

Rev. Marvin M. Silver
Associate Conference Minister (East Region)
2015-2016 Annual Report

As I look back over 2015 to date, I am reminded that this is the weekend the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting accepted the nomination to call me as the Associate Conference Minister serving the Conference's Eastern Region. On my first day (September 15th), although I was new and had to learn a few things, everything seemed so familiar being in the Ministry Team meeting.

These past ten months have been very fulfilling. The opportunity to serve once again in a full-time capacity as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I give God thanks. And I am looking forward to God's continued revelation and the Spirit's leading as I serve in this capacity.

My time working with local churches in the East Region with their Pastoral Transitions has given me the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of how we respond to these needs. It is my hope that we can more intentionally work to identify, train and nurture authorized ministers for this critical area of the Conference's ministry. And empower congregations to live into new ways of being church and heed's God's leading to transform them. Churches that in Pastoral Transitions in the East Region include:

- Bethel UCC (Arlington VA)
- Columbia UCC (Columbia MD)
- Peoples Congregational UCC (Washington DC)
- Lincoln Temple UCC (Washington DC)
- First Congregational Christian UCC (Chesterfield MD)
- Zion UCC, Perry Hall (Nottingham MD)
- Covenant Baptist UCC (Washington DC)

I am eager to build upon visions I have formulated for the Conference's Justice Ministry as we continue with implementation of the Conference's resolutions. We have done and accomplish much this past year (see joint report from Alex and I), yet there is still a need to build a strong foundation for justice ministry across the entire Conference. This will require a long-term strategic effort to educate member-disciples in the theological and biblical foundations of justice and peace; and to train member-disciples how to build and organize power for change. We must never be satisfied with just witnessing, but we must strive to win and build lasting power.

Finally, my first introduction to the UCC was serving as an under-thirty delegate of the Conference to the 21st General Synod (Columbus, OH). I am excited that after 20 years later I have a chance to attend the 31st General Synod (Baltimore, MD) as a member of the Conference's Ministry Team.

Marvin Silver