



### **WHAT IS THE IOWA CONFERENCE?**

- A covenanted community of 177 local churches – large and small (but mostly small; 115 have fewer than 200 members) – and their 30,000+ members.
- 270 authorized ministers – ordained, licensed and commissioned – mostly local church pastors, but including others who are retired or serving in other ministries.
- Six geographically based associations.

### **WHAT ARE THE MINISTRIES OF THE IOWA CONFERENCE?**

The staff of the Iowa Conference focuses on these priorities:

- We work with pastors to help them be wise and transforming leaders.
- We help churches when they seek a new pastor.
- We support associations as they guide and authorize men and women for pastoral leadership.
- We develop leaders for church and society.
- We train churches for relevant ministry with youth and young adults.
- We provide a voice for Iowa in the UCC, and a voice for the UCC in ecumenical communities.

### **HOW ARE WE CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER?**

- We send delegates to the General Synod of the UCC which speaks to (but not for) the conference and local churches.
- We gather once a year in an annual meeting for worship, growth and business. Every local church is entitled to representation at this meeting.
- Our churches are members of one of six associations – the bodies which “credential” persons for pastoral work.
- Through our **Lay Education Program** we train men and women for pastoral ministry in small churches. This is open to all persons who want to learn more about church and theology, whether or not they sense a call to pastoral work.
- The conference is the single most important force for the care and feeding of church leaders – clergy and lay.

### **Certification School in Progressive Christian Youth Ministry**

- Models effective approaches to youth/family ministry.
- “How to” youth ministry ideas: confirmation, education, planning, group development, outreach + much more.
- Theological & biblical training.
- Written ministry plan for immediate congregational impact.

### **Lay Education for Ministry and Leadership**

- Equip lay leaders to better serve the needs of local congregations.
- Equip persons who might become licensed ministers serving in small churches or other special ministries.

### **Pilgrimage for discerning one’s spiritual calling**

- Discover and deepen sensitivity to God’s presence in your life.
- Share the journey with others.
- Strength your discipleship in the world.

Interested in Certification School, Lay Education or Pilgrimage? Contact Dianne Prichard at phone 563-271-6112 or email [dianne@ucciaconf.org](mailto:dianne@ucciaconf.org).

## **THE IOWA CONFERENCE – COMMUNITY OF TRANSFORMATION!**

Jesus was asked, “Who will be greatest in God’s realm?” His reply is still challenging today. “Unless you change.... You’ll never even enter God’s realm!” (Matt. 18:1-3)

Change is hard. It requires giving up the tried, true, and familiar. There’s loss in change. But there’s also much to gain. Those who have the courage to change find hope, renewal, and ultimately life. The Iowa Conference is called to be a community of transformation. Our churches – though individually unique – must each seek to discern God’s intended mission and work.

To do this, churches need the help and support of other churches and of conference staff. That’s the Iowa Conference today!



## **A NOTE FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

The Iowa Conference isn’t an office and staff in Des Moines. You are the Iowa Conference! The staff of the Conference is focused on local churches so that together we can be agents of transformation in this world that God loves so much. The rest of the staff and I seek to serve your church. Please let us know if there are ways we can help.

*Rich Pleva, Iowa*

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The ministry of the Iowa Conference is funded by gifts to “Our Church’s Wider Mission” (OCWM). Through your gifts we are partners here in Iowa and in the national settings of the UCC. The conference is working to broaden our base of financial support. If you share a passion for local church transformation, please consider a gift to the conference above and beyond your support of your own church. Please consider including the conference in your will so this important work can be supported for years to come. You may contact the conference office to learn about other forms of planned giving. Gifts may be sent by mail, or online at [www.ucciaconf.org](http://www.ucciaconf.org). Thank you for your consistent and generous support of the ministry we share in Christ’s name.



## **Iowa Conference - UCC**

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