



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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September-October 2018

Muslim woman tells campers of her life

**All PNC campers were
at camps at N-Sid-Sen
for this summer**

Moina Shaiq, a Muslim woman from Fremont, Calif., included the PNC senior high camp at N-Sid-Sen in her summer tour to share her “Meet a Muslim” presentation in her mission of building bridges of love, respect, understanding and acceptance.

Mark Boyd, managing director of N-Sid-Sen, helped Alice Ling, pastor of the Wallace UCC set up places for her to speak in North Idaho.

“It was powerful for her to meet with the youth, and she stayed for three days, joining in different camp activities,” he said.

Moina has traveled around the United States since 9-11. Before then, she did not wear a hijab, but has done that since then so she can be a Muslim presence.
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Senior High Camp chaplain Kelsey Peterson, left, listens as Moina Shaiq, right, tells youth about her experiences as a Muslim woman.

Photo courtesy of Tony Kliment

PNC Board emphasizes deepening relationships

Over the last two years Conference leadership has become more and more convinced of the importance of deepening relationships. We’ve experienced the power that emerges when two people get to know one another better, when they share some of their joys and concerns that go beyond, “How are you?” “Fine, thanks.”

At Annual Meeting last April, many experienced the spiritual power that is released when we get to know one another better, let down our walls just a bit, are willing to be a little bit vulnerable and authentic about how God is moving in our lives. Many told me they felt the presence of God that weekend.

Why should we be surprised when scripture tells us that when one or more are gathered in God’s name God is pres-

**Wendy Blight
PNC moderator**

ent? It’s a promise and a reality.

This power is not just to make us feel good when we’re together. It is a power that propels us to work with God to make the world a better place. It is essential work that the Board of Directors recently acknowledged by adopting four priorities for their efforts this year.

In line with our intention to increase vitality by deepening relationships, doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God, and with the recognition of our responsibility to be good stewards of our shared resources, the PNC Board prayerfully commits to stewarding

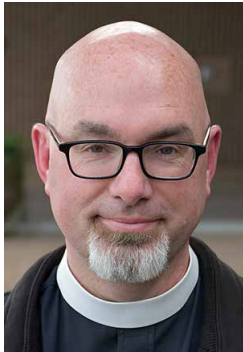
our finances, camps and conference centers, and staff and volunteer time to focus on these priorities:

- Deepen relationships between clergy,
- Deepen relationships within and between congregations,
- Deepen relationships between congregations, and the neighborhoods and communities they are called to serve, and
- Improve the effectiveness of communication throughout the PNC

Board members have divided into working groups to develop these priorities, find out what you and others are already doing in each of these areas, identify needs and set goals. This is new work for the Board. We are few, but we are mighty. Pray for us! If you have an interest in any of these areas and want to help us make a difference, let us know.

Church 'experiments' may be success in learnings

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

**Whoever
you are,
In the
church
we
experiment
more
than
we
might
admit.**

The way we in the church talk about an “experiment” is different than the way I hear those of my friends who are scientists talk about an experiment.

I was recently talking to a friend whose work is around diabetes research and they had a theory they wanted to try out.

Honestly, I don’t understand all the details but, in its essence, it was that they had pulled together enough information that made them wonder if one medicine might help lessen some of the most physically debilitating parts of the disease.

So, they did whatever they do when they combine the chemicals and cells and computers or something and what they found was that whereas it helped with some of the problems, it looked as though it could create some unanticipated new problems that wouldn’t make it worth trying it out on people.

What got me thinking about this wasn’t as much the experiment itself but how they described it. This was a good day for them. They weren’t depressed or self-deprecating about the result but described it as “interesting” and with a sense of wonder.

The experiment was, essentially, a success because of what they learned from what they tried more than the fact that what they tried did not produce the results they expected.

In the church, we experiment more than we might admit but we don’t always treat it as such. Does this sound familiar?

Someone has a good idea. We debate whether it’s worth trying. In order for this idea to get support the person or group advocating for the idea usually ends up having to appear confident and show some certainty that their new idea will work.

Sometimes we support the idea solely based on the idea of who is presenting the idea and, even if we wonder if it’s a good one, we attempt to support the person by supporting the idea.

If the idea doesn’t produce the expected results, the question frequently isn’t as much around why or what was learned but whose to blame: the person or the system that gave them permission.

It’s not around celebrating that a risk was taken for good reasons as much as a feeling of hopelessness or defeatism. It’s not as much a sense of wonder and curiosity as an opportunity for re-entrenchment.

The person and the church become more risk adverse and try less. A system of permission giving is seen as a solution.

This is confessional as much as anything else. I get stuck in this same trap. This is as true in our conference as any other expression of church.

We’re trying new programs. Moving around staff responsibilities. Looking at partnering with other conferences. Seeking relationships with more non-church entities.

On the best days, it’s exciting and feels faithful but sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and have a moment or two (or five or six) of panic.

Not all of these are going to produce the results we’d hoped they might and even success points towards unintended choices about what might need to be set aside.

May we accept all the new learnings yet to come.

May we embrace them as part of a good day.

Let’s not be depressed or self-deprecating about an unexpected result but approach it with a sense of wonder.

May we see our experiments as a success because of what we learned from what we tried regardless of whether what we tried produced the results they expected.

We may not always find comfort but we may unexpectedly find hope.

Transitions announced

Marci Scott-Weis is being ordained at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at St. Paul's UCC in Seattle. Marci, who earned a masters of divinity from Seattle University and a certificate in spiritual direction, will serve as pastor at Magnolia UCC.

On Friday, Oct. 5 at Wayside UCC in Federal Way, **Kelsey Peterson** will be ordained in a four-way covenant with Dancing Partner Ministries, a Board of Directors, the PNC and Wayside. She grew up in Wayside where her mother, the Rev. Sheryl Peterson was pastor until her death in 1996.

Amy Hitchens will be ordained at 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, as pastor of Normandy Park UCC, 19247 1st Ave S. in Seattle.

Kevin Bechtold will be ordained at 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at Plymouth Church UCC. He will serve as a minister leading middle school and confirmation groups, assisting with pastoral care, developing faith formation resources and participating in worship leadership. Kevin grew up attending Plymouth. He earned a bachelor's in religious studies at the University of Oregon and a master of divinity from Seattle University.

Robert Haertig, 92, who served churches in Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Washington, passed away on Aug. 21. In Washington, he served the Congregational Church on Mercer Island (1972 to 1979) and was founding pastor of Northshore UCC in Woodinville (1979 to 1991) where he has been pastor emeritus.

He went to seminary at Mission House in Sheboygan, WI, which is now part of United Theological Seminary. Later he earned a doctor of ministry degree with San Francisco Theological Seminary and began doing liturgical sculpture. His art is in pastels and bronze. A life celebration is planned at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 16, at Northshore UCC in Woodinville.

Wilbur Rees, 93, of Richland, died July 6. He earned a bachelor's in psychology at UCLA, a master of divinity at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Idaho State University.

He served nine churches in California, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. Wilbur retired from the ministry in 1987 after serving as pastor at Shalom UCC in Richland,

where he held the title pastor emeritus.

Paul Pruitt, 96, died on July 2 at Horizon House in Seattle. He graduated from Kirkland High School, the College of Puget Sound, and Yale Divinity School. His first call as a minister was to three yoked congregations in Anacortes, Summit Park and Guemes. He went on to serve in the Philippines with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission, a predecessor of Global Ministries, from 1952 to 1956, congregations in Lowell and Everett, Mayflower (now UCUP), High Point Community Church and Christian Center in Seattle, and then at Fauntleroy UCC. He was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives and served from 1977 to 1985.

Conference News Briefs

OWL Trainings, retreat set

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Trainings and a Clergy Retreat will be held Nov. 9 to 11 at Pilgrim Firs with sessions for three levels—elementary, secondary and young adult/adult.

The trainings run from noon Friday noon through 1 p.m., Sunday.

There will be a PNC Clergy Retreat from noon Monday, Nov. 12 to 11 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14, at Pilgrim Firs on the theme "The Naked Truth: Sexuality in Today's Church."

This year the clergy retreat will be co-facilitated by Aaron Lauer, pastor at Coral Gables Congregational UCC, and Amy Johnson, UCC national staff for sexuality and Our Whole Lives.

Topics include: the #MeToo & #Time-sUp movement, preaching sexuality, older adult sexuality, relationships that go beyond monogamy, holistic sexuality and more. The retreat will include personal care time, dynamic worship, two evening hosted receptions and opportunity for connecting with other PNC clergy.

For information, call 216-736-3718 or visit <http://pilgrim-firs.org/calendar/>.

Clergy, lay training planned

Clergy Boundary Training, sponsored by the PNC Committee on Ministry and led by the Rev. Tara Barber will be offered two times and places this fall.

One session will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14, at Westminster Congregational UCC 411 S Washington St. Spokane. . (The

deadline was Sept. 1.)

The second session will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island 4545 Island Crest Way Mercer Island. (The deadline is Oct. 1.)

Attendance for the full day is required to obtain credit.

Registration for the Eastside is online at <https://bit.ly/2v132KQ> Registration for the Westside is online at <https://bit.ly/2OsDy0M>

"Marked by the Spirit" is an opportunity for clergy and lay leaders to learn about 48 qualities of faithful, effective authorized ministry, also led by Tara.

One session is 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 15, at Westminster UCC in Spokane. (The deadline was Sept. 1.)

The second session is from 4 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Congregational Church on Mercer Island. (The deadline is Oct. 1.)

Registration for the Eastside is available online: <https://bit.ly/2NSLUxN> Registration for the Westside is available online: <https://bit.ly/2v1hDGB>

Contact Peggy Derick (westside COM Co-chair) if you have questions: peggy-derick@gmail.com or 425 495-0628.

Disaster sites host volunteers

Disaster Recovery mission trip sites are hosting volunteer groups in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Long-term disaster recovery in each of these locations is in full-swing with the UCC integrally involved with numerous collaborative partners.

Disability event is Nov. 1-3

The UCC Disabilities Ministries and New York Conference are hosting the 2018 Widening the Welcome Conference: "Living, Learning and Leading," Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 1 to 3, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center and Sheraton at the Falls Niagara Falls, N.Y.

There will also be a certified Mental Health First Aid class on Nov 1, organized with the UCC Mental Health Network..

There will be a panel of people from different perspectives within the UCC, to bring awareness and insight on living with a disability and into the fullness of service to an accessible, inclusive and loving God.

For information, email jaschofield1952@gmail.com or visit <https://arena.nyucc.org/default.aspx?portal=4&page=3352&occurrenceId=239&profileId=524>.

East and West side camps were at N-Sid-Sen

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ence dispelling fear.

After the 2015 shooting in San Bernadino killed 14 and injured 22 at a social services center, Moina offered to speak about what it's like to be a Muslim in the U.S.

"She's not a theologian and only answers theological questions from her perspective. She mostly tells her story as a wife and mother of two daughters," Mark said.

She stayed at N-Sid-Sen while she visited and spoke at other places in North Idaho, finding it a safe, welcoming place.

For this summer's PNC camping program, Mark reported that there were 60 at Senior High Camp, 46 at Junior High camp, 25 at Intermediate Camp and 24 at Kids Camp.

Based on those numbers, to facilitate best use of the camp space, next summer the Intermediate and Junior High Camps will be the same week, and the Senior High and Kids Camps will share space, using N-Sid-Sen for two weeks rather than three weeks. That will open a week for one of the big groups that rents N-Sid-Sen.

Mark had expected that the number of campers might be lower with more coming from Western Washington and needing transportation.

Previously 25 percent of those attending N-Sid-Sen camps were from Western Washington. This year, 55 percent were.

"Merging traditions of the senior high camps from N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs went well, with inclusion of the N-Sid-Sen float trip and the Pilgrim Firs game night," Mark said.

At the end of the week, he felt it was one camp, not Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen campers.

Camp directors also came from the East and West sides of the Conference.

Tony Kliment of Seattle and

Kristen Almgren of Fauntleroy UCC in Seattle co-directed Senior High Camp.

Leah Atkinson Bilinski of Fauntleroy UCC directed Junior High Camp.

Stephen Hadden of Tolt UCC in Carnation and Julie Boyd of N-Sid-Sen directed Intermediate Camp, sharing the space with Kids Camp, directed by Trudy Lambert of Westminster Congregational UCC in Spokane and Gale Peterson of Kirkland UCC.

"Kids Camp 2018 was a success with 24 enthusiastic and energetic campers, plus an outstanding volunteer staff," reported co-directors Trudy Lambert of Westminster, Spokane, and Gale Peterson of Kirkland "Many campers were experiencing camp and being away from home for the first time.

Leaders ranged from adults with years of experience to college age young adults with an extensive background in working with young children.

"They were all committed to creating a safe, caring and fun experience for our young campers. Whether it was in a large group setting, small groups, learning activities, crafts, nature activities, swim times, campfires or cabin time, our campers and staff created a unique community where, as the song says, 'the love and care never ends'."

Family Camp #1, directed by Ryan Lambert of Kirkland and Amy Johnson of Federal Way, was in its 47th year and Family Camp #2, directed by Janet Malley and Andrew Conley-Holcom of Admiral Congregational UCC in Seattle in its 25th year.

Mark said that most family campers at N-Sid-Sen have come from Western Washington and about 10 percent were from Eastern Washington. In addition, Plymouth UCC in Seattle comes for a week and fills



Sunset musicians accompany singing.

Photos courtesy of N-Sid-Sen



Culinary group formed at N-Sid-Sen this summer.

N-Sid-Sen.

"Our mission is to provide space for groups seeking sacred space to gather. Lady of the Lake dance and music camps are reserved for two weeks. In addition, Sufis, two Montessori schools and the Oneness Project, plus weddings and two family reunions, keep the camp busy," said Mark.

He also announced that the cook for the last four years, his daughter Nicole Boyd, will leave the end of May, so N-Sid-Sen is seeking to hire a new cook. Nicole plans to go with

her brother Jason to hike the Camino de Santiago and spend time in St. Lucia in the Caribbean to plan next steps.

Proposed N-Sid-Sen building projects include a duplex to house kitchen and other staff. Mark plans to drill a new well, because silt in the water is hard on the plumbing.

Mark is on the national Outdoor Ministry Board and part of The Focus Event, an ecumenical outdoor ministry group.

For information, call 208-689-3489, email mark@n-sid-sen.org or visit n-sid-sen.org.

Pastors, lay members gained insights about stewardship

Pastors and members of a number of PNW Conference Churches met the weekend of July 21 in at Sunnyslope United Church in Wenatchee for a Summer Stewardship Conference in Wenatchee to learn how to create a culture of generosity in churches.

The Rev. Andrew DeBra-ber, a major gift officer for the United Church of Christ and the Rev. Marc Kirchoff, a development officer for the International Cooperating Ministry, utilized materials published by the Lake Institute.

The materials provided a theological foundation for generosity and also gave participants a chance to reflect on



Summer Stewardship Conference participants share.

Photo courtesy of Tammy Stampfli

their views on money. Each church had the opportunity to reflect on their mission and to start making a plan to tell the story of that mission to members of the congregation.

People give when they understand the need, and 85 percent of donations follow a direct solicitation, presenters said.

Participants in the event learned to be more comfortable asking for the funds needed to carry out the mission of the church, said Tammy Stampfli, pastor at the United Churches in Olympia and member of the PNC Stewardship Committee.

For information, call 360-742-8574 or email tammy@theunitedchurches.org.

PNC-UCC Board supports effort to cut pollution

At the request of Earth Ministry Inland Power and Light, the PNC Board recently expressed support for Initiative 1631, the Protect Washington Act.

For the last three years, Earth Ministry along with Northwest tribes, labor leaders, communities of color and low-income advocates, energy policy experts and environmental groups have worked together to draft a clean energy policy for Washington state.

Since April, the diverse coalition has gathered signatures to qualify this initiative for the November ballot. More than 100 Earth Ministry congregations across the state contributed nearly 10,000 signatures.

This is an effort to promote state's goal for reducing pollution. Jessie Dye, senior campaign strategist with Earth Ministry, said the goal is for faith leaders to be present in the I-1631 campaign to meet carbon reduction goals to reduce pollution and make massive investments in clean energy infrastructure.

"Pope Francis teaches that care for the Earth and care for the poor are two sides of the same coin," she said.

"I-1631 has support from people of faith because it puts a price on pollution, invests in a clean energy economy and tailors funding to projects in areas that have suffered the most from dirty air and contaminated water. God's creation and Earth's ecosystems are crying out for long-term solutions for a changing climate. The initiative is a first step towards creating a healthy and homegrown energy future," Jessie explained.

Initiative 1631 will:

- **Accelerate the transition to renewable power** by investing in clean energy infrastructure.
- **Reduce air pollution** by 20 million tons a year in Washington by cleaning up emissions from industrial polluters and deploying fleets of zero-emission vehicles.
- **Create jobs** by investing in renewable energy projects

such as solar panels on schools, wind turbines on farms and forest and stream restoration.

• **Impose a \$15 per ton fee on the state's largest polluters** like the oil industry and utilities that have not yet switched to clean energy. Do not mistake a "fee" for a "tax". **By law, money from a fee on pollution must be directed to solve the problem of pollution** and cannot be spent on political pet projects or general fund support.

• **Direct specific projects for Tribal concerns** and benefit these communities. Native Nations are key supporters.

• **Target investments to front-line areas** most affected by pollution. Equitable decision-making about clean energy projects is part of the policy.

• **Mitigate impacts to affected workers** and therefore is supported by some of the state's largest labor unions. It will create more than 40,000 jobs, train workers for new industries, and keep jobs in Washington State.

• **Yield a huge return on investment in reduced public health-care costs.** Auto and diesel exhaust causes birth defects and cancer and air pollution makes asthma and other respiratory illnesses much worse.

"Policies like this can be complicated and the details hard to navigate," said Jessie. "From my perspective, having such a broad coalition involved in drafting the initiative produced a creative, elegant, and equitable strategy for reducing pollution and creating a clean energy future.

"We know that oil companies like Exxon, BP and Shell plan to pour millions into our state to stop this policy and protect their profits," she said. "But we also know that when we stand together our partnerships are strong and the wind of grace is at our back."

For information, call 206-632-2426 or visit earthministry.org.

Task Force shares resources to build relationships

The PNC Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force understands people don't need another program.

Marica McLaughlin of the task force said members realize people are looking for a way to build relationships and community in their churches.

"A common theme heard in the conference recently is the importance of relationship building," she said. "It was heard at the annual meeting in Yakima. It has been restated in articles in the PNC Conference News. It is heard in our churches."

The Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force has easy-to-use resources that pastors and laity alike can use to facilitate expression of communal life invited by Christ, pulsing with Spirit and experienced through relationship.

The program offers four years of Small Group Ministry sessions, more if for groups meeting only once a month. Each is distinct in content but all follow the same format for ease and flow across time.

The task force has worked diligently to create resources stemming from a core belief that "Church Should Be the Last Place Anyone Stands Alone: Strengthening Community through Vital Group Life."

"Our new in-depth curriculum, "The Art of Noticing," is fresh off the press this fall and has what congregations need to start a small group ministry or to enhance one that is already in place," Tammy Bell of the task force said. "We believe small group ministry is at the heart of a healthy church. Changed lives are a church's greatest asset."

The newest curriculum provides preparation materials along with step-by-step guidelines for up to 22 sessions focusing on The Spiritual Journey and organized around themes: The Art of Noticing Your Life,



Small covenant group meets at Ferndale UCC.

Photo courtesy of Bobbi Virta

The Art of Recognizing Your Soul, The Art of Experiencing the Divine and The Art of Practicing Your Faith.

"Although we're excited about the new series because seeing it come to fruition is our own small group collaborative triumph, our previous three offerings are equally worthy of attention and may actually be a better place for some congregations to begin," Tammy said.

"We're happy to help flesh out the perfect starting point for those considering small group ministry but unsure which series to choose," she said.

Series #1 is about "Sharing Our Stories" of everyday life and practicing the art of truly listening to strengthen relationships and establish trust.

Series #2 on "God Is Still Speaking" encourages group members to reflect on the presence, movement and call of God within and around them through stories they share.

Series #3 is "Living the Questions" by considering new ways of thinking about, experiencing and exploring spirituality in the context of participants' own everyday, ordinary, extraordinary lives.

Series #4 is "The Art of Noticing. It invites people to recognize the sacred in daily life and deepen a relationship with Spirit, neighbor and all creation.

"We've worked hard to bring the best of sacred texts, secular writings, thought provoking inquiries and diverse preparation activities together toward the end of nurturing both personal and communal spiritual growth in a safe, interesting, fully engaged way. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, there's a place for you to plug in and ignite your faith," Tammy said.

The task force seeks to find ways to partner with congregations to nurture meaningful spiritual growth in each faith community. The introductory materials will assist a congregation in selecting and supporting appropriate lay facilitators.

"This is not one more thing for the pastor's plate," Tammy said. "Laity are at the heart of small group leadership."

"We even furnish ideas for publicizing and inviting people to join. We're here to listen, support, uplift, provide resources and, ultimately, be of service

to a congregation's spiritual growth," Tammy added. "We seek to help clergy and lay leaders expand their 'span of care' by making sure everyone has a place to be truly seen, known and heard while no one carries the burden of care alone."

As the small group ministry deepens relationships needs of parishioners are more precisely known and met, whether carried out by paid or unpaid leadership.

"We have been working for several years on this program and the churches using it have expressed deep positive impact.

"We've poured our hearts, souls and time into practicing small group ministry and developing resources we believe can facilitate vibrant, authentic community through vital group life no matter the current size, circumstance or make-up of a congregation," said Tammy.

The task force seeks to build spiritual communities where each individual has a safe, encouraging space to freely explore, deeply expand and confidently express his or her faith through action.

Covenant groups began at Walla Walla First Congregational church under the leadership of Cecilia McKean who was then on the task force. She shared resources, which the task force has expanded. Nathaniel Malberg, her successor as pastor, has continued the small group ministry. Ferndale has used the materials for two years and Bellingham began a small group ministry last year.

She said that the Adult Spirituality Task Force considered it both "a joy and privilege to partner with congregations" to spread use of these resources.

For information, contact Kathie Forman at 206-799-9248 or pkforman@juno.com, Tammy at revtam-bell@hotmail.com, or Marcia McLaughlin at marcia_mclaughlin@comcast.net.

Spirit of Peace member assists interfaith efforts

When Elizabeth Maupin of Issaquah speaks of “displaced people,” she is talking of neighbors who are displaced from their homes, as she was during the divorce process from her first husband.

“We need to create new ways to talk about people who do not have housing,” said Elizabeth. “After I was legally separated in 1986, I lived in my car for a few weeks.”

Then she turned her cooking skill into a job skill and found a live-in family to cook for. When her children visited her husband, he did not let them come back.

Elizabeth knows many other women who left domestic violence, found it hard to find housing and lived in their vehicles with their children.

“I was embarrassed and did not want people to know I was in dire straits,” she said.

She met and married a Christian man. They rebuilt their lives and started a bed and breakfast, which helped her to pay off the mortgage after his sudden death after three years.

Elizabeth, who has a master of divinity from Vancouver School of Theology, has been a member of Spirit of Peace Church in Issaquah for two years.

Spirit of Peace, she said, has been something of a mutual-ministry congregation with lay people responsible for worship and pastoral care, particularly in months after their settled pastor left and an interim pastor began. An average of 50 people—most over 50—come on Sundays.

“Spirit of Peace was radicalized by old ladies,” she said.

In Issaquah, she volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul to keep people in housing. Many people who call are displaced, because they found it hard to pay rent or utility bills. St. Vincent can help only twice a year.

“We have many agencies



Elizabeth Maupin works with displaced people.

that want to help, but help is piecemeal,” said Elizabeth. “I help people navigate services.”

When St. Vincent de Paul has someone they need to house, she offers her bed and breakfast because it is cheaper than a hotel. Elizabeth is also challenging an effort to tear down the site of the former Lutheran Bible Institute because it’s a potential site for affordable housing and a training center for women without housing.

“It could be a place where nonprofits collaborate to provide services,” said Elizabeth, who is coordinator for the Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition, which helps faith communities serve vulnerable people. It formed in 2008.

“How do we get over our squabbles as faiths? What brings us together?” she asked. “All faiths talk about caring for the vulnerable. If we work together side by side serving vulnerable people, we break down misunderstandings, we have of each other without debating

theology. We see the hearts of the other people,” she said.

When the county decided to stop funding human services, she helped the coalition gather clergy and other social justice advocates to press for human services and against the cuts.

“We also keep congregations informed on community needs and opportunities to serve,” she said.

Elizabeth does a newsletter to a number of local Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities. The coalition also addresses immigration and has a small Rapid Response Network to put out information for people.

One year, she helped lead social justice conversations with presenters, videos and discussions on issues, such as drug abuse among youth, people living in vehicles and the criminal justice system.

Elizabeth’s faith pilgrimage has taken her through a Free Catholic Church in Florida, an Eastern Orthodox Church, the Religious Society of Friends

and the Episcopal Church.

She was born in Michigan. Then she moved with her parents to Japan and South Vietnam until she was 14. When she was 16, her parents’ work with universities abroad took them to West Africa. She went to a boarding school in Virginia.

In college, she majored in religion and psychology, graduating in 1968. She did not see any roles for women in ministry at that time.

One of her first jobs was as a social worker serving 120 families in a two block area of St. Petersburg, Fla. A summer of living alone in the Nova Scotia wilderness taught her she was not cut out to be a hermit.

While doing library work she met her first husband, and followed him to Pennsylvania, Maryland and North Carolina where her daughters were born. In 1996, she met her third husband, an Episcopal priest, and began studies at Vancouver School of Theology.

For three years, they served churches on and near two Lakota reservations in South Dakota, before returning to British Columbia, where she completed her master of divinity in 2003. Two months after she graduated, her husband died.

She finished clinical pastoral education, cooked at a Benedictine retirement center in Colorado and finished training as a spiritual director.

Since she came back to the Seattle area in 2005, she has served in ministry at an American Baptist Church, a United Methodist Church and in a Safe Parking program, recruiting congregations to host people who live in vehicles in Seattle.

Three years ago, she moved back to Issaquah. She closed the bed and breakfast when her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters moved in.

For information, call 425-677-8063 or email eli410maupin@gmail.com.

Justice Leadership interns begin year of service

Eight Justice Leadership Program interns gathered in late August to share ideas of justice, create a community covenant, and tour places with histories of organizing for social change in Seattle.

The Justice Leadership Program, sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC, provides a year of hands-on justice leadership training and spiritual exploration to young adults, ages 21 to 35.

Interns live in intentional community and serve full-time at Seattle-area nonprofits doing advocacy, organizing and structural change. The program is an affiliate of the UCC Young Adult Service Communities.

In 2017-18, JLP had seven interns serving six UCC congregations and each working 32 hours a week in a justice organization, contributing 224 hours of staff time per week. Participating UCC churches include Eagle Harbor (Bainbridge Island), Keystone, Lib-



JLP interns, alumni and staff (l to r) are Rich Gamble, Rachel Shinabarger, Neepam Shah, Erica West, Tanquarae McCadney, Allison Trezona, Ainsley Meyer, Elizabeth Dickinson; front row, Amber Dickson, Leda Zakarison, Daniel de la Rosa, Bri Little, and Danielle Walker. Photo courtesy of Barbara Anderson

eration, Northshore (Woodinville), Plymouth and Prospect (Seattle).

"It's a major contribution of the UCC in the Northwest to the work of justice," said Rich Gamble, pastor of Keystone UCC and founder of the JLP originally through the Justice Witness Ministries Committee.

The 2018-19 team is com-

prised of six first-year interns and two second-year interns. First year interns are Tanquarae McCadney, Ainsley Meyer, Neepam Shah, Rachel Shinabarger, Allison Trezona and Danielle Walker. Second year interns are Daniel de la Rosa and Erica West. Staff include Rich, executive director of Justice Leadership Northwest,

Elizabeth Dickinson as JLP program manager, and Yuki Schwartz as sojourner with the young adults.

The Justice Leadership Program is one project of Justice Leadership Northwest, which seeks to transform individuals and communities through change for social justice.

A second project is Justice Leadership Jubilee, a non-residential, 10-month program of nonprofit service, congregational leadership and collective reflection for older adults and adults who cannot commit to the intensity of the JLP.

The third project, the Justice Leadership Pilgrimage, is a three-day immersion experience to learn about such issues as homelessness, hunger and immigration.

For information, call 206-320-0432 or 206-632-6021, email jlp.elizabeth@gmail.com, keystonejustice@gmail.com or visit justiceleadership.org.

Tanquarae McCadney interned with Ohio legislature



Tanquarae is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and recent graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she interned with the Ohio Senate and Ohio Legislative Black Caucus as the first black caucus intern in history. She seeks to inspire a generation of leaders through mentorship and community service. Aspiring to be a civil rights attorney, a goal is to abolish the prison industrial complex.

Tanquarae will intern with the Homestead Community Land Trust to provide sustainable homeownership and community stability, and will serve at Liberation UCC.

Ainsley Meyer will intern with Real Change Project

Growing up in Virginia and living in California for four years, Ainsley discovered her passion for community service and advocacy as an Ameri-corps volunteer, working as a literacy tutor and after-school instructor in an underfunded middle school in San Jose. She has continued turning her passion into positive action through LGBTQ+ advocacy. She likes reading, writing, running and camping.

Ainsley will intern with the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project and serve with Prospect UCC in Seattle.



Neepam Shah seeks justice in the health care system

Neepam, a New Jersey native attending Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, studied literature, cognitive science and public health at the College of New Jersey.

At both schools, he advocated for changes to deepen their commitment to diversity. He is committed to radical empathy and is interested in social determinants of health. In the JLP, he hopes to channel his empathy and knowledge towards productive advocacy. Committed to "learning and unlearning," he welcomes dialogue. As a physician he plans to advocate for health care and a system that does right by the under-served.

Neepam will intern with the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness and will serve with Plymouth UCC.



Rachel brings global experience to Earth Ministry

Rachel Shinabarger, who recently graduated with a bachelor's in global studies, spent three semesters abroad in Ecuador/Peru, Germany and Guatemala out of her desire to travel and experience other cultures.

She has a passion for cultivating justice globally, locally and personally. A proponent of intersectionality, Rachel helped co-found and co-lead Students for Sustainable Living at her university and was active in anti-human trafficking initiatives. She has served in ministerial and mentoring roles with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks and Sky Lodge Christian Camp. She loves deepening her faith through spiritual formation and meaningful conversations. She is eager to live in a community earnestly living out the call to shalom in this world.

Rachel's internship will be with Earth Ministry and she will serve with Eagle Harbor Congregational Church.



Daniel de la Rosa will work with NW Immigrants Rights Project

Daniel is fired up for his second year with JLP, interning with the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project. He came to Seattle in August 2017 as a JLP intern first with SEIU Local 6 to organize a diverse group of service workers and move forward campaigns at Amazon HQ, SeaTac Airport and office parks throughout the region. In February 2018, he joined the Children's Alliance working for children's legislative advocacy, where he worked with the Mobilization and Community Engagement teams to assemble their annual advocacy day in Olympia and fundraiser.

A first-generation Cuban-American from Miami, Daniel graduated in 2013 from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. Two years after graduating, he joined a new Americorps program in Miami, named Florida Reading Corps. In his two years with that, he worked with more than 50 preschool children as a literacy tutor, helping them learn to read.

He will serve at Northshore UCC in Woodinville.



Allison Trezona will be at the Church Council

Allison just finished a year serving with the Lea Road United Reformed Church in Wolverhampton, England. Growing up in First Congregational UCC at Naperville, Ill, near Chicago, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and statistics at St. Olaf College and spent summers working as a backpacking guide at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. She also had a journey with youth through the Young Adults in Global Mission "Time for God and Global Ministries" programs, which supported her year at Lea Road URC, where she worked with youth in secular and religious contexts—playing ultimate Frisbee, performing music, exploring and pulling pranks.

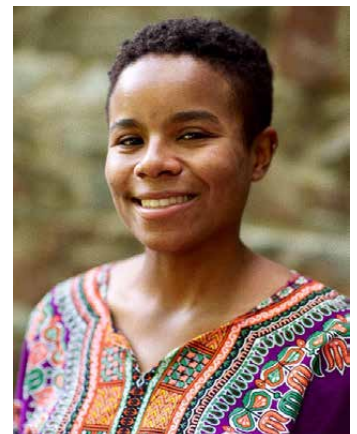
Allison will intern with the Church Council of Greater Seattle and serve at Plymouth UCC.



Erica West continues to serve Church Council of Greater Seattle

Erica West, known as "E," joins the JLP for a second year to continue her internship with the Church Council of Greater Seattle, "building faith-filled power with religious communities across Seattle and King County," she said. She will continue as a community organizer focusing on housing justice and related issues.

Originally from Alexandria, Va., she graduated in 2017 from William and Mary in Williamsburg. At the close of her second year with the JLP, she will matriculate to Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville to study for a master of divinity degree. She is excited to engage in a second year of communal living and further investigation of the intersection between community organizing and faith. She will serve with Liberation UCC.



Danielle Walker will work with immigrant youth

Danielle, a native of Nashville, is a recent graduate of DePaul University in Chicago, where she majored in sociology and in women's and gender studies. She is interested in social justice work related to domestic and sexual violence, immigration, LG-BTQ issues and child welfare. She enjoys face-timing a baby nephew, doing crossword puzzles and listening to girl groups.

Danielle will intern with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and serve at Keystone UCC.



Sophie Morse leads workshop on conflict resolution

Sophie Morse, a conflict resolution consultant and trainer who works with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County in Silverdale, led an Annual Meeting workshop in April at Yakima.

She is a member in discernment with the PNC.

"Often we feel conflicts are you vs. me, win/lose, and we focus on past hurts," she began.

"How do we get from there to where we want to be, to a place where we can figure out our relationships together?" she asked.

While the polarized society today makes it hard for people to think they can work things out, she reminded that it's about fixing a problem. We need empathy for each other to talk through and work through problems."

In workshops, she offers tools, a road map to help people progress in relationships. It includes the following elements:

- Understanding conflict theory
- Understanding ourselves,
- Active listening to understand,



Sophie Morse invites participants to share their ideas.

- Asking for what we need and
- Negotiating (which includes several of the above steps.

"Matthew 5:23-24 says that if we offer a gift and remember our brother or sister has something against us, we need to go, leave the gift and be reconciled," she said.

Sophie suggested listening to each other's needs in small

groups and led opportunities to practice active listening.

Participants shared what makes them feel they are in a safe place. Ideas included: be brief, let go of the past, no judging, be curious, no interrupting, be present, be respectful, speak for ourselves, no shoulds, be open to new ways to see things, humor, honesty and humility.

"In these times of change, conflicts arise," Sophie said.

"If we are in conflict with someone, active listening can de-escalate, because to be heard is rare and healing.

"Active listening recognizes a person needs to feel heard and understood. It involves body language, eye contact a head nod," she said. "It's easier to converse and be present for people we know and love."

Active listening involves asking open-ended questions that invite people to share and invite feedback for future understanding.

"Three major categories to consider are facts, feelings, underlying needs or values," she said. "It's a gift to help name underlying needs. That gives a sense of belonging, and it relates emotions and needs.

"We need to listen not just with our heads but with our hearts," she said, "so we understand the underlying need. We may ask if the person feels overwhelmed, or use a statement form of feedback that invites a person to share more."

For information, call 360-870-8024 or email sfmor1@gmail.com.

Mission co-worker will report on work in Palestine

The Rev. Loren McGrail, a minister, theologian, poet/artist who has served the YWCA of Palestine as a Global Ministries co-worker, will be available in the Pacific Northwest UCC Conference and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to give presentations and preach in congregations from Monday, Nov. 12 through Saturday, Dec. 6. She will have an art display at University UCC in Seattle from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 3 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17.

Mary Olney and Ruth Brandon of the regional/conference Global Ministries Committee are arranging for Disciples and UCC congregations to host her.

Loren, who served five years at the YWCA as communications advocacy and church relations officer, focused on advocacy with women. She related to churches and wrote newsletters and Action Alerts.

She coordinated the Fabric of Our Lives Project, which supports women's livelihoods and calls attention to Palestinian refugees' rights, including the Right of Return. She also accompanies delegations to site visits in Jerusalem.

In 2011, she first went to Palestine and Israel as a short-term Global Ministries ecumenical accompanier with the



World Council of Churches, and since then has written a blog to share theologically on what is happening there.

The YWCA supports women's leadership so women can realize their rights and capabilities in terms of women's economic development, women's rights, youth leadership and civic engagement, and children's education.

The Church of Scotland has also supported her work. Many of her sermons and mission stories are on the Global Ministries website or argumentofdestiny.blogspot.com.

Loren, a 1976 graduate of the University of Oregon

in English literature, earned a certificate in international mission and ecumenism at Boston Theological Institute in 1976. She was a foreign language teacher in Spain and France from 1980 to 1984, and worked in language and adult literacy in Boston and Durham, N.C., until 2003. She earned a master of divinity at Andover Newton Theological School in 2005 and was a multi-faith chaplain at Hartford Hospital until 2010.

Churches may invite nearby UCC or Disciples congregations to attend.

For information, contact Mary Olney-Loyd, maryolneyloyd@gmail.com or Ruth Brandon, arembemac.com.

Woman, 91, writes book on dog's trip to Africa

From May to September 2016, Ruth Calkins of Newport UCC took her 14-year-old dachshund, Max, with her to Malawi for an adventure and humanitarian work with World Medical Fund.

From her 2016 trip, Ruth, who is 91, wrote an illustrated children's book, *Max Goes to Africa* and published it in April.

It was her third trip to Africa. With her first husband's agricultural work with USAID they spent 10 years in Africa. After he died in 1974, she remarried Don Calkins. In 2002, they moved to Newport to be near grandchildren.

After the AIDS crisis hit and she opened a website to educate people on it. Through that in 2004, she met Michael Burt, who founded World Medical Fund (WMF) in 1997, retiring early from British Health Services to start WMF to reach children in remote areas of Africa with few medical resources.

To save administrative costs, he and the treasurer worked from their homes. Soon Ruth's Newport home was the office for WMF-USA.

WMF then used three Land Rovers as mobile children's clinics to take medical officers to poor villages to give medical treatments, provide antiretrovirals to children born with AIDS and address malnutrition. They usually saw 150 sick children, brought by their mothers who walked for miles. WMF trained volunteer health workers and gave out mosquito nets. They educated girls to discourage early sexual activity as a way to prevent AIDS.

The WMF served several rural clinics each week. Six nurses from Australia helped. Where they went the HIV rate dropped from 16 to two percent, Ruth said.

In 2016, Ruth went to a village where 10 women in their 20s came to learn to sew on



Ruth Calkins sits with Max and displays her book.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Calkins

treadle machines and do crafts.

She traveled with sewing machines and suitcases full of craft supplies, so women could make quilts, tote bags, necklaces, earrings and crafts to sell to benefit the villages.

"The women learned quickly. A seamstress showed them how to use the machines," said Ruth, who left her laptop there so they could continue a website to sell the items. The project ended when the seamstress wanted a raise WMF could not afford. WMF closed the project but left the machines so teenage girls and women continue to learn how to sew.

"I will always remember the women and how eager they were to learn," she said.

"Carri, the woman who

came with me for the first month, couldn't stay longer. I don't know how I would have managed without her, because I used a walker in our house and a cane outside," said Ruth.

She stayed at the WMF's concrete guest house with rattan chairs and settees, no table or chairs in the dining room, a small freezer, small electric stove and a sinkboard for workspace. There was no water in the bathroom or kitchen. Three trash cans were filled at a faucet in the compound.

They dug a well, which they finished a few days after Carri left. While she was with Ruth, they had electricity most of the time, but after she left, there was only electricity during the day. After a month, the

phone service and the laptop were up and running. It went off about seven each evening and the internet was spotty.

Evenings Ruth sat beside Max on a settee and sang to him.

"In the dark, there was little else to do. I had a flashlight and kept on my walker handy," she said.

There she wrote the first two lines of *Max Goes to Africa*: "It's almost bedtime. It's time to relax. I'm just a small dachshund, and my name is Max."

"I couldn't think of any other rhymes then, but found it easy to complete when I returned home," said Ruth, who published the book in January.

In rhyming couplets, the book tells of their adventure on the trip, complete with the plane ride, a long car ride to the village, and the people and strange animals they met.

At the end of the summer, Ruth's three daughters and granddaughter came to Malawi. While they went on safari, Max stayed at WMF with Leah, a young woman who had helped Ruth around the house.

Since then, Ruth's eyes have deteriorated with macular degeneration.

Although she has given up involvement with WMF, her oldest daughter now runs World Medical Fund USA from her home in California. It is now sponsoring higher education for young girls.

Ruth continues to write books about Max, including one she just published on *Max Visits Santa Claus*. Both are available on Amazon. She is having a book signing for another book, *The Duck Who Loved a Goose*, at 11, Saturday, Oct. 27, at Barnes and Noble in Spokane's Northtown Mall.

For information, call 509-447-5957 or email drcalk@gmail.com.