



Welcome to the second edition of **TRAILS**, the **Two Rivers Association Information for LeaderS!** It was suggested that we could disseminate information to our congregations a couple of months in advance of meetings to improve discussion at the meetings as well as provide a recap of the recent meeting through an e-newsletter. We hope that this format will provide some additional discussion for pastors and leaders of the congregations which are part of the Two Rivers Association. Our hope is to provide four editions each year – about two months before and about two months after each Association meeting. If this seems to be reasonably successful, we may take one step further and try to provide some Inspiration also. As always, we do look for suggestions to improve what we are doing – making it more useful to you as well as more efficient for us.

DATES

We want to provide you with dates of some future events as well as some names of contacts at the Association level.

Dates/Time	EVENT	Location
Late August –Mid September	Missionaries Doug and Liz Searles in SD. Contact Ruthi Menken (605-339-2957) to arrange local church visit	
Saturday, October 22, 10:30 am	SD UCC 2 nd Annual Emerging Ministries Summit (fellowship beginning at 10:00 am)	First Congregational UCC, Pierre
Sunday, October 23, 3:00 pm	Two Rivers Association Fall Meeting	United Church of Christ, Centerville
Sunday, November 13, 10:00 am	UCC Congregational, Springfield 140 th Anniversary	UCC Cong., Springfield
Sunday, April 15, 2:00 pm	Easter Cantata	UCC Congregational, Yankton
Sunday, April 22, 2012	Two Rivers Association Spring Meeting	Time and Location To be announced

Second Annual SDUCC Emerging Ministries Summit. All are invited to come and take part in planning conference-wide ministries.

TRA Fall Association Meeting. All are invited to attend. As per our By-laws, we meet the fourth Sundays of April and October. This fall, we will be at the UCC church in Centerville. The programs will include a Report from Up Front on General Synod 28 and discussions of future programs.

Recap of April 10, 2011 Spring Meeting at UCC, Scotland

Attendance at meeting start: 34 delegates from 9 congregations

New pastors: Reported Rev. David Bambas had been called to Elk Point and Rev. Ellen King has been called to a hospice chaplaincy in Texas.

Reports: Several written reports were distributed and some oral reports were given. Committee on Ministry called attention to the Boundary Training coming up at the end of April. Conference Search Committee for a New Conference Minister reported that the Conference Board of Directors had voted to suspend the search

while discussions proceed with the Northern Plains Conference about how the two Conferences might work together. The biennial Financial Report was received and approved with a couple of minor corrections made to the records. Conference Historical Committee emphasized the importance of keeping historical records of the congregation and asked that each congregation contact Elaine McKittrick (605-338-9991) with the name of somebody they could interview to tell the congregation's story. Nominating Committee submitted their report noting two vacancies – no nominations from the floor so the report was accepted.

Programs: (1) Boundary Training – SD is only conference where Boundary Training is not Mandatory. It is suggested that this training be completed every four years. Prior training was in 2008. Committee on Ministry would like to see all clergy take this training now and encouraged lay leaders (youth Sunday School, etc) to participate as well.

(2) The Banquet at Yankton UCC Congregational – Katherine French, President, The Banquet Board, gave a history of this Banquet, noting it serves 400 to 500 people six days a week. They provide meals, gifts, items, and services to the guests. The Banquet is a meaningful mission project of the UCC church in Scotland, host church for the spring meeting. The spring meeting offering was given to The Banquet.

(3) Northern Plains South Dakota Conferences Partnership Task Force – Well-rounded group from each conference has met to discuss the possibilities of working together. Both conferences are very similar. Thoughts about sharing a conference minister are being explored.

Other Business: Motion to give \$1000 to the Sudan UCC in Sioux Falls, a mission congregation, for local expenses including pastoral salaries was approved. Pastor Gordon Harris led the Communion service.

Notes from the Two Rivers Association Executive Council

5/13/11 – Vacancies. Discussed, Linda to make contacts for State Women's Board vacancy. Rev. Jay Mitchell volunteered to fill Nominating Committee vacancy.

Letter of Concern. Concern expressed about declining attendance and participation at Association meeting. Consider changing away from Sunday – decided not to as other days have more conflicts. Perhaps use a reminder system two or three months in advance – discussion led to possibly doing a bi-monthly newsletter.

South Sudan Independence Celebration – TRA Exec. Council approved \$250 to cover expenses for a Two Rivers celebration with the Sudan UCC on July 17. (*Sudan UCC later requested a change of date as they would be attending a celebration in Kansas City that day.*)

8/25/11 – Officers/representatives. TRA Executive Council officially appointed Rev. Jay Mitchell, Beresford UCC and Centerville UCC, to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee. His term will expire at the Spring Meeting, 2014. We still have a vacancy for a representative on the State Women's Board. Also, we have received a resignation from one of our representatives to the Conference Committee on Ministry and will be seeking someone to fill that position.

TRAILS. Kelly reported we had good response on our first edition of **TRAILS**, with several recipients providing an e-mail address that we did not have.

Letter. We continued discussion of a letter received from one of our pastors at the Spring meeting who was dismayed with our turn-out. The big issue, we believe, is how to get people to choose to come to the meetings. One advantage of meeting is for face-to-face interactions with others in the Association. With that in mind, the need was expressed to present a program that is inspiring, interesting, and relevant to the congregations. (*If you have a suggestion for a program, please e-mail the Assistant Moderator at the address below.*) Another suggestion was to break into small groups to exchange information and ideas about a variety of topics. Another idea was to hold one meeting a year at a big city church (Sioux Falls, Yankton, Vermillion, Mitchell, Brookings) each year to provide an opportunity for participants to pair the meeting up with another activity (shopping, sports, etc.) We all agreed that improving communications would be a big step toward implementing changes. We need to stress that the meeting is open to any congregational member, not just lay delegates and clergy. As

we build our e-mail contacts, we can get more material to more individuals, a prepared packet could be sent to each congregation so they could share the information before the meeting.

Annual Dues. Each congregation pays \$1.50 dues per member; \$1.10 of this per member dues is put into a designated fund to cover the expenses of the delegates to General Synod. The remainder has been used to cover expenses of the Association.

Using our Funds. We suggested setting aside up to \$1,500 to fund a speaker for the Spring, 2012 meeting – to be discussed more extensively at the fall meeting. We decided to recommend giving \$250 to Placerville, \$250 to Sudan UCC, and \$500 to the Conference to help provide funds for the transition to the vision in the strategic plan. We also decided to supplement the State Women’s Board Scholarship Funds with a \$1,000 unrestricted donation. A suggestion was made to establish a scholarship fund to be administered by the Conference Scholarship Committee – more discussion will take place about this at the Fall meeting.

Program. One part of the program at the Fall Meeting will be a report from General Synod – several decisions there will have an impact on local congregations.

Offering. Since we believe the Association exists to provide supportive resources and opportunities to our local congregations, we decided to give the Fall meeting offering to the Centerville UCC Building Fund to help them on their way to pay off the new addition we will have part of our meeting in.

OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Many of the Officers and Representatives were listed in the first edition. Here are the officers again and the representatives to the Committee on Ministry.

Position	Name	Congregation	Telephone	E-mail
Moderator	Tom Roust	First, Sioux Falls	605-371-3116	taroust@aol.com
Ass't. Moderator	Pastor Linda Schortzman	UCC Cong., Springfield	605-583-4371	lmschortzman@yahoo.com
Secretary	Kelly Namminga	UCC Cong., Springfield	605-660-0286	kn_ucc@live.com
Treasurer	Bev Ulmer	UCC, Scotland	605-463-2510	bulmer@hcinet.net
Committee on Ministry	Rev. Kristi McLaughlin	UCC, Mitchell	605-999-9361	ucc5pastor@hotmail.com
Committee on Ministry	Rev. Carl Kline	UCC, Brookings	605-692-8465	carlek@mchsi.com
Committee on Ministry	Connie Nelsen	UCC Congregational, Vermillion	(h) 605-202-0189; (w)605-677-6485	conniemnelsen@hotmail.com
Committee on Ministry	Marilyn Kratz	UCC Congregational, Yankton	605-664-5864	mkratz@iw.net
Committee on Ministry	VACANCY			