



ames

# UCC COURIER

United Church of Christ

217 Sixth St. Ames, IA 50010

ISSUE 251  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

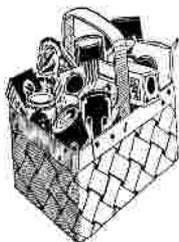
515-232-9323  
www.amesucc.org  
office@amesucc.org

## Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting January 26 in Fellowship Hall

*Potluck follows worship service*

*Annual Congregational Meeting begins at 12:45 p.m.*

### Souper Bowl of Caring February 2



Ames UCC youth will again participate in Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations to support the Food Bank at MICA. Donations can be made in the name of your favorite Super Bowl team and the winning team will be announced! Souper Bowl Sunday is February 2. Come prepared with canned goods and cash!

### Women's Fellowship 12 noon February 5

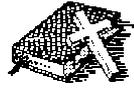


All women of the church are invited to attend Women's Fellowship on February 5, 2014 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Laura Beason is our facilitator. Our topic for the month of February is "Favorite Quotes, or Quotes that you have lived by, or Things your mother told you about life that you have shared with your children." Hope you can all come and have lunch and share some favorite quotes.

### Theologian In Residence, February 22-23, 2014

Listen to a preview of the Ames UCC Theologian in Residence, Phyllis Tickle, featured during Krista Tippet's show "On Being" <http://www.onbeing.org/>. The topic is "Racial Identity in the Emerging Church and in the World." (aired 28 Nov. 2013).

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR



Greetings! As your new interim pastor, I look forward to getting to know each of you. In the meantime, here is a bit about me, and about what I expect we will be doing together during this interim period.

I am a Presbyterian minister, but my family was active in a Unitarian congregation when I was small; I attended Duke Divinity School, which is Methodist; and I served most recently in a Lutheran congregation. Suffice it to say, I've learned that every permutation of the larger Church has its own gifts and quirks, and I'm excited about getting acquainted with what is uniquely U.C.C. (and, more specifically, what is uniquely *Ames* U.C.C.).

I've lived in Chicago, North Carolina, Kansas City, Mason City, and, most recently, in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our family moved back to Iowa in July for my husband, Sam, to begin work as pastor at Collegiate Presbyterian Church. We just couldn't take that California weather any longer!

So, here I am, and here we are, together. Over the next year-to-two (the average length of an interim period) we will be working through what are known as the Developmental Tasks of Interim Ministry. These are:

- Coming to terms with the congregation's history;
- Discerning the congregation's purpose and identity;
- Supporting leadership change and development;
- Reaffirming and strengthening denominational links; and
- Committing to new leadership and new ministry.

An interim period is a little like a Twelve-Step Program in that it works if you work it. So, we'll be working it! But the good news is, this work can be a lot of fun. If we do it right, this will be a period of discovery and adventure; and, when it's completed, you will come away with a clearer sense of who and where you have been as a congregation; who God is calling you to be in the present; and what God's purpose is for you in the community and the world.

In other words, at the end of this Interim period, you should be equipped to move into the future with confidence, anticipation, and joy.

May it be so!  
Blessings,  
Terry



## **Theologian-in-Residence -- 2014 Phyllis Tickle** "Evangelist of the Future"

This year's Theologian-in-Residence, Phyllis Tickle, is not a household name for many, but for those who look for authorities regarding past, present, and future trends in matters religious and spiritual, Phyllis Tickle is very well known. Some years ago, the influential *Publishers Weekly*, which tracked new books, decided they needed an editor/writer to describe and discern what was being discussed in the many books on religion. Phyllis, a former college teacher and dean of the Memphis (Tenn.) College of Art was chosen editor. She is also a lay rector in the Episcopal Church.

A prolific writer and frequent speaker across the nation, Phyllis Tickle has been recognized with literary awards and honorary degrees. The most recent of her many books include best-sellers *The Great Emergence*, *Emergence Christianity*, and devotional books such as *The Divine Hours*. She has been honored recently with a collection of insightful articles about her and her analysis of trends in American religion, entitled *Evangelist of the Future*.

How appropriate that the theme for Phyllis Tickle's presentations will be "Being Christian and Church in 21st Century America." On Saturday, February 22, her three sessions will address these topics:

- 1) "Being Christian – Who Are Christians in America Today?"
- 2) "How Did Christians Get Here? And Why Does It Matter?" and
- 3) Being Christian – How Now to Be the Church."

At Learning Center on Sunday, February 23, there will be a time for questions and answers with Phyllis. She will deliver the sermon in the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please come. Invite your friends. Tell others about these exciting and special opportunities.

Jonathan Page recognized the amazing 30-year legacy that the Ames UCC-Congregational Church has created with this program. He wrote in last year's Courier, "Our Theologian-in-Residence program is one of the marquee features of our church. It represents our most important single effort to promote theological engagement and the search for truth. In our society, where ill-conceived forms of religious observance create so much harm, the Theologian-in-Residence program seeks to use our most potent weapon on behalf of good – education. This year's Theologian-in-Residence should both inspire and lead you to think deeply about your own faith." (continued)

Come and enrich your faith. Another way to be involved is to volunteer. A signup sheet is included in this newsletter and will also be available on Sunday mornings. Let the TIR Committee know you will help as soon as possible.

-- Charles Kniker, Theologian-in-Residence Coordinator

*From the Minister to Children and Youth*

Wednesday Afternoon Club (WAC) News



If you were in worship on January 5, then you had the treat of listening to our WAC children play the chimes and bells for the Centering Music. They have been practicing faithfully each Wednesday with their director, Sally Shaffer.

Each Wednesday we have a dozen children coming from their elementary schools to our church for snack, Bible story, craft, games, music, and a mini-course. We are grateful to those who have been willing to help out, but we continue to be in need of someone to provide snacks and lead a mini-course (share a hobby, read a book, etc.). You can sign up in the parlor or contact Hannah.

--Hannah Hannover

**Welcome Linda Hanson, Youth Minister at Ames UCC**

Hi! My name is Linda Hanson and I am thrilled to be the new youth pastor at Ames United Church of Christ. Okay, did you notice that I changed the name of my position? One thing to know about me is that I think the way we say things and the words we use are really important. So, to me "Youth Program Director" (the official title) says that I'm sort of in charge of the youth cruise ship that provides programs for youth. I'm more interested in being in ministry together, and providing leadership to you and within the congregation to determine what the Ames UCC's ministry with and to youth should be. I want to work together with the youth to make our ministry happen!

But, enough about that.

I work full-time as a physical therapist, and also home-school my youngest daughter, Kesia. I enjoy spending time with my two grandchildren who live in Ames, Adrienne and Gabriel. I have five children altogether: Rachel, Eric, Joseph, Seth and Kesia. And, I'm so fortunate that all of them live here in Ames.



I have been ordained as a pastor for ten years. I spent five years as a missionary hear more about that as we get to know each other better. And, I served as interim pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Madrid, Iowa and as a preacher at The Rose Assisted Living in Ames.

I really like young people and believe that one of the most important tasks of the church is to let our youth and children know why faith is important. I like to laugh and have fun, but I enjoy quiet time, too. I love the message of Jesus Christ and hope to help others discover why our faith is so life-giving.

Let's get started!  
Linda



**Youth Mission Trip to Wind River Indian Reservation, Wind River, Wyoming  
July 6-12, 2014**

Several of our youth and adults will be traveling to Wind River, Wyoming July 6-12 for a Mission Trip. The Wind River Reservation area is home to both the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes, as well as people living in communities surrounding the reservation in Fremont County and Lander. The Wind River Reservation is home to the seventh largest Indian reservation in the country, encompassing more than 2.2 million acres. While there we will paint and weatherize homes in partnership with both tribal housing authorities and reaching out to the local children and elderly residents. We will also have the opportunity to hear stories from community members, travel to the Museum of the American West, and see the Eagle Spirit Dancers perform traditional native dances. Our group will travel to Yellowstone National Park for hiking after the work portion of the trip. You will continue to hear more about plans for our trip and be invited to help support us through various fundraisers.

For more information see Linda Hanson!

# Executive Board



## Reminder – Discussion of Budget Options

Two budget meetings were scheduled for congregational input, to answer questions, to hear suggestions and to discuss options. The first was January 12 in Fellowship Hall after worship. The second will be January 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, in place of the Learning Center program.

Key officers and financial people will be present. Please come to one or both sessions with questions and suggestions.

## Interim Minister Contract

As we welcome our new interim minister, Terry Hamilton-Poore, members of the congregation need to be aware of a few details of her contract.

After the first 2 months, Terry will get one Sunday a month off, to allow her to worship with the Presbyterian congregation. This is in addition to normal vacation and continuing education time. Terry will be working for the church full time; she will just not be with us every Sunday morning.

Hannah Hanover and Linda Hanson have agreed to preach most of the Sundays when Terry will be gone. We will compensate both Hannah and Linda for this additional work. This arrangement allows us to pay a fair and just salary to Terry while reducing our expenses. It also allows us, as a congregation, to hear more voices and perspectives while maintaining continuity.

Please join me in welcoming Terry as we move forward in this period of our congregational life.

--Ken Birt, Moderator

## Search Committee



Dear Members and Friends of the Ames United Church of Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee wants to share with you the process to be used in the search and call of our new pastor. Unlike the hiring practices in a business or academic environment, calling a minister requires numerous steps and procedures. In hiring a pastor, God identifies the minister that best matches our church, and the search committee facilitates the hire. The call of a minister has to fit the call of the congregation in terms of what the church is seeking or what God believes we need.

In late November, members of the search committee, along with Ken Birt and Phil Spike, participated in an orientation session with Rev. Jonna Jensen, a conference associate minister. Jonna and associate conference minister Bridgett Stevens will be working closely with us throughout the process.

We have been meeting weekly since December to develop the first draft of our church profile. This document is critical to the search process. We are currently conducting interviews, gathering data and information to prepare an historical perspective of the church, assessing our strengths and challenges, and formulating a vision for our leadership statement. Thank you to those who completed the family questionnaire, as this information is very helpful in developing an accurate profile of our church.

Our timetable includes the presentation of a draft of the church profile to the congregation in early February. Shortly thereafter, comment sessions for the congregation will be held during Learning Center. The Executive Board will also conduct a review of the profile. The draft will be accessible for review electronically and a few hard copies will be available in the church office. When the profile is completed, it will be listed in the national "UCC Employment Opportunities". Persons who choose to do so and who are authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will submit their profiles to us through the Iowa Conference office. The Ministerial Profile includes information about the candidate's educational background and experience, as well as a detailed faith statement and written references. The conference office will make background checks and report the results to us.

As we receive candidates' ministerial profiles, the search committee will identify and then follow up on those candidates who meet our criteria. The follow up will include telephone reference checks, telephone interviews, and requests for sermons and other materials. We will continue to accept and evaluate new Ministerial Profiles as they are presented to us.

After the pool of candidates has been narrowed to a manageable number, we will conduct personal interviews, and may attend worship with them in a church setting arranged by the conference office. Once the individual whom we think will best serve our church has been identified, a call will be initiated.  
J. Elaine Hieber, chair

If the candidate chooses to accept our call, a candidate Sunday will be announced. You will have the opportunity to meet the candidate that weekend informally as well as at the formal worship service. A congregational meeting following the worship service will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the search committee, and to vote on the call to our new pastor.

During the search process, the names of candidates will be held in strict confidence within our committee, but every effort will be made to keep you informed of our progress and to be mindful of your ideas about new pastoral leadership.

We deeply trust that God will guide both our candidates and the members of our search committee. Our committee is a very cohesive group that enjoys working together, and we are committed to performing this search with openness and integrity. We are blessed with a wonderful church community, and with hard work and God's guidance we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to lead us. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we pursue this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Bradley Duckstein, Ed Goedecken, Rachel Jones, Terisa Thomas,  
Allen Trenkle

Linda Shenk, vice-chair

## Christian Education Team

### Learn Something New Every Sunday at Learning Center Adult Forum

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come early for continental breakfast of doughnuts, pastries, bagels, coffee, tea and juice at 9 a.m. The breakfast is supported by a free will offering.

January 12 --Journeys of Faith

January 19— Budget discussion

January 26 – Ask the Interim Pastor (and she will Ask the Congregation)

February 2 – Intergenerational – Tie blankets for ACCESS  
**(Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support)**

February 9 – NAMI Central Iowa (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

February 16 – Getting ready for Theologian-in-Residence

February 23 – Theologian-in-Residence

## Insight Study Group Explores Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Tickle on the Church's Next Rummage



Author, historian, cultural observer and our next Theologian-in-Residence, Phyllis Tickle, examines the changing face of Christianity and culture in six DVD sessions. Tickle surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500s; the next is happening now. What are the implications of this Great Emergence, both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?

- January 16 - Emergence 101
- January 23 - Where Now is the Authority?
- January 30 - The 20th Century and Emergence
- February 6 - Gifts from Other Times
- February 13 - How Then Shall We Live?
- February 20 - Hallmarks of Emergence

Join us on Thursdays at 3 p.m. in Room 104.

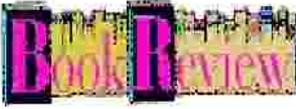
--Ellen Barnhart



The church library is off the parlor in the northwest corner of the church.

### Library News

**February 16:** Before and after worship, come to the parlor and visit the BOOKS AND BROWNIES display. We will have some of the new additions to the library on display and ready to be checked out. Both adult and children's books will be on display. Yes, there will also be some brownies to munch on as you look at great books.



***"How We Die Now: Intimacy and the Work of Dying"*** by Karla A. Erickson, Temple University Press, 2013

This book, written by an associate professor of sociology at Grinnell College, is the result of a 5-year ethnographic study conducted primarily at Winthrop House (a pseudonym for the Mayflower Community in Grinnell), a continuing care retirement community. The stories, quotations, and observations about the conditions of living and working in this one facility make for an interesting read, but the book goes beyond that by providing a context for looking at aging more broadly.

Erickson reviews the history of aging in the U.S. and the implications of our living longer and dying more slowly and differently than in the past. She states that our fear of death and distrust of dependency have hampered nationwide discussion about end-of-life issues. Yet our current approach to care in old age does not reflect either socially or ethically the conditions made possible by scientific, demographic, and technological change. We do not acknowledge that our common practices are not economically sustainable or particularly satisfying. Erickson suggests that we could benefit from the practice of interdependency throughout the life cycle.

A particularly interesting chapter is devoted to eight lessons that end-of-life workers have learned from helping others die. These lessons raise some good points for individuals and families to consider. For example, lesson 5 is "you can plan on death". Karla reports that every worker she interviewed spoke about the need to make plans for death, and 48 of the 50 workers had done so for themselves. She concludes that providers can show us how to "honor end of life as a time not to be mourned but to be acknowledged, embraced, and even celebrated" (p. 161).

-- Review by Nancy E. Brown who donated a copy of the book to the Ames UCC library

### Children's Book Review

**"Faith"** by Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis and Cynthia Pon A Global Fund for Children Book

O.K. I admit it. I still love reading children's books and not just to my grandchildren. No matter how simple or complex the books, I always learn something and pictures add immeasurably to the experience. The book **"Faith"** is rich in learning opportunities for both children and adults.

The text is simple and the wonderfully expressive photos include children practicing different faiths all over the world. There is even a world map labeled with the places where the children live. Various elements of faith are illustrated and described. At the end of the book, words to know are listed and simply defined. This is an excellent introduction for children and adults to many of the faiths of our world. Even though we express our faith in many ways by many names, this book illustrates over and over we are more the same than different. Resolve to read this book in 2014.

-- Review by Christa Andersen

## Member Services Team

### Drumming Circle Thursday, January 23

The UCC Drum Circle had its first meeting and we want to invite others to join us! Our next meeting is January 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the church parlor.



### WHAT IS A DRUM CIRCLE? WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO A DRUM CIRCLE?

A community music-making event where people sit or stand in a circle while playing percussion instruments.

People play improvised rhythms. Music is created in the moment.

Instead of a teacher, there is a facilitator – someone with musical experience who leads from the center of the circle.

In the Drum Circle, there is no audience. Everyone is part of the performance.

(continued)

**WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO A DRUM CIRCLE?**

- For fun.
- Sense of community.
- Introduction to rhythm and percussion technique.
- Musical expression.
- Health benefits: stress-reduction, creative expression, and feeling better.
- Experience of unity.

**WHO ATTENDS DRUM CIRCLES?**

Everyone! All are welcome, all ages, all talents.

**WHAT IF I HAVE NO MUSICAL TALENT?**

- Beginning with our heartbeat, rhythm is something that all people have inside them.
- Because of that, everyone can participate in the drum circle, even if you've never played an instrument before.
- You can discover the music inside you!

For information, call Linda Hanson at (515) 520-2583.

**January 16 is the Next Young Adult's Meetup**



The Young Adult Group (20s & 30s) is getting together for a potluck and fellowship on Thursday, January 16. Matthew Ellinwood has graciously opened up his home for our meeting space. Plan to meet at his house with a dish to share at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Rachel Jones if you have any questions or need Matthew's address ([rachleigh160@gmail.com](mailto:rachleigh160@gmail.com)). The February gathering will be Thursday, February 20 with dinner and Valentine cookie decorating. Time and location will be announced soon!

**Winter Congregational Dinners February 7, 8, 9 & February 14, 15, 16**



It is time for our Winter Congregational Dinners! Hannah Hannover is looking for individuals, couples, or families who would be interested in hosting a dinner in their homes. If you are willing to

host, please send an email to Hannah ([hannah@amesucc.org](mailto:hannah@amesucc.org)) with the date that you prefer and the number of guests you can accommodate. When Hannah has a list of all of the hosts, she will begin contacting members and friends to get each meal organized. This is a great way to meet people in the congregation and share a time of fellowship in a more intimate setting!

# Green Team



## Recycling Paper and Cardboard to Help Ames Service Agencies

The UCC Green Team would like all church members and friends to know about and participate in a recycling project that has been taken on by the Ames Golden K Kiwanis Club. The club consulted with City of Ames power plant personnel, who say the plant is at capacity with regard to burnable trash, and encouraged the club to proceed with the project. The club is collecting paper and cardboard at a central location in Ames. It is then sent to Mason City, where the Mason City Recycling Center converts it to cellulose insulation. The proceeds are used by the Golden K Kiwanis Club to support a variety of projects in Ames, such as the Emergency Residence, YSS, Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, various youth activities, Food at First, etc. We are welcome to participate.

There are two ways to donate your paper and cardboard (no pizza boxes due to food residue). One way is to transport it to the CENEX station at 809 East Lincoln Way, where there is a semi-trailer parked at the east end of the station, 7 days a week, with back doors open, and a stairway up to the bed of the truck. The other way is to leave it on Sunday morning in the large plastic tub outside the back door of the church office adjacent to the ramp. A member of the UCC Green Team will transport all collected papers and cardboard to the trailer at the CENEX station. All members of this church are welcome to and encouraged to participate in this effort.

--Jerry Chase for UCC Green Team

## AMOS – A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy Top Ten Reasons to Celebrate Another Great Year for AMOS

1. Trained 119 Project IOWA participants, AMOS' workforce development initiative, with the skills they'll need to secure living wage jobs.
2. Secured a spot for Project IOWA in Governor Branstad's biennium budget to the Legislature in 2013.
3. Won state and county funds totaling \$250,000 for Project IOWA. First state check received this month!

(continued)

4. Educated more than 800 central Iowa residents on the in's and out's of Obamacare, helping central Iowa residents gain access to health care.
5. Organized 4 large community conversations among central Iowa's mental health care providers to foster relationships, encourage best practices and ensure our state's mental health care redesign efforts stay funded and on track.
6. Organized the largest City Council/Mayoral Candidate forum in Ames (more than 150 people!!) making affordable housing a priority issue for the city's elected officials.
7. Elevated the issue of juvenile justice reform in Polk County and the importance of a restorative justice approach.
8. Launched a Court Watch Program of AMOS court watchers who have observed more than 300 juvenile cases in its first year.
9. Launched a school mediation program that has trained more than 40 volunteer mediators who will begin the work of conflict resolution to ease tensions among Des Moines Middle School students at three pilot schools - Amos-Hiatt, Hoyt and Meredith.
10. Welcomed First Baptist Church-Ames and the Emergency Residence Project in Ames as our two newest member institutions.

Happy New Year, AMOS!



**A BIG Thank You to our UCC Newsletter Assemblers!**

I personally would like to recognize our faithful newsletter "stuffers". Once each month they all gather in the conference room and help make sure that our monthly newsletter goes out on time! Many of them have been volunteering for quite some years: Kathie Drummond (20), Bill & Barbara Yungclas (over 20), Ruth Mortimer (20), Edna Wiese (18), and newcomers, Christa Andersen, Barbara Faidley and Ann D'Arcy. We also remember the many volunteers that are no longer with us, but remain in our hearts.

It is a time of fellowship and a gathering of good people.

If you would like to join this group, we get together every fourth Wednesday of each month in the conference room at 1:00 p.m. We'll make sure you have a seat at the table!!!!

-Becky Bridges

## Book Club



The UCC Book Club welcomes all readers and even those who just want to hear the discussion. The group meets in the church parlor on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

Please note the books marked with \*Multiple copies are available in the Ames Public Library Book Club collection. Books may be checked out for six weeks.

- **January 15 -- Sarah's Key\***by Tatiana de Rosnay (2011 novel, 400 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks
- **February 19 -- The Year We Left Home: A Novel\***by Jean Thompson (2012 novel, 352 pages) Discussion leader: Allen Trenkle 2013 All Iowa Reads book
- **March 19 -- Parsnips in the Snow: Talks with Midwestern Gardeners** by Jane Anne Staw and Mary Swander (1990 nonfiction, 223 pages) Discussion leader: Lynette Spicer
- **April 16 -- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks\*** by Rebecca Skloot (2011 nonfiction, 400 pages) Discussion leader: Nancy Marks
- **May 21 -- Deep Down** by Deborah Coates (2013 novel, 304 pages) Discussion leader: Christa Andersen
- Find a synopsis of the books at <http://www.amesucc.org/BookClub>.

## Potpourri



Charles R. Kniker and Lynn J. Zeigler of Ames, are pleased to announce their website is now online [www.songsfordisciples.com](http://www.songsfordisciples.com). The website features 52 of their original hymns and worship service responses. Audio samples are included.

Contact them for use of their music at (515) 268.5272.

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability or sexual orientation into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

## United Church Courier

United Church of Christ - Congregational  
217 Sixth Street  
Ames, IA 50010

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 153  
Ames, IA 50010

Return Service Requested

### STAFF

**Ministers** The Reverend Terry Hamilton-Poore, Interim Minister  
Hannah Hannover, Children & Youth Minister  
**Youth Minister** Linda Hanson  
**Music Director** Lesley Lackore  
**Keyboardist** Karen Stewart  
**Secretary** Becky A. Bridges

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Moderator** Ken Birt  
**Team Coordinator** Ellen Barnhart  
**Caring Network** Kristin Shields  
**Christian Education** Barbara Faidley  
**Evangelism** Jan Bauer  
**Financial Stewardship** Sharron Slinger  
**Member Services** Allison Anderson  
**Property** Greg Lamont  
**Social Justice and Outreach** Kim Spangler  
**Worship & Music** David White  
**Treasurer** Rachel Jones  
**Association and Conference Delegate** Jim Dickson  
**Clerk** Lynette Spicer