

Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ

Core Purpose

Inviting and equipping inspired Christian leaders and communities

“The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,” Ephesians 4:11-12

Core Values

We embody the good news of the Stillspeaking God through:

Faithfulness: Seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, we live out the shared commitments of the United Church of Christ: continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives.

Stewardship: Responding to God’s call to be faithful stewards of creation, we practice generosity and forward-looking, responsible and transparent use of resources. We value each person’s unique gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Empowerment: Affirming multiple approaches to accomplish God’s work, we identify and develop diverse leaders, share resources and information, and responsibly delegate accountability and authority to act.

Innovation: Risking for the Gospel, we discover, implement and share new ministry practices. We recognize and celebrate creative and courageous efforts when they succeed and when they fail.

Justice: Serving with compassion and advocating with passion, we seek a more just and peaceful world. We work to eliminate social, cultural and racial barriers, honoring each individual as created in the image of God.

Strategic Priorities: Bold Inspirational Goal(s)

As a center for excellence, we are committed to allocating resources, working with strategic partners, and employing technology to carry out our goals:

Leadership development for clergy and laity: *Minnesota clergy and laity are ready and eager to lead in a rapidly changing world.* We envision a future where:

- Clergy and churches of the Minnesota Conference are energized and engaged.
- The Conference is a place of leadership excellence within the United Church of Christ. Individuals seek opportunities to learn from us and we provide leadership talent to others.
- A deep and abiding culture of generosity exists throughout the Minnesota Conference. Individuals and congregations welcome opportunities to share their abundance with others.

Healthy, vital congregations: *There is a welcoming, vibrant United Church of Christ community of faith accessible to all people of Minnesota.* We envision a future where:

- Minnesotans’ lives are changed and Minnesota communities are transformed by United Church of Christ leaders, communities and partners.
- The Minnesota Conference is a role model for effectively nurturing new communities of faith into strength and life. Many new people and new populations have the opportunity to connect with the Stillspeaking God through a welcoming and accepting community.
- Across the geography and cultures of Minnesota, leaders are supported and congregations are connected through personalized and visionary ministry that builds a strong United Church of Christ presence locally and statewide.

Faith formation for all: *Minnesota Conference members are well-equipped to grow in faith throughout their lifetime.* We envision a future where:

- The Minnesota Conference fosters intergenerational relationships leading to greater storytelling and faith development across the generations.
- The Minnesota Conference is a leader in defining and vitalizing a holistic faith formation for families, children and youth. As the children and youth move into adulthood they are grounded in their faith such that they turn to God for comfort and guidance and joyfully share with others the many blessings they have received.
- Young adults in Minnesota find spiritual strength and renewal through their United Church of Christ connections. They will eagerly share with friends and colleagues the importance of

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community on their journey of faith.

- Adults actively engage in a continuing spiritual journey, believing that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, and giving life purpose and direction.

Increased capacity for compassionate service and prophetic witness: *The Minnesota Conference is a bold, widely-known, proactive and respected public voice of Christianity. We envision a future where:*

- Boldly telling our stories of God's love and justice, the Minnesota Conference inspires state and national leaders, as well as news media, to seek our comment and counsel on issues of peace, justice and faith.
- The Minnesota Conference is a leader in fostering interfaith connections which embrace the values we hold in common while celebrating the diversity of God's people. These connections lead to actions which promote peace and mutual appreciation.
- To increase the impact of our work for the common good, the Minnesota Conference actively seeks partnerships with ecumenical, multi-faith, and nonreligious organizations when we share convergent values and goals.