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FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

Our ecumenical and international partnerships have been a real blessing to the Southwest Association. We have developed wonderful relationships with fellow Christians all around the world. Friendships have been developed with folk from Germany, Egypt, Kenya, and most recently, Palestine. We have been taught much about how to witness to Jesus Christ from our brothers and sisters in these different countries and different Churches. The learning continues as we welcome 12 youth from the UEK Moers Church District this summer. They will attend General Synod with Wisconsin youth and participate in the Senior High Adventure Camp at Pilgrim.

More to come: In 2008 there will be an adult trip (tentative dates) June 16-30 to Germany and Russia. We'll be spending a week in Germany with host families seeing the sights and then a week in Russia in Pskow (the 3rd oldest town in Russia) where our partner Church supports a large diaconical institution as part of a project of reconciliation after World War II. We will fly to St. Petersburg and then on to Pskow, from there we'll use a bus to visit the area. The cost will be approximately \$3,000 depending on flight costs. Our time with our partners from the UEK has always been very fruitful. We travel to Italy together visiting a Waldensian (the Protestant Church in Italy) and most recently traveled to Prague and the former East Germany. Both of those trips developed warm and strong relationships. I expect this one to Russia will be a wonderful event and a time to celebrate this more than 20 year partnership. Consider going with us. Contact the Association Office if you have interest.

More to come: The Young Ambassadors (youth 16-24) will go to Germany June 28-July 19 and there will be an exchange of German youth coming here for a work camp, possibly in Honduras or the Gulf Coast) July 4-25, 2009) Keep the dates in mind! We are indeed blessed.

With Great Hope,

Bob

DISTRICT MEETINGS AND DEVELOPMENT GROUPS AT REST

The clergy gathering in districts and development groups ended in May and will be at rest during the summer. They will begin again in September.

IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference in Green Lake
For the General Synod Meeting in Hartford, CT

For our Congregations at:

Janesville, Wes Bixby, Pastor
Juneau, Carol Lange, Pastor
Lake Mills, Neil Partington, Pastor

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING:

Potosi Davies Memorial
Reeseville First

RECORD MANAGEMENT

Available is the booklet "Records Management for Local Churches" – helps you with:

Legal and property related documents, financial records, pastoral care files, financial records and much more. It is available from the Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston or by email at info@congregationallibrary.org

UCC GOSPEL CHOIR TRAVELS TO GERMANY

You are invited to participate in the Wisconsin Conference UCC Gospel Choir as it visits Germany June 17-July 1, 2008. They will give concerts and worship services on this 14-day tour visiting Eberswald, Berlin and Wittenberg. Cost is \$2,500 which includes room, board, airfare and travel within Germany. Rehearsals in either West Bend or Menomonie (your choice) on the first Sunday of the month, Sept. thru May – An all-choir rehearsal spring retreat, Pilgrim Center, April 25-26, 2008. First performance at the Wisconsin Conference Annual meeting at the Green Lake Conference Center, June 8-9, 2008. Questions? Contact Fritz West at (651) 433-4058 or westevancroft@aol.com

**SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCH EDUCATORS (GLAUCE)

“Sharing Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future” is the theme of the next GLAUCE meeting at Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park in Angola, Indiana October 16-18. Dr. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will be the Keynote Speaker. Contact Jan Davis for a registration brochure and further information at jaloda@hotmail.com

KARL BARTH AND AMERICAN EVANGELICALS...FRIENDS OR FOES?

This annual conference on Karl Barth will happen in Princeton, New Jersey June 24-27, 2007. More information available at barthconference@ptsem.edu

“CHARTING SELF” - A WORKSHOP WITH BOB WILLIAMSON

Bob Williamson of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will lead a workshop entitled “Charting Self: the Beliefs Chart as a Tool for Change.” It will happen at St. John’s UCC, Elkhart Lake, WI on September 22, 2007. For more information about the program and how to register, contact revbecky@tds.net

NEW BOOKS FOR STUDY GROUPS

September would be a good time to begin with one of our study groups as each of the active groups will begin a new book. The Feminist Study Group will be reading “Grace...Eventually” by Annie Lamott. The date in September is TBD.

The Contemporary Theology Reading Group will begin “Undergoing God” by Alison. They will meet in September 18, 1 p.m. at Salem UCC in Verona.

The Barth Group will begin the “Doctrine of Creation 3.1, having just finished the “Doctrine of God 2.2 (this being the 9th volume they’ve read over the last 23 years!) They’ll meet in September at a date to be decided.

The Calvin Reading Group is on hold awaiting interest.

If you would like us to order you a book, contact the Association Office.

FROM YOUR SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

In an article passed out to students at the UW, here are 10 simple things we can do to affect the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and enhance the quality of our life together as stewards of God’s creation.

- *Change a light.* Replacing a regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Check out the weird and energy efficient bulbs we use at church!
- *Drive less.* Walk, bike, carpool or take the bus more often. You’ll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don’t drive. Now that it’s nice, this is not only good for the environment, but enjoyable!
- *Recycle more.* You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste. Notice the recycle boxes around the church and the use of paper products instead of Styrofoam.
- *Check your tires.* Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.
- *Use less hot water.* It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead and washing your clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot.
- *Avoid products with a lot of packaging.* You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.
- *Adjust your thermostat.* Moving your thermostat just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment. At church our system allows us to heat only those areas in use.
- *Plant a tree.* A single tree will absorb one tone of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
- *Turn off electronic devices.* Simply by turning off your television, DVD player, stereo and computer when you’re not using them will save you thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Many of these things you may already do; some of these we already do as a church; yet, it doesn’t hurt to be reminded of our responsibility and power to affect positive change in the world around us for *God has made us little less than God and has given us dominion over the works of God’s hands.* (Psalm 8:5-7)

JUNE 2007 CALENDAR

3 MDG Picnic at Mutton/Ames Home, 5 p.m.

5 Mission & Stewardship, Association Office, 12 Noon

6 Periodic Support Consultation Committee, Assoc. Office, 12 noon

7 Healthy Congregations Workshop, Green Lake, 10 a.m.

7 Wisconsin Conference Board of Directors, Green Lake, 6 p.m.

7 Division on Lay Life & Leadership, Assoc. Office, 5 p.m.

8 Annual Meeting of the Wisc. Conference, Green Lake until 10th

14 Feminist Study Group, Association Office, 2:30 p.m.

19 Barth Study Group, Association Office, 8 p.m.

22 General Synod, Hartford, CT until 26th

JULY

10 OCWM Goal Setting, DeForest, 10 a.m.

AUGUST

2 Fall Meeting Planning Committee, 4 p.m.

2 Executive Committee of the Association, 5 p.m.

29 Social Concerns Committee, Association Office, 12 Noon

30 UEK Working Group, 11:30 a.m. The Diner, Sun Prairie

31 Executive Committee of the Assoc., 5 p.m.