



Montana - N. Wyoming Conference
United Church of Christ

CONFERENCE NEWS

Together in Spirit - February 6, 2025



FAITHFUL MOMENTS

Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, Conference Minister

Last week I joined folks from our churches in Missoula and Helena at a climate advocacy day at the capitol rotunda in Helena. Speakers included Native American elders and high school and college age youth and young adults. Under the beautiful dome as their voices bounced and echoed off the hard impervious surfaces, they spoke of generations back to time

immemorial and generations far into the future. They spoke of land and water. They spoke of hope and change. I drove back to Billings through the Helena National Forest, feeling blessed by the natural beauty and buoyed by the speakers' words.

This week I have been in conversations planning advocacy days for Conference Ministers in Washington, D.C., as well as a faithful response to Yellowstone County commissioners who offered the Metra as a detention center for undocumented migrants facing deportation. I signed an ecumenical letter from denominational leaders calling for mercy toward immigrants. One of the questions underlying these conversations has been, "How do we assure people that they are beloved of God, that we see them, and that we pray for their safety?"

As late January turns to early February, I am in the midst of planning for faithful and effective moments in ministry in our Conference. With a very uncertain future, I am putting events into my calendar, hoping that life will not be interrupted as we continue to carry our covenant forward. This year I am focusing on the vitality of the three C's of our life together: Clergy, Congregations, and the Conference. I am in conversations on clergy support and professional development, best practices for congregational vitality, and what holds us together as a Conference without a church camp to bring us together. We will publish updated Conference salary guidelines, hold a leadership retreat to vision forward, install me as settled Conference Minister, and meet for the Conference Annual Meeting in Missoula in early October. Even in the throes of governmental chaos, I am praying for God's presence in our planning.

Here are a few "hold the dates" in the life of our Conference:

- February 28 Clergy Annual Review forms due to Conference Office
- May 9-10 Leadership Retreat in Helena

- June 7 Installation of Conference Minister (place TBA)
- August 6-7 Ecotheology professional development for clergy

I am keeping all of our churches and clergy in prayer. If you are planning a faithful response or a congregational celebration, I'd love to be invited to be with you. Let me know how I might be present and how the entire Conference can support you in your ministry.

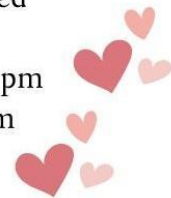
Peace,

Pastor Tony

February						
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FEBRUARY

- February 17 - President's Day - Office Closed
- February 18 - Green Team @ 3:00 pm
- February 25 - Church and Ministry @ 3:30 pm
- February 26 - Board of Directors @ 5:00 pm
- February 28 - Clergy Annual Reviews Due



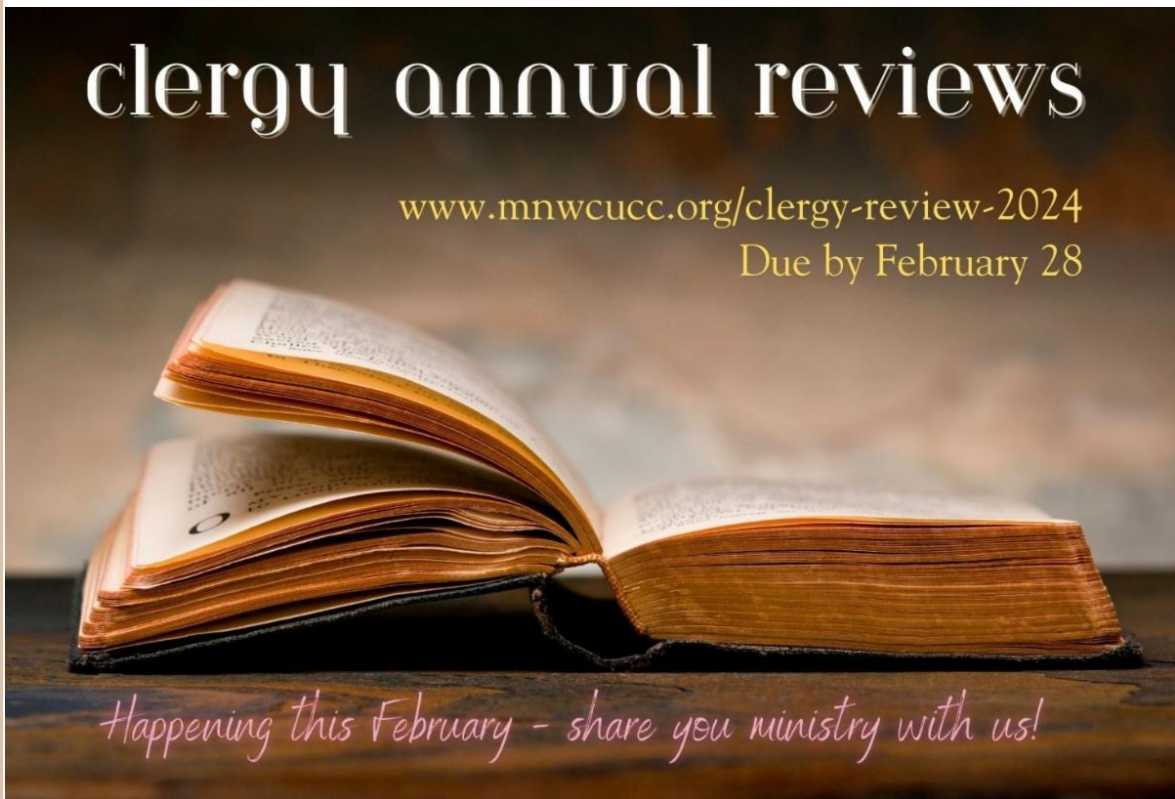
*Broadus Powder River Congregational UCC
& Glendive First Congregational UCC*



Keeping in Prayer...

clergy annual reviews

www.mnwcucc.org/clergy-review-2024
Due by February 28



Happening this February - share you ministry with us!

Insurance Board Presents

Safe Conduct 2025: New Research and Best Practices



Date

February 25, 2025



Time

2 PM ET on Zoom

*Registration is limited. A recording will be available on our website after the event.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Christy has over 20 years of industry experience applying social science and public health strategies to prevent abuse and its long-term effects. In her role at Praesidium, Christy has developed customized solutions for complex organizations such as religious institutes and denominations, fraternal organizations, K12 schools, and healthcare systems. She has worked with clients globally.

Christy also led content development for Praesidium's Creating a Safe Environment (C.A.S.E.) training program and has helped develop many of Praesidium's consultants. She is a former complex litigation research analyst with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a master's in Medical Anthropology.

Join us to learn about the current landscape of safe conduct practices and abuse prevention, including new research, ongoing challenges, and best practices to protect our ministries.



Christy Schiller

Vice President of Consulting
PRAESIDIUM



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

Creation Justice Webinar

ELON MUSK, OLIGARCHY, & CLIMATE JUSTICE

FREE WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 12, 2025 | 1:00 PM ET



MY SOUL LOOKS BACK & WONDERS HOW I GOT OVER: *Wisdom Of The Elders For Such A Time As This*

Three Part Series



Rev. Dr. Yvonne Davis
Educator, Preacher, Organizer, Prophetic Voice,
Board of Trustees of Franklinian Center for
Books, first Black woman ordained in the UCC



Dr. Julia M. Speller
Professor Emerita in American Religious
History & Culture at Chicago Theological
Seminary, UCC Historical Council



Rev. Dr. Henry T. Simmons
Retired pastor, social justice
advocate, & Secretary for Ethics and
Minority Church Development

People's Prayers
for Peace





Rev. Dr. Tony Clark - Conference Minister

Jennifer Penfield - Administrator & Registrar

Patty Martinson - Administrative Assistant

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Contact Us! - ucc@mnweucc.org