

**Chicago Metropolitan Association
Illinois Conference of the UCC
Annual Spring Meeting
Saturday, May 7, 2016
CMA Moderator's Annual Report
"Be the Church"**

The theme for the 2015 – 2016 year for the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) of the Illinois Conference of the UCC is from our denomination's national campaign of *"Be the Church."* We felt this was appropriate as it speaks to the ministry we try to live into in the CMA. What does it mean to *"Be the Church?"*

"Be the Church" - Protect the Environment, Care for the Poor, Forgive Often, Reject Racism, Fight for the Powerless, Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources, Embrace Diversity, Love God, and Enjoy Life."

To live into the call to *"Be the Church"* this year, we focused on four goals:

- Create a Standing Ministry Team for Youth Ministry
- Create the following "Ministry Teams" – Leadership Development, Stewardship, Spiritual Formation, and Communications
- Revise the Constitution of the CMA
- Have 100% of the CMA Association Council Voting members' active participation in serving on a CMA Ministry Team.

This Annual Report will shed light on what we accomplished with our goals this year, and what the future holds before us.

Create a Standing Ministry Team for Youth Ministry

One of our priorities in CMA this year was to be intentional about Youth Ministry being a priority for the CMA. One of the ways we have sought to make that happen is to create a "Standing Ministry Team for Youth Ministry." What does that mean? That means that along with the other "Standing Ministry Teams" in the CMA, *Church & Ministry, Justice & Witness, Congregational Life, and the Nominating Ministry Team*, which are currently the foci of our ministry in CMA, we will also now have a *Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team*, which will mean that youth will be at the table, making the decisions that will help make the Church relevant, exciting, and full of possibilities, not only for youth, but for the entire Church.

We have taken a couple of steps in the process of making this a reality. The first step is a revision of the CMA Constitution which will include the newly created *Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team*. Another step in this process is the

creation of a CMA Youth Leader Directory. This will give us a database resource with the contact information of the youth leaders in the CMA, and this will be beneficial to the Association and also the local church. One of the ways this benefits the local church is the distribution of information concerning youth to go directly to the youth leaders of our churches. These are the people God has called to serve the youth. We want to get information directly to them.

We are well on our way to the reality of a “Standing Ministry Team for Youth Ministry” in CMA.

Create the following “Ministry Teams” – Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation, Stewardship, and Communications

This second goal was the continuation of what was started a few years ago with a “re-visioning” of the CMA, which resulted in a “task force” of Association Council members establishing the following “non-standing” ministry teams: Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation, Stewardship, and Communications. This year our goal was to continue the work that was started a couple of years ago, and bring these ministries to life by beginning to do the work of these ministries. Currently, Leadership Development and Stewardship are in the planning stages of producing an event in the fall of 2016 for the churches of the CMA.

The Communications Ministry Team is currently discerning what God is calling our Association to be, and do, as it concerns the matter of communication within our Association. In this stage of the process, the following questions are yet to be answered:

- What is the *vision* for *communications* on the Association level?
- What are the resources employed in *communications*?
- How is *communication* executed on the Association level?

These are just a few of the questions the Communications Ministry Team is wrestling with as they move forward in the work of this ministry.

The Spiritual Formation Ministry Team has just recently formed, so the work of this ministry team is just beginning. If you are interested in joining this Ministry Team, please don't hesitate to follow up with any member of the Association Council.

Revise the Constitution of the CMA

This year we created a Constitution & Bylaws Task Force to revise the current CMA Constitution. I was one of three people on this task force that made the commitment to go through our current Constitution to revise the document, and to propose amendments, so that our Constitution is relevant, appropriate, and reflects the ministry of the CMA.

This was a very arduous task in which we scrutinized every word of the document, which took us about six months. The revision and amendments we have proposed are now being looked over by the Association Council. After the Association Council has given us their feedback, we will make any necessary adjustments and then distribute to all CMA local churches for your feedback.

Have 100% of the CMA Association Council Voting members' active participation in serving on a CMA Ministry Team.

This goal was the only goal that we were unable to fully achieve. Out of 19 active members on the Association Council, 75% of those members are actively serving on a CMA Ministry Team. Although we fell short of our goal, I am very grateful to the members of the Association Council who were able to make the commitment to serve on a Ministry Team to make it possible to reach all the other goals we set for this year. *Teamwork makes the dream work!*

As we move into the next year for the CMA, I believe we have laid down the tracks for this train called the CMA, that's moving forward to "*Be the Church*" God is calling us to be, so together we can:

Protect the Environment, Care for the Poor, Forgive Often, Reject Racism, Fight for the Powerless, Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources, Embrace Diversity, Love God, and Enjoy Life."

I am looking forward to next year with the new, and exciting, leadership of our next Moderator, Mrs. Ann McCarthy, who has been working closely with me this year in preparation for her role as Moderator. I believe with Mrs. McCarthy's leadership we will not only "*Be the Church*," we will also build and strengthen the relationships between the local church and the CMA.

Thank you for your support of my leadership as your Moderator this past year. Ministry is not done in isolation. Whatever has been accomplished this year in the CMA is the result of the combined efforts of the local church, the Association, the Illinois Conference, and of course, God. Thank you for your commitment to the United Church of Christ in all its settings.

To God be the glory!

This report respectfully submitted on Saturday, May 7, 2016

Rev. Keith R. Scott
Moderator
Chicago Metropolitan Association
Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ