensurate compensation.

3. The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have an active presence in places where we are not now present.

You may not have heard about one of the ministries happen through the Conference. The Billings area Suicide Awareness Walk organizing team uses our office meeting space. The Suicide Awareness Walk is so thankful for our Conference support:

Thank you for your support of our suicide prevention work for Montana and the wider vision of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The Conference's allowing our Walk meetings at the Conference office is a huge benefit, and in exchange we are happy to have the UCC logo on our Walk website and t-shirts. I have given many suicide prevention classes at camp and at the Conference office, and I am available and happy to do more, also at our churches, as I did on September 29, 2018. The Conference's sponsorship of the Out of Darkness Walk is a win-win, spreading the word about suicide prevention and the United Church of Christ.

With gratitude, Joan Nye

West Region Conference Minister's Table supporting [cloud-based connections](#)

Along with the other 7 Conferences of the Western Region of the UCC, we are supporting the development of a cloud-based computer/tablet/smartphone solution for connecting within, between, and beyond our churches and conferences. This "b1" app will integrate social media communications, WEB site creation, calendaring, eNews, event planning.



Raising & Leveling the Technology Playing field including:

- Role-specific **tools for UCC ministry**
- Personalized **mobile and tablet apps**,
- Vibrant and Fresh **Websites**
- Communication, **Payment/Donation**, & Management tools
- Cause- and passion-based **connections within and between churches**

Easy-to-use, world-class tools and resources for **ALL** our local churches, camps & conference centers, ministers, conferences, events, & causes.

MT-NWy Conference Scholarships Coach Training



The MT-NWy Conference UCC in collaboration with “Coaching for Clergy” will be offering classes that can lead to certification in clergy or leader coaching. Up to ten scholarships will be offered to cover the full cost of the first set of courses plus room/board, and half (\$750) the fee for the mentor coaching portion of course.

Our instructor, the Rev. Dr. Felix Villanueva, is a Certified Master Coach. He is also a Certified Trainer and Mentor Coach. The week-long [Clergy Coaching Certification Training](#) will take place March 18-22, 2019 at the Ursuline Center, 2300 Central Ave., Great Falls MT 59401. There will also be a day of introduction and orientation on February 2 in Big Timber, MT. If you are interested in becoming a certified coach or can refer someone, please use the [pre-registration link](#) on our [mnwcucc.org](#) WEB site.



[MIMANAGISH CAMPS AND RETREATS](#)

Camp Mimanagish 2019 season

Look at the video resource from PRIDE Camp and share: [Pride Video](#)



November 27, 2018

Mimanagish Donation Campaign

November celebrates a month of thanks and we are kicking off the national Giving Tuesday movement with support for Mimanagish.

Giving Tuesday donations can be made here:

<https://givingtools.com/give/523>



link to online [Conference calendar](#)

Nov 4 Marc preaches at [Sidney and Savage UCCs](#)
Nov 6 Marc, Josie, and Gus meet with USFS at Mimanagish
Nov 6 ELECTION DAY Get Out and Vote
Nov 8 Clergy gathering, Billings office, 10 am - 1 pm
Nov 10 [MAC](#) (Montana Assoc. of Christians) CONNECT workshops, Helena
Nov 11 Marc preaches at [University UCC](#) Missoula
Nov 15 [Micah chat](#) with Marc on Zoom
Nov 18 Marc at Baker UCC
Nov 22-23 Conference office closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 25 Marc preaches at [Mayflower UCC](#)
Nov 27 [Giving Tuesday](#) donation day to Mimanagish
Nov 29 Mimanagish Advisory Council meeting, 4 pm by Zoom
Dec 10-14 Marc attends [AM21](#) Search and Call meeting, San Diego
Dec 13 Clergy Gathering, Billings office, 10 am - 1 pm
Dec 20 [Micah chat](#) with Marc on Zoom
Dec 24 -26 Conference Office closed for Christmas
Jan 11-12 Church and Ministry Commission, Billings and Zoom
Feb 2 Leadership Coaching Introduction, Big Timber 9 am - 4 pm
March 18-22 [Coaching training](#), Ursuline Center, Great Falls



Did You Know...

Mimanagish Matters is our new monthly eNews all about Mimanagish. Mimanagish Matters comes out during the third week of the month. Email the Conference office [to subscribe](#).

Check out our CONFERENCE WEB SITE

www.mnwcucc.org

and our MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

www.mimanagish.org

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page.

[Click here!](#)

And check out our Camp Mimanagish Facebook page. [Click here!](#)

"Another Voice" community television series features