

## Governance and Ministry

As the weeks have gone by, I am sure you have heard members of the conference board or ministry volunteers talking about our work on Governance and Ministry. Many conferences, local congregations, and in some ways the national setting of the UCC have been moving toward the model of Governance and Ministry as developed by Dan Hotchkiss. First introduced in 2009 and published by the Alban Institute, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* has been used as a tool for aligning mission and purpose.

Our conference has been moving in this direction as well. In its essence, the model allows conference board members to focus on Governance and oversight through

- developing and evaluating the conference vision, mission, and values;
- developing, revising, and monitoring policies;
- setting and evaluating progress toward conference goals;
- providing fund development and financial oversight;
- seeking input from the conference and ministry volunteers before and during planning; and
- sharing the results of the board's work.

The head of the Governance function within the conference is the Moderator of the Conference.

The work of the conference, ministry preparation and standing, program activities, mission, continuing education, and other ways of "doing" the work of the Conference are Ministry. Ministry tasks are accomplished through ministry teams and volunteers and include areas of:

- Authorization, Oversight and Standing of authorized ministers;
- Congregational development, vitality training and innovations, coaching and Local Congregational Support;
- mission support and outreach such as those accomplished by Amigos de Guatemala and the Disaster Response Ministry Team;
- promoting and accenting national and conference initiatives around discipleship, faith formation, youth and young adults, 3 Great Loves; and
- distribution of grants and financial support through YEA, GEM, the Longsdorf Fund, and the GTW Scholarship fund.

The head of the Ministry function within the conference is the Conference Minister of the Conference.

Over the next weeks, you will be hearing more about Governance and Ministry and how it impacts the ways in which we accomplish the work of our Conference. Please feel free to talk with me or one of the Conference Board members about the process and its implementation.

In Christ's love, *Bonnie*