Pacific Northwest Conference
Annual Meeting
April 30-May 2, 2021

Tentative Agenda

PNUCC Annual Meeting 2021: Rooted in Love

Synchronous zoom meeting dates:
• Friday, April 30
• Saturday, May 1
• Sunday, May 2 - shared Conference worship.

More information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

General Information

Our theme, **Rooted in Love**, is the same as this year’s national UCC General Synod. We will have time to explore the ways we're rooted in love, and how that can ground and inspire us as we continue to live into all that God has in store for us.

Pre-meeting video content will be shared in the weeks leading up to our virtual gathering to help folks prepare, and to ensure that our zoom time is fruitful, connective, and helps deepen relationships without having to be in zoom meetings for entire days.

A note about the date: We are glad to be able to shift back one weekend from when we have gathered during the past few years. Our Samoan congregations also have an annual gathering that takes place during the weekend we’ve held past annual meetings on. Your board and staff thought it was important to change our meeting date to ensure that all are able to join and look forward to gathering as the PNUCC from 4/30-5/2.

Local church pastors and staff are asked to appropriately disseminate all Annual Meeting registration information to their delegates.

**LOCATION:** Online

**REGISTRATION:** Online registration will be available online, here: [https://bit.ly/2MHi5VW](https://bit.ly/2MHi5VW). Alternatively, you may pay by check by filling out the form below and sending it to the conference office. We have kept the cost down to $30 per person so that we can put on a quality event, especially with added tech coordination this year. If you would like to attend but need some financial assistance, please contact the Rev. Mike Denton at 206-725-8383 ext. 102 or mike@pncucc.org.
Registration Form for the PNC-UCC 2021 Annual Meeting

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

Preferred phone: ________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________ ________________________________________________

Local church: ________________________________________________________________

Please send your completed form & a check for $30 by April 23 to:
PNC-UCC, 325 N 125th St, Seattle WA 98133

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WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES: Workshop information will be coming out in the next weeks. Watch your email and Conference communications for more details. If you have registered for the Annual Meeting, you will be able to register for workshops; that will be a separate registration.

DISPLAY OPPORTUNITIES: You must pre-register for a display space through the conference office. Please email arlene@gmail.com for more information.

DELEGATE DESIGNATION:

Each local church selects their delegates. If you are uncertain if you are a delegate, please check with your local church office. The following, based on the Conference by-laws, is provided for your information:

All clergy with standing in the Pacific Northwest Conference are considered to be delegates. They are not counted in the delegate designation from the local church.

The method for determining local church delegates is:
• Three lay delegates per congregation, PLUS
• One additional lay delegate for each 100 members (or fraction thereof) above 200, PLUS
• One additional lay delegate to be under the age of 26.
The last available annual yearbook statistics will be used as the basis for computing the number of delegates.

Delegate voting will be allocated by church. Each church is asked to designate a delegate captain to assign voting authorization.

Your church’s Fellowship Dues must be paid to the Conference before Annual Meeting in order for your delegates to be able to vote. Delegate captains will not be able to assign voting authorization until Fellowship Dues are paid.

Questions?
Please contact Arlene Hobson, Executive Administrator, in the Conference Office at 206-725-8383 ext. 101  800-954-8777 arlene@pncucc.org
Conference Calendar

If you'd like your committee meeting or event added to the calendar, please send an email to pncucc@gmail.com.

Please see website for links to Conference check-in meetings: https://bit.ly/3aA3MJH

March
1  PNCUCC Moderator & Board online chat  https://washington.zoom.us/j/99953739164
2  Courtney’s Office Hour  https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1483790879; 4:00-5:00pm
3  Courtney’s Office Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490066906; 9:30-10:30am
3  Pastoral Care Check-in online; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1480946522; 1:30-2:30pm
4  Moderators Check-in online; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1481017260; 7:00-8:30pm
5  Admin and Financial Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1497218618; 1:00-2:00pm
5  Fun Friday Pastors Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484579147; 4:00-5:00pm
9  Courtney’s Office Hour  https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1483790879; 4:00-5:00pm
10  Courtney’s Office Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490066906; 9:30-10:30am
10  Worship Resources Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1480494548; 1:30-2:30pm
10  Church Development Committee meeting; online; 2:00-3:00pm
11  Westside Committee on Ministry meeting; online; 9:30am-2:30pm
11  Fiscal Oversight Committee; online; noon-1:00pm
12  Admin and Financial Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1497218618; 1:00-2:00pm
12  Fun Friday Pastors Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484579147; 4:00-5:00pm
16  Courtney’s Office Hour  https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1483790879; 4:00-5:00pm
16  Environmental Justice meeting; online; 4:30-5:30pm
16  Board meeting; online; 6:00-7:30pm
17  Courtney’s Office Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490066906; 9:30-10:30am
17  Pastoral Care Check-in online; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1480946522; 1:30-2:30pm
18  Stewardship Committee meeting; online; 10:00am-12:00pm
18  Moderators Check-in online; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1481017260; 7:00-8:30pm
19  Eastside Committee on Ministry meeting; online; 10:00am-2:00pm
19  Admin and Financial Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1497218618; 1:00-2:00pm
19  Fun Friday Pastors Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484579147; 4:00-5:00pm
23  Courtney’s Office Hour  https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1483790879; 4:00-5:00pm
24  Courtney’s Office Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490066906; 9:30-10:30am
24  Worship Resources Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1480494548; 1:30-2:30pm
26  Admin and Financial Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1497218618; 1:00-2:00pm
26  Fun Friday Pastors Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484579147; 4:00-5:00pm
30  Courtney’s Office Hour  https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1483790879; 4:00-5:00pm
31  Courtney’s Office Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1490066906; 9:30-10:30am

April
1  Moderators Check-in online; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1481017260; 7:00-8:30pm
2  Admin and Financial Check-in; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1497218618; 1:00-2:00pm
2  Fun Friday Pastors Hour; https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1484579147; 4:00-5:00pm

April 30-May 1 Annual Meeting
I was born the week before my father’s graduation from college at the age of 30. My parents, brother and I lived in a small top floor apartment in Dorchester, Boston. A year and another cheap apartment later, my sister arrived. It was a welcome surprise, but money that was tight got tighter. My father worked three jobs to get us through those early years in the late 70’s. Food stamps, clothes from cousins, neighborly sharing, and our church adopting us as their family-in-need for Christmas 1979 helped a lot.

I was recently asking my parents some questions about that time, and somehow we got on the topic of church giving. I recognized to them that being the “good Nazarenes” they were at the time, it must have killed them not to be able to tithe to their church. In response, they both looked at me funny, and my father said this: “Well, it may have killed us not to tithe. We wouldn’t know. Because that year I distinctly remember giving 15% of our income.”

Now, 15% of my father’s income from three low-income jobs back then didn’t amount to much, but 15% of any family’s income when you’re struggling to get by is a lot. And I was flabbergasted to learn that even in our family’s leanest year, my parents tithed. In fact, they tithed more than the 10% their church told them they should give.

You could blame conservative church ideology for that. You could say my parents were made to feel they had to tithe in order to be good people, but my parents would be insulted by that assertion. And it doesn’t explain why they gave 50% more than what their church told them to give nor why they still tithe thirty-five years after joining the UCC.

Without the conservative Church to blame, other questions come to many minds: Why didn’t they do this or that instead with their money? Why didn’t they save it and then give more in future years? Why would they give away so much that they couldn’t guarantee their family’s being able to survive without help? (Ooo, now there’s an interesting question that assumes my parents believed in guarantees or valued surviving without help.)

I didn’t ask my parents why they gave so much. I didn’t ask them why they gave not just 10%, but 15%. I knew them well enough to figure that out after thousands of stewardship lessons growing up. My parents may be in this world, but they’ve
always refused to live of this world. For as long as I’ve known them, they’ve sought to live as citizens of the Kin-dom of God first, even if it meant giving to a church that then gave back to them in return, even if it meant incurring debt to meet needs or not paying down debt so they could still be generous, even if it meant doing without, having to ask neighbors for help, and not always knowing how the bills would get paid the next month. To them, leading from a place of generosity, belief in community, thanksgiving and reciprocity without exact accounting was what it meant to welcome and make a path for the Divine.

Digging into my confused pride at the details of their story, I think their seemingly unpragmatic example -- and all financial examples that might be deemed by some as unpragmatic -- hold lessons God wishes for us to hear.

Fast forward 43 years to my own life here in Seattle. I have one child, not three. We are a dual income household. I haven’t lived paycheck-to-paycheck or had to count my pennies in ten years. I don’t have to associate with my neighbors if I don’t want to; we don’t share cars or childcare, sugar or lawnmowers. Community is by choice, not necessity. I give generously (as I was taught), sacrificing some things in order to give, but I’ll be honest: I feel a little less blessed and a little less of a blessing than my “unpragmatic” parents in 1979. I know by all worldly standards, a comparison of my life side-by-side with my parents’ life back then would have many people quickly circling mine as the example of the two to follow. And I hate that we don’t look more closely to the upside-down ways of God at work in those leading from love (over what society deems practical) and a centering of interdependence over independence.

I still have much to learn from my parents and others’ embrace of the world. Maybe we all do.

Thinking about this more broadly, can you imagine what our churches, our conference, our world might look like and make possible were we to recenter interdependence over independence and lead from love before seemingly pragmatic, individual survivalism tactics? It’s so not the way many churches are oriented, and yet, I feel it in my bones of faith: beauty and joy this way lies. And I believe it begins with practices of stewardship, one commitment at a time shaping our hearts unto a new reality.

May God help us to learn the lessons and blessings of giving at odds with what makes sense to society but brings joy anyway. Toward God’s Kin-dom, let us grow.
This month marks one year.

One whole year of pandemic.

One year of zoom meetings, social distancing, mask wearing. One year of change and adaptation, of adjusting and readjusting. One year of sacrifice, grief, and loss.

This year has also been named a dual pandemic. This past year didn’t create the centuries long pandemic of white supremacy and systemic racism, but it brought increased awareness to these injustices.

As we come up to this unusual milestone of one year, some of us still long for things to “go back to normal,” while others know that “normal” wasn’t actually all that great. There is loss, but also opportunity in this time of transition. What are the things worth bringing back, and what are the pandemic lessons and changes that should stay?

As a community we are wrestling with what life might look like in the near and not so near future. While at the same time many of us are teetering between hope and despair. Mostly all of us are tired.

Even with all the tiredness, everywhere I go (virtually, of course) I hear these dynamic conversations. I hear great insights and wisdom. I hear caution and excitement, compassion and gratitude. We are figuring out what we can, and letting go of what we can’t.

This Lenten season we are once again practicing storytelling and exploring what it is to be Rooted in Love through our devotional series. [http://pncucc.org/lenten-devotionals](http://pncucc.org/lenten-devotionals). We are deepening relationships through collaboration with Central Pacific and Montana Northern Wyoming conferences who are also participating in this Lenten practice. We always need more readers and authors so click the link for information.

In the midst of it all, I am grateful that even while we are physically apart, none of us is in this alone. I am grateful for the relationships we have built and the new depths of relationship that are still to be explored. I am grateful for this conference, for the United Church of Christ, and for each and every one of you.

Courtney Stange-Tregear
Minister for Church Vitality
PNC Conference, UCC
February 7, 2021

To our friends at PNCUCC:

We are excited to get the word out that our planning is going ahead for our next regional women’s retreat in November of 2022. We hope you will help us communicate through the conference resources about our event. Letters will also be emailed to churches and previous recipients. Our venue at Salishan should provide a wonderful setting and facility for our gathering for times of spiritual renewal, relaxation, and just the joy of being together! Thank you for supporting us. More information will be provided down the road regarding the website and registration. Please contact me at CK5.MAPLE@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

Sincerely,
Carol Kiriluk
NRWR Committee

Yearbook Data

The deadline is nearly upon us. March 3rd is the last opportunity for churches to finalize their information for 2020. The Data Hub will close at midnight. If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Office at arlene@pncucc.org.

Earth Bistro

Can what I eat really affect Climate Change? Presented by Sacred Earth Matters at University Congregational UCC. March 21. (more)

PNC-UCC News

The current issue of the UCNews is online here: https://www.pncuccnews.org Please share this link with your congregation and friends.
# March Celebrations

Here are significant dates for our clergy and their partners. Best wishes to you on these special days.

## Ordinations

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Harvey Buer</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Dee Eisenhauer</td>
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<td>Susan Fairo</td>
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<td>David Weasley</td>
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## Commissioned

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<td>Marcia McLaughlin</td>
<td>18</td>
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## Birthdays

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Barbara Spraker</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Bill Stalder</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Marilyn McClellan</td>
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<td>Gregory Turner</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sharon Rieke</td>
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<td>Rodney Case</td>
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<td>Sam Wilson</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Susan Cutshall</td>
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<td>Edwards</td>
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<td>Judith Hjorth</td>
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<td>Ruth Bishop</td>
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<td>Allison Milligan</td>
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<td>Kaye Hult</td>
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<td>Steve Larsen</td>
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<td>Lynn Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Wendy Blight</td>
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## Anniversaries

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<td>Hollis &amp; Sally Bredeweg</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Stephen Haddan &amp; Douglas Fischer</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Carol Scott-Kassner &amp; Kirk Kassner</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Edith Jackson</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Gail &amp; Ed Crouch</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Gary Southerton &amp; David Isla</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Sharon Rieke</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Jeannette &amp; John Solimine</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tammy &amp; Tim Stampfli</td>
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