

Delegate's Report  
Southern California Nevada Conference June 1 & 2, 2007

Theme: Salt and Light, Shiny Spicy Faith

*Matthew 5:13-16*

*You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

We studied this passage the first day of the conference. Jesus preached to a multicultural audience: Jews and Greeks. In the Hebrew/Jewish tradition *relationships* are central, represented by covenants; ceremonies used salt as a symbol of the covenant. In the Greek world the *quest for truth*, to know what was good, was paramount and was symbolized by light. "You" in this passage refers to the church.

We were asked to consider how our church- Community Congregational of Corona del Mar- is salt and light for our surrounding community. For me, weddings came to mind. Our sanctuary draws many couples into their first covenant with each other, surrounded by light, seeking Christ to define their relationship (even if they aren't fully aware of it).

Perhaps you can think of other meanings for salt and light, and ways our church is salt and light for both our congregation and community.

Back to the conference- where attendance left no doubt that the UCC is committed to multicultural outreach in a multicultural way. I jotted down some quotes during sermons and speeches to give you the flavor:

"God has called us together to be a beloved community for anybody who needs one".

"Whatever happens to one happens to all."

"The most important thing congregations can do for the world then, is to tend first to the spiritual well being of the pilgrims who find their way to their doors. The most important thing they can do for the unity of that world is, ironically, to find ways to teach their own distinct traditions to those pilgrims."

This theme was reinforced during worship with hymns and scripture read and sung in many languages including English, Samoan, Tagalog, Spanish, Mandarin, Indonesian, Marshallese, Korean, German, and Japanese.

A revision to the bylaws passed that allows the establishment of conference-recognized ministries which will participate in ecclesiastical and organizational structures of the UCC and have a seat on the Board of Directors. The passing of this by-law allowed the Samoan Ministries of the Southern California Nevada Conference to be made official.

Other business news of note:

Pilgrim Pines ([www.pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org)) has found a new director and has raised one million towards the three million dollar capital campaign.

The Health Insurance Task Force was unable to locate an insurance provider that was less expensive and provided better options than our current policy for clergy and staff. This issue is not unique to our conference, but is impacting employers in general.

The SCNC Conference budget is balanced and passed unopposed- I have a copy if anyone wants to review the budget.

SCNC added more new churches (93) than any other conference since the birth of the UCC 50 years ago.

Save the Date: Feb 1 & 2 Congregational Vitality Event *for all church leaders*.  
“Theme: Becoming a Multicultural Church. Who, me?”

Living Faith Workshops offered a variety of subjects including our very own Joanne Reynolds, author of: “Blessings in Time of Darkness: 10 Crucial Lessons for Caregivers” speaking on “Compassion in Action: Caring for Caregivers”.

I attended the workshop titled “The Next 50 Years of the UCC: A Vision of Our Future” given by the 2030 young Clergy Network who used online technology- SYNANIM- to gather voices from across the country in a jointly written statement about the future of our denomination. An impressive task with an impressive result, you can read the vision and learn more about this group of UCC pastors in their 20’s and 30’s at [www.2030clergy.net](http://www.2030clergy.net) *They have invited all UCC members, clergy and lay, of every generation, to respond to this vision with your own dreams.*

The Conference Minister’s Report wrapped up the business meeting on a sad note. Both our Conference Ministers, Dan Romero and Jane Heckles, resigned effective December 30, 2007. Jane noted they were appointed to serve as a partnership ministry and their joint resignation allows the Board a clear slate to consider future options.

Please see me or visit the conference website [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org) or the denomination website [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) if you are interested in more details.

As always, it’s a blessing to serve,  
Kathleen Scott