

## **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.