

A Statement of Mission for the Staff of the Iowa Conference United Church of Christ

We believe that God calls us to bear witness to the hope of the Gospel. Inherent in this call is the fundamental primacy of the local church – entities we understand to be:

- Communities of worship and service --
- Communities of transformation!

The staff of the Iowa Conference will focus its resources and energies on strategic interventions designed to enhance and empower local church vitality.

Because we believe that leadership matters, we will particularly focus on building leadership capacity in the local churches – convinced as we are that well led congregations are more likely to be attentive to the call of God than are those not so well led.

We will:

- Support the search and call process with faithfulness, diligence and creativity,
- Support the processes of pastoral formation – particularly through support of the Committee on Ministry function,
- Support existing clergy through a variety of interventions including (but not limited to):
 - Creation of structures of accountability (e.g. SAG and SAG-like groups),
 - Coaching and mentoring,
 - Support of lifelong learning as a bedrock assumption of our common life.
- Cultivate the growth of a “culture of call” in all setting of the conference, particularly through work with youth and young adults and those who minister with youth and young adults.
- Be open to cooperative ministry with others – both in and outside the United Church of Christ – with whom we share faith and values.