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## PNC embarks on communication review

In coming months, the PNC's 82 churches will reflect on their communication assets and needs to decide what technology will support the connections among congregations, conference leaders and the national setting.

To facilitate that process, the Board of Directors has contracted with Kathleen Hosfeld, moderator of All Pilgrims Christian Church in Seattle and strategist with Hosfeld & Associates, a consulting firm with 20 years of experience in communication, marketing and digital systems.

She will guide the conference to examine its communication systems and technology with a goal of "fostering trust and deepening relationships, which are the basis for collaboration and growth."

The board has named a Communication Task Force to help her develop recommendations.



Kathleen Hosfeld introduced plans for review at the Leadership Retreat at N-Sid-Sen.

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## Church offers suggestions on preserving documents

In the process of preparing for the 50th anniversary last fall, members of Wayside UCC found that founders took care to save pictures to share the story of building the church in Federal Way—both the physical structure and the life of the congregation.

"We have scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, hand-written notes and letters, contracts, drawings—a wealth of original material for those interested in our history," said Myrna Harrison, who is now working on the Wayside History Project.

**Group enjoy  
telling stories  
as they  
proceed.**

The recent history was not as well documented, preserved or cared for. Learning of the poor condition of some of the materials, she and others started the project to archive documents and photographs.

"At this point in the project, we are still taking inventory, carefully listing the items in the collection and making note of their condition," she said.

The group of eight enjoys telling stories as they proceed.

"It is difficult to keep focus on the project, when we are distracted by the

contents, such as an anonymous photo of people much younger than we are. We try to figure out their names and then decide what to do with it," said Harrison, adding that she hopes interest will continue through the summer.

The group, with the advice of the Historical Society of Federal Way, is tackling the large project a little at a time. They will inventory, index and protect the materials in archival quality sleeves, folders and boxes. In addition, they are scanning the documents for permanent storage in digital form.

Harrison outlined the process for reviewing items: To select items, they ask: Is there a problem with it? Is it interesting? Is it important?

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# PNC reflects on new ways to work

## Leadership Retreat



The Rev. Michael Denton  
Conference Minister



The Rev. Kristine Zakarison  
Conference Moderator



The Rev. Brandon Duran  
Conference Vice Moderator

**The new conference moderator**, Kristine Zakarison, pastor at Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman, opened the 2010 Leadership Retreat in June at N-Sid-Sen telling committee members of the need to build community in the PNC through fostering collaboration and communication among committees.

She said the Board of Directors hired Kathleen Hosfeld as communication technology consultant to propose ways to enhance communication and participation among conference leaders members despite the geographic spread.

“Technology does not create community. We have to be intentional about creating it,” said Zakarison, expressing her hope that when people work on committees or in congregations and wants to do a project, they will connect with the conference for resources.

**As vice moderator, Brandon Duran** of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle, is taking responsibility to coordinate the Communication Task Force that will meet with Hosfeld.

Outside Annual Meetings, Leadership Retreats and the Board doing business on behalf of the conference, she said there are two meetings a year of the Conference Council, one Nov. 6 in Ellensburg at CWU and one March 5 on the West side.

**From that background, Mike Denton**, conference minister explained the need for new channels of communication among lay leaders.

**Once the conference had 14 staff.** It now has five. Each committee once had a staff member assigned to it, he said. The roles of limited staff make that impossible—Arlene Hobson as executive administrator helps with general communication, search and call; Michelle Johansen is responsible for bookkeeping. Randy Crowe and Deeg Nelson are responsible for the camps. Mike spends much time traveling to many meetings and is working with churches in transition.

He is aware that the conference ministry is like nonprofit management while different entities and groups have distinct tasks of ministry in the conference.

**“With communication, we can do more,”** Denton said. “Be gentle with us given the structural and staff realities, we can’t do as much. Leadership now needs to be more collaborative, rather than top down.”

Denton described some of the challenges

churches in the national, regional, conference and local settings face.

**Giving has gone down** consistently for 10 years. For every senior who dies, it takes three to five people to replace the giving level.

“We are one of the two oldest denominations in the United States, with the average age of members 57, and the average age of pastors 63—that includes retired pastors,” he said. “Now 4.6 percent of members in the UCC are under 40, because many pastors came in as second careers.

“We are in a transition time that means there is more need for lay leader development,” he said.

**Denton then told of a movement** in the UCC from national to regional staff, and from conferences to regional staff.

“Over the last 12 years, national staff was reduced by two-thirds,” he said. “The first realm of cuts is the national, the second is conference and the third is local.”

One way to spend funds effectively to accomplish tasks is through contracted short-term staffing, such as Hosfeld.

“At the end of the year, we will have her assessment of our communication and her suggestions of initiatives for next steps,” Denton said, adding that the sale of the house the conference owned on Beacon Ave. in Seattle was only possible with the help of lay leaders who took responsibility for that task.

**“The primary resource we have** in the life of the conference is all of us together,” he said, adding that “I look at every complaint of concern as an opportunity to volunteer.”

**An “ask the conference” time** on Saturday evening took a turn from conference level action to local congregation interaction when someone asked: “Where is your church walking in the way of Jesus and where are you struggling to live out the gospel?”

That was followed by a wealth of stories of feeding the hungry, connecting with communities, giving children backpacks of food for weekends, building Habitat houses, turning a junk sale into emergency funds, nurturing a church garden for a food bank and housing homeless families.

**Finding a similar abundance** in churches, Bobbi Virta and Kathie Forman of the Ministry Resource Committee reported that of the 82 churches in the PNC, 53 have representatives on the board and committees with 142 individuals saying “yes” in 2010.

*Details of PNC's Annual Meeting are at its blogspot*

## 322 delegates and visitors adopt resolutions, budget

With several people taking video, photos and blogging, Annual Meeting 2010 is online at [pncuccam.blogspot.com](http://pncuccam.blogspot.com), with additions May 11 to 18 from the Global Ministries delegation visiting partners in the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

The media team shared details of the gathering online. The team included Ed Evans, Lorna Kropp, Judi Edwards, Ken Colman, Susan Andresen, Michael Carlson and John Eisenhauer. Evans later used it to make posts from Korea.

The 322 delegates and visitors gathered during April in Wenatchee to consider the theme, "Compassion, Commu-

nication, Community."

They discussed and passed resolutions to: 1) support efforts to create a just and equitable tax structure in Washington; 2) advocate abolishing the death penalty and provide resources for congregations to study and discuss the death penalty, and 3) affirm health care coverage for clergy families, some of whom are denied coverage when they seek to return to the national UCC plan after serving a church that does not provide that plan.

Delegates also approved a national UCC constitutional amendment that required authorization of each UCC conference related to ministerial

authorization and procedures—including a shift from the term "in care" to "members in discernment" for those studying and preparing for ordained ministry.

Delegates approved the slate of members for the conference board and committees, including suspending the by-laws for the Educational Ministries Committee to operate in four task forces—adult spiritual formation, Christian education ministries, outdoor ministries, and youth and young adult ministries—and then report back.

Edie Lackland of the Stewardship Committee suggested that the 2011 balanced budget includes three-percent sal-

ary increases depending on the economy, \$10,000 for a communication consultant, \$10,000 for additional contract help.

"Our goal is to fund an associate conference minister eventually at \$45,000 if the economy and OCWM improve," she said.

Bing Tso a member of Bethany UCC in Seattle and member of Wider Church Ministries' board, presented recognition for United Churches in University Place for the highest per capita giving in the UCC to One Great Hour of Sharing, giving \$78 per capita in contrast with an average of \$5 across the UCC.

For more details, visit [pncuccam.blogspot.com](http://pncuccam.blogspot.com).

### Transitions announced

**Robert Lagergren** of Shalom UCC Richland, who was conference moderator in 1978 and 1996, died May 12.

**Silversity Madrazo**, of Wayside UCC in Federal Way and Bethany UCC in Seattle, died in April. She served as a pastor, educator and advocate with her husband Carlos in Illinois, Washington and with Global Ministries.

**Brandon Duran** is director of children, youth and family ministries at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle.

**Kent French** has become lead pastor at First Congregational UCC in Bellingham.

**Lynn Hinton** is now interim at Chewelah UCC.

**Janet Matthews** is the new pastor at Fox Island.

**Greg Turk** is serving All Pilgrims in Seattle.

**Jason Boyd** has been called to serve as pastor at Kirkland UCC.

**Lauren Cannon** is interim of faith formation at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle.

**Karen Kennell** is now a licensed minister at Fauntleroy.

**Ashley Watson** was licensed to serve Chewelah UCC.

Retiring are **Doris Waggoner** as chaplain; **Bob Rieke** from Blaine; **Mark Dowdy** from United Churches in Olympia.

**Jane Newell** now has privilege of call.

### Camp registrations average

At Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen, camps will reflect on the theme, "Be a Hero: Living Like Jesus."

On Sunday, Sept. 6, there will be a celebration of the 75th anniversary of N-Sid-Sen with a Labor Day weekend retreat and a picnic.

After a Pilgrim Firs Young Adult retreat, June 26 to 28, the summer program begins with leadership by Stephen Hadden for Intermediate Camp, July 5 to 10; Rachel and Sean Brackett for Senior High Camp, July 11 to 17; Mark Boyd for Junior High Camp, July 18 to 24; Kaila Russell and Katie Lloyd for Kids Camp, July 25 to 28, and Emily Tanis-Likkel for Family Camp, August 22 to 26.

Leading N-Sid-Sen's summer camps are Trudy Lambert and Doris Northrup for Kids Camp, June 27 to 30; Bob Watrous and Kim Schulz for Intermediate, July 5 to 11; Lyn Stultz for Senior High Aqua, July 11 to 17; Meredith and Ryan Lambert for Family Camp #1, July 25 to 31; Dana Sprengle and John Hubbe for Junior High Aqua, Aug. 1 to 7, and Family Camp #2, Aug. 8 to 14.

For information, call 360-876-2031 for Pilgrim Firs or 208-689-3489 for N-Sid-Sen

or visit [pilgrimfirs.org](http://pilgrimfirs.org) or [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org).

### Email changes

Mary Stamp, Pacific Northwest Conference News editor, has changed her email from [pncuccnews@qwest.net](mailto:pncuccnews@qwest.net) to [editor@pncuccnews.org](mailto:editor@pncuccnews.org).

### Anti-racism workshop set

Melanie Morrison of Allies for Change and Diane Schmitz of Seattle University will lead a workshop on "Doing Our Own Work" from 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 8 to 1 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13 at Harmony Hill Retreat Center in Union, Wash. Participants will learn to be anti-racist allies to bring institutional change on racism and white privilege. For information, call 989-855-2277 or see [www.alliesforchange.org/calendar.html](http://www.alliesforchange.org/calendar.html).

### NW Women's Retreat planned

The ninth annual Northwest Women's Retreat on the theme, "Come to the Oasis: Our Affirmation of Spirit, Inspiration and Soul," will be Nov. 5 to 7 at Kah-Nee-Ta resort in Warm Springs, Ore.

Keynoter Carolyn Scott Kortge is author of *The Spirited Walker: Fitness Walking for Clarity, Balance and Spiritual Connection*.

Conference  
News  
Briefs

## Retired teacher, veteran is force behind top giving

**United Churches in University Place was the top in per capita giving to One Great Hour of Sharing in 2009.**

A retired teacher and army veteran is the voice and force behind both the United Churches in University Place and the Conference being among the top three in per capita giving to the national One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering.

Clint Cannon believes talking is more powerful than shooting.

"I'm not ashamed to talk about money. Money makes the world go around. It's a way I can help," he said.

After 33 years in the Army from World War II through the Korean and Vietnam wars, he was last stationed at Fort Lewis. When he retired as a lieutenant colonel, he was in charge of logistics for the West Coast. He decided to stay in Tacoma, where he earned a master's degree in business. He then taught international business at the University of Puget Sound from 1976 to 1991.

His global experience, however, began well before his being stationed in Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, Germany and France.

"I grew up with missionaries—mostly from India and China—on itineration staying in our house because my grandfather was a Methodist Episcopal minister," he



Clint Cannon tells secret to raising OGHS.

said. "I figured everyone did that."

In 1993, he began serving on the former United Church Board for World Ministries (BWM), and in 1994 became coordinator of the Western Region, planning OGHS promotion. He his term with the UCBWM ended in 1999, when the board became Wider Church Ministries, but he continued two more years as regional coordinator.

"Our church has been first, second or third in per capita giving since I served as regional coordinator," Cannon said. "I have promoted OGHS at meetings of western regional conferences."

He promotes global mission and One Great Hour of Sharing year round in his church, giving skits and talks—using some examples from outreach with military chapels. In January, February and March, he presents every Sunday.

Once he dramatized helping build a water pipeline in Taiwan to give a village running water. He helped provide knitting machines there.

He also tells of holding Christmas parties for children in resettlement camps in Germany after the war. In 1953, on the North-South Korea border, he entertained families, and helped fill and stack sandbags to prevent flood damage.

"What I have done with global ministries has been some the finest things I have done in my life," Cannon said. "Partnerships are important because when someone is talking they can't shoot. We need to keep communication open."

Cannon has served as president of the 100-member United Churches several times, chair of its External Ministries Committee, chair of the local Hunger Walk and on the board of Associated Ministries.

## Committee will use and explore use of tech tools

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Task force members are Steve Crapson, Brandon Duran, Robbie Gilchrist, Myrna Harrison, JS Purdue, Mary Stamp and Yvonne Wilhelms.

They will meet by phone, online and in person to review the current situation and tools, and find what is working.

Hosfeld uses an "appreciative process," affirming what is working, amplifying it to solve any problem and fulfilling the conference's purpose.

For her, the most important element in communication is "the people who use the tools," because "technology does not do the work." It only supports the people who do the work.

"It can enhance relationships and make it possible to work in spite of geographic

separation. We want to look at ways a communication system deepens trust, collaboration and relationships."

"No one form works for everyone. Success comes not in outcomes, but in stretching mutual respect and trust so we can be in conflict, trusting we will work through it," she said.

Hosfeld will install software to track use of the website. She will review staff, processes and equipment related to PNC communication. This summer, she will develop and distribute surveys online and in person to identify solutions.

"Digital communication includes websites, content management, email, newsletters, RSS newsfeeds, social media marketing, blogs and other tools, including online meet-

ings," she said.

With technologies changing quickly, she said organizations often feel their communications "are a patchwork rather than an integrated system."

Hosfeld's work on mission revisioning with All Pilgrims has led to a 12 percent increase in membership and a 20 percent increase in giving.

From 1986 to 1988, she was a lay leader of communication for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ballard, developing communication materials, and doing the church newsletter.

Since starting the consulting business in 1989, Hosfeld has helped one-person startups to Fortune 500 corporations.

"How do we convene meetings, work across distances and engage in congregations so we

feel the spirit is at work locally and part of the larger work of the spirit in the world? How can we help people be animated by what God is doing in our conference?" she asked.

Caring about church renewal, she hopes congregations can discern how to take advantage of shared resources "to nurture the spiritual formation of members to be Christ's body in service of justice, mercy and peace," she said.

"We live in a time of profound change, challenging our thinking as a global community about what it means to be the church in this time and place if we are to create a global community and peace," she said.

For information, call 206-595-3771 or email [brandon@teamduran.com](mailto:brandon@teamduran.com).

## Speaker lends insights into compassion, young people

Steeped in faith on the academic level, Roger Nishioka shared in his 2010 Annual Meeting sermon a missed opportunity for compassion in a supermarket. In his lecture and workshop, he offered insights on why young people are or are not involved in churches.

The associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta stopped at a supermarket on his way home from the airport. He was in a hurry to prepare a class.

He encountered a long line at the counter for 10 items.

**“A woman in front of me,** with more than 10 items and not enough money or food stamps, scanned the items to decide what she could buy,” Rodger said. “Realizing she couldn’t afford it and as a Christian and lover of the Lord, I asked the clerk how much she needed. She was short \$10. I gave the clerk \$10.

“The older, African-American woman looked at me and said, ‘You didn’t talk to me or ask if you could pay for my groceries.’ She kept eye contact, saying, ‘You should have talked to me.’ She took the bags and walked away.”

**Saying she was right,** Nishioka connected it to the Scripture about widows grieving the death of Tabitha, the only woman called a disciple. She gave them clothing and community.

“Women are the majority of the world’s poor, and widows are the poorest,” he said. “Tabitha saw them as people created in God’s image. We are called to see people as created in God’s image.”

Peter, who was healing nearby, came and prayed. Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up.

“Jesus’ death is not the last word,” he said. “Every nation, family, community and congregation should be structured so people belong.”

Nishioka said that “we of-



Rodger Nishioka, Annual Meeting preacher and speaker

ten fulfill our expectations, assuming that youth are to be bored in worship; young adults will leave; immigrants will be excluded, and little churches are to die.

“Death is not the last word. In the community of Jesus, God comes to us, bends down and says rise from paralysis, fear, inadequacy and dying,” Nishioka said. “You are the light of the world infused with God’s image. Rise! Get up! People shattered by injustice and sorrow need reconciliation and need to celebrate joy.”

**Speaking on “21st Century Reformation: Eight Trends to Change and Challenge the Church,”** he summarized research on why few youth and young adults stay in churches.

“Most are spiritual but not religious,” he said. “In the Northwest, 70 percent of people in UCC churches are “im-

migrants” and 15 percent are from no church tradition.”

**He urges churches** to move:

1) from tribal understandings to immigrant education programs for new people;

2) from mission out there to mission right here—concern about life across the street;

3) from reasoned spirituality to mystery filled spirituality about awe and wonder;

4) from official leadership to gifted leadership of people who know how to do ministry, preach, comfort the dying and show God living in their lives;

6) from long-term to short-term planning so they see what is going on around them;

7) from tradition to being “epic”—authentically experiential, participatory, image-driven and communal, and

8) from shaping disciples to being apostles sent out to

change the world.

“We are in the season of change. We need to grow, die and bring new life,” Nishioka said. “How agile are we in change?”

**In his workshop,** he reviewed a 2003 national study on youth and religion, sharing trends to help people understand new avenues and perspectives for youth ministry.

“Youth ministry is a matter of critical mass. I didn’t go for theology but for fun,” he said.

**“Authenticity is huge,”** he added. “They don’t care if a pastor wears a robe, but if the pastor is real and reaches out.”

While megachurches draw young adults seeking certainty, when the formula doesn’t work, they leave, Nishioka said. Megachurches have a one-third turnover rate every year.

“People are drawn by glitz, but churches that are not participatory are not sustainable,” he said, noting that many next go to mainline churches.

**“Young adults want** belonging and community. They are tech connected, but lonely,” Rodger said. “They are looking for a place to share their gifts.”

Because young adults look for churches online, it’s better to have no website than an outdated one. They are looking for photos of people interacting and serving, not buildings.

He suggests that it be simple and easy to navigate.

Many reject a moralistic or therapeutic deity, seeking a God involved in life. They need a God who says, “I want you to be loved and to love others.”

**“That’s how one finds** meaning in life, a purpose worthy of life’s adventure. Young people are looking for God with us—Emmanuel,” he said.

Nishioka said people need nearness and directness, without coercion: “For youth to make a faith statement, adults need to make and model their faith statement.”

## Marine's story inspires prayers, veterans workshops

Kay Sweitzer, whose story inspired Katy Lloyd to develop a training for congregations to respond to returning veterans, came to a workshop offered at PNC's Annual Meeting in Wenatchee.

When Sweitzer was being deployed to Iraq at the same time as the father of her two children, she shared her story four years ago on National Public Radio.

Introduced at Annual Meeting, she expressed amazement at what developed.

When Lloyd heard the story, she wrote down the names of family members, kept the piece of paper on her kitchen window sill and prayed for them.

Through her involvement on Christian Life, Action and Service Committee (CLSA), she prepared an issue of concern for Annual Meeting 2009, calling churches to pray for, support and work with veterans of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Then she and Doris Waggoner of CLSA prepared training workshops, based on a model developed by Catholic Charities in Spokane.

In planning a workshop for clergy and lay leaders in Western Washington, she connected



Katy Lloyd, center, introduces Kay Sweitzer to Annual Meeting.

with the Washington Association of Churches.

"The Spirit led the process. Alice Woldt, transitional director of the WAC, called the State Department of Veterans Affairs and helped Lloyd make contacts around the state.

"We partnered to do workshops in Yakima, Bellingham, Seattle and Wenatchee," she said. "The issue affects all church communities.

"Churches can go where the government can't go, talking of veterans' spiritual brokenness from the trauma of war," she said, announcing plans for more workshops."

Eventually, she googled Sweitzer and found she was living in suburban Washington, D.C. Lloyd told her she had been praying for her and was glad she was safe. They began corresponding.

"You inspired the workshops," she told Sweitzer, who did the NPR interview to let people know what happens when two parents deploy.

She was amazed that the interview inspired someone to pray for her family, and then to develop a program to help vets traumatized by war.

For information, call 206-935-4733 or email [revkaty@nwlink.com](mailto:revkaty@nwlink.com).

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## *PNC tech communicator finds counterparts in other conferences*

Use of technology in the church is about the human connections it makes possible, said Jim CastroLang, pastor at Colville First Congregational United Church of Christ.

"I celebrate opportunities in the 21st century to strengthen our covenant in the UCC by using the web and social media to share resources and build relationships," he said.

Wondering who else sees this potential of helping the church in this way, he visited the 38 UCC Conference websites and checked their Facebook pages to find how they

were they promoting their annual meetings. He checked workshop descriptions to find names of people leading workshops on technology and social media.

He made contact through LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and email to meet the "online servants"—connecting with people in Northern California, Michigan, Southern California, Connecticut and Iowa.

Bill in Iowa invited CastroLang to "attend" his workshop at the Iowa Conference Annual Meeting and help him with a demonstration.

In the age of ooVoo, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Dim Dim and Skype, the two explore how free communication technology is changing the landscape of ministry.

"It is the beginning of more cooperation, because we both want it to be a vibrant place that offers an extravagant welcome in the spiritual journey—meeting people and finding a place for those who seek relationships and community," CastroLang said.

Over ooVoo, they share their ideas and visions for the church. They want to bring

others into the conversation, he said grateful for his new friendship.

On the United Church of Christ page on Facebook, CastroLang invites others to join the discussion at <http://ow.ly/1YkgD> on human stories of churches using technology and social media. There's a UCC group on LinkedIn for a similar discussion <http://ow.ly/1Ykjh>.

CastroLang also moderates the PNC yahoo email group and Facebook page. For information, email [jjimcl@icehouse.net](mailto:jjimcl@icehouse.net) or call 509-998-7203.

## *In global partner visit to Korea*

# Delegation sees how culture has an impact on faith life

Stepping into Christianity in another culture, Jim Spraker said the recent global partnership delegation to Korea stirred awareness of how culture has impact on religious perspectives and practices.

He was one of eight members of the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference and the Northwest Region of the Disciples of Christ visiting global partner churches in the East Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) May 11 to 18.

UCC delegates were Spraker of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle and Terry Teigen of Horizon House in Seattle and Ed Evans of Suquamish UCC.

**Spraker has taught in China**, visited Plymouth's sister church in Nicaragua and participated in two global partner visits with the PNC's German partner church in Berlin-Brandenburg.

"Seeing how a church operates in its culture helps us see how our culture has impact on our church," he said. "The Korean culture focuses on families being together, while ours is geared to individuals."

**He observed a high emphasis** on education. High school students study from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., so they are ready for college entrance exams. They have a 96 percent graduation rate, in contrast to a 70 percent graduation rate in the United States.

Spraker, who served 17 years as a pastor and 27 years as a hospital chaplain, says U.S. churches would benefit by being more intentional about adult education, Bible study and prayer. While some churches in Korea are more "fundamentalistic," he said the PROK provides social programs and advocate for justice and reunification.

**Teigen, who served as a pastor** since 1980 and has been a spiritual care provider at Horizon House for two years, said the PROK helps lead the way in programs for child care, women's issues and sexual trafficking, immigrant rights and care for the poor. The church initiates programs the government eventually helps fund.

"On a bus, I sat across the aisle from a young pastor who spoke only a little English, but told me much in his few words," Teigen said.

The pastor said Koreans want to unify, speaking just after the sinking of the Cheonan navy ship. When Teigen asked if he was concerned about the threat of North Korea, the pastor replied, "There is no fear in freedom." He later said, "Korea is developed, not developing," confirming



Ed Evans of Suquamish, Terry Teigen of Horizon House and Jim Spraker of Plymouth in Seattle light candles as prayers for their delegation to Korea during Annual Meeting.

Teigen's observation of the advanced infrastructure—clean water, sewers, cars and modern, market-driven culture in Seoul, a city of 10 million, surrounded by a metropolitan area of 24 million.

**He also sensed a heaviness** from Korea's experience of war, occupation and sense of obligation to previous generations, and possibly from South Korea being an outpost of democracy in Asia.

Teigen would like to organize a young adult exchange, believing they can learn from each other. Koreans can learn from the American ideal of creating balance in life. Americans can learn from Korean young people, who stay connected with the church through college and beyond. Young adults seemed to be visible, active participants in the worship and life of the churches we visited.

**Before leaving, Evans had** a woodworker in Suquamish—who made a peace candle he was presented and used when he was pastor at the UCC church in Vancouver, Wash.—make a peace candle holder. With the help of K.J. Royale, a friend of Suquamish member Francesca Serena who was unable to go at the last minute, he had plaques put on the candle holder saying, "Imagine Peace," in Korean and English. Royale helped with translation on the trip.

The Suquamish church dedicated the candle when it commissioned its delegates. Evans presented the candle to his host, Pastor Jung, Beong Gui of the Song Pa Church. He later learned that Pastor Jung's

email is [peacejung@korea.net](mailto:peacejung@korea.net), expressing his interest in peace.

"Reconciliation of the Koreans is big for the PROK. There was tension about the sinking of the warship. I could feel it, but we did not talk about it," said Evans, who was amazed at the rigidity of the guards he saw at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

**Visiting the town of Munsan** near the DMZ, he asked why there was such a thriving community so close to the border. His host said it's because of the lower cost of living, fewer traffic jams and less pollution, the threat of North Korea is everywhere.

**Two days after they returned** the South Korean government announced that the ship was sunk by a torpedo from a North Korean submarine.

"The church is raising questions about the incident," Evans said, telling of statements from the Korean National Council of Churches and the PROK. "They questioned that the announcement coincided with the beginning of the election campaign and was being used to give advantage to the government, but it was trounced in the election."

Spraker, Teigen, Evans and the Disciples of Christ delegates, David and Kathy Helseth of Yakima, John Williams of Tacoma and Ted Blum of Kirkland are available to speak.

For information, call 360-683-4704 or email [edevans@aol.com](mailto:edevans@aol.com). Evans is chair of the PNCUCC/DOC-NW Global Ministries Committee.

## Pastor turns insights from hospice work into books

Influenced by Japanese culture as the daughter of Lutheran missionaries in Japan, Maria Dancing Heart Hoaglund served 10 years as a UCC pastor in Hawaii and the Northwest before entering hospice ministry.

Compiling stories from walking with people as they are dying, she self-published 4,000 copies of *The Last Adventure of Life: Sacred Resources for Transition* in 2005. The book's second edition was published in 2008 by Findhorn Press in Scotland and then by Finch Publishing in Australia.

Through her book and through seminars, she seeks to "create a more gentle, loving space for end-of-life care in America and to honor the more than 30 body-mind-spirit healing modalities that help people learn to relax through various life transitions," she said.

After attending a Japanese school her first eight years, she attended an English school before coming to the United States and entering Yale to major in Japanese history and women's studies. She spent two years in Japan before entering Pacific School of Religion in 1980, taking a year of clinical pastoral education in Denver and finishing seminary at Chicago Theological Seminary in 1984.

Ordained as associate minister at the Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu, Hawaii, she



Maria Dancing Heart Hoaglund signs books at Annual Meeting.

served there three years before coming to Seattle in 1987 to serve the bilingual, 50-member Japanese Congregational Church. After three years as pastor at Lummi Island, she did interim ministries at First Congregational in Everett and Columbia-Lakewood Brethren. She also trained in spiritual direction from 1994 to 1997.

During her 10 years of working as a hospice bereave-

ment and spiritual counselor, she compiled stories and insights into *The Last Adventure of Life* as a resource to help people turn from fearing death to embracing it as an adventure.

Hoaglund said she geared the book family caring for someone dying, helping them find resources and comfort.

Her latest book, *The Most Important Day of Your Life:*

*Are You Ready*, honors many religions and helps people understand the ties of body, mind and spirit.

"All religions have something to offer," she said. "We can learn from each other. Many religions offer a sense of how the body, mind and spirit can help with self care rather than just relying on doctors to fix us."

Hoaglund realizes that her cross-cultural foundation in Japan is part of her interfaith respect of other religions, valuing Buddhist understandings of death and Shinto ceremonies for weddings.

"I grew up in Japan aware of the war and yearning for peace. I believe that often wars happen because leaders have not done grief work," said Hoaglund, who lives in Lynnwood.

"Regardless of our spiritual or religious background, we all face death some day," she said, hoping her work will help people who are dying and their family and friends become more proactive and comfortable in conversing about death.

Through her work, she hopes people will be able to view death, grief and transformation of all kinds in new ways—as adventures and gifts that are part of the cycle of life.

For information, call 425-361-1953 or email [info@changewithcourage.com](mailto:info@changewithcourage.com).

## Wayside committee organizes archives to preserve church history

Continued from page 1

- If there is a problem, they correct it if possible—identifying the subject and date; removing staples and paper clips; taking it out of a sticky plastic sleeve or removing it from an acidic backing.

- If it is interesting, they photocopy it to display in a set of scrapbooks in our Memorial Lounge Library

- If it is important, they scan it for long-term electronic



Myrna Harrison

storage on gold CDs.

"We will organize the original media, store it in archival containers and prepare an index for future research," Harrison said.

They also seek additional materials to fill gaps and plan to record stories of long-term archival archives.

In addition to the safe storage, the group will produce volumes for display in the Memo-

rial Lounge library.

She said that "a generous donation" means funds are available to purchase the necessary archival quality supplies.

The history project group meets second and fourth Tuesdays each month.

Coordinators are Anne Vester, Lynn Ahlbeck and Myrna Harrison.

For information, call 253-838-4986 or email [myrnaharrison@comcast.net](mailto:myrnaharrison@comcast.net).