

GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION

2008-2009 REPORT

The Golden Gate Association is one of the 6 associations in our Northern California Nevada Conference, UCC. We are a community of 36 UCC churches along the Pacific coast from the Oregon border to the Santa Clara border, and includes San Francisco, and the San Mateo Peninsula.

We now have a web-site, linked to our NCNC! Many thanks to John Lowell and all his research, suggestions, and advice; to our BOD members who contributed ideas and opinions; to Rev. Kristi Denham, Pastor of Belmont Community UCC, and her church member, Barbara Todd, who did this for us, as part of her stewardship for God! We also started a special fund for Youth and Young Adult Scholarships to attend conferences locally and with the wider church. We helped fund 2 youth to UCC National Youth Event, and have already committed funds for helping 4 youths attend General Synod 2009. Our Fall '08 and Spring '09 GGA Gatherings focused on our Y/YA, and included fund-raising items made by/for youth in our Golden Gate Association!

This year, we joyfully and thankfully worshiped at the Ordinations of Kirk Thomas from First Congregational UCC-SF, Valerie McEntee from Congregational Church of San Mateo, Carol Hannon from Fairfax Community Church, Janice V. Steele from City of Refuge, Beth Erickson from Tiburon Community Congregational UCC, and Kristen del Monte from Sebastopol Community UCC as Ministers in Full Standing in our UCC! We also celebrated the Installations of Rev. Dr. Carol Manahan as ACM for Golden Gate Asso.-North, Rev. Carol Hannon of Fairfax, Rev. Dr. Curran Reichert as Pastor of Community Congregational UCC of Tiburon, Rev. Andrew Metcalfe as Pastor of Kenwood Community UCC, Rev. Valerie McEntee for San Francisco Night Ministry Program, Rev. Sebastian Ong as Pastor of Chinese Congregational Church in San Francisco, Rev. Cyril Colonius in a 4-Way Covenant to Alliance for Rural Community Health and Cloverdale UCC, and Rev. Kristen delMonte as Associate Pastor for Sebastopol Community UCC. We honored Rev. John Brooke for 50 years of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Wendy Taylor for 20 years of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Rodney Yee (GGA ACM-south) for 25 years of Ordained Ministry, welcomed Rev. Scotty Kirk into GGA (Congregational Church of San Mateo), and celebrated the ministry of Rev. Michael Hollingshead of Island United Church as he leaves the local church to continue education and work in social justice fields. We met in fellowship, worship, study, and new experiences at the GGA Reception at Asilomar, 2 Ecclesiastical Councils for a total of 6 Persons In-Care. At our Fall Gathering hosted by Petaluma UCC and Spring Gathering hosted by Belmont UCC, we celebrated together in worship, song, delicious food, and fellowship, and focused on our very special Youth and Young Adults! At our Spring Gathering we also installed our new Board of Directors, and our new Moderator, Roy Mosley! We provided scholarship monies to our GGA Persons In-Care towards their required Vocational Assessment Evaluation. Our GGA also contributed money to 5 of our local churches as "seed money": Mill Valley Community UCC, Pescadero Community UCC, San Carlos Community UCC, Chinese Congregational UCC-SF, and First Congregational UCC-SF—their reports were distributed at the Fall Gathering in Petaluma, Nov. '08.

Our Golden Gate Association Board of Directors meets monthly, to take care of business in between our general meetings. Our Board members represent the diversity of our churches, and the different geographic areas. Because of our wide geographic area, we have met via "Cyber Meetings", with almost 100% attendance! We invite all of you to join us at the Reception here at Asilomar, and speak with us.... your elected representatives! We also invite you to join us in all our activities, and encourage you to volunteer to help us on our Board of Directors and/ or sub-committees. "For what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God!" Micah 6:8

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Burgess, Moderator through April 25, 2009
Golden Gate Association