

DEACONS MINISTRY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Community United Church of Christ

During 2008 the deacon's ministry continued to provide spiritual support to the members of Community United Church of Christ. This was seen from inviting encouraging preachers to our worship services to making small, but meaningful changes during Sunday services.

During times when Rev. Steve Halsted was away the Deacons were blessed to have spiritually supportive preachers. Ministers like Rev. Carol Ripley Moffitt and Rev. Collins Kilburn added much to life of our congregation with their prophetic words. We were also privileged to have Rev. Nelson Johnson, president of the Beloved Community of Greensboro, N. C., to preach at our worship service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. His wife Joyce also gave a wonderful presentation at our Sunday morning Forum.

The ministry was honored to participate in the ordaining of Luis Alvarenga both in worship and with a reception. The board of Deacons also helped to bid farewell to Pastor Numbu Puati through the reading of a poem during Sunday worship and the giving of a monetary gift. The prayers of the Deacon's, along with everyone, continue to be with Pastor Puati as he is in the Congo.

The ministry also welcomed Rev. Claudio Ngudi Yumbu, the new Pastor of the Congolese congregation (KCC) which holds worship on Sunday afternoons in our sanctuary. He preached at a CUCC Sunday morning worship service with Fernand Milandu interpreting. He was also honored with a reception.

The Ministry also made an annual event to honor graduates, both youth and adults, during a worship service in the month of May. During 2008 several graduates were honored during worship and were given gifts and a reception for their achievement.

During Lent the ministry supported several events ranging from a class on the prayer tradition of African Americans to the showing of movies which depicted different aspects of faith and the life of Christ. During Advent the Deacons sponsored three nights of activities. Participants did everything from learning how to do the candle dance to the making of Chrismons.

During the course of the year the ministry continued its responsibility to provide persons scripture readings and the delivery of children's sermons. The deacons are grateful to those who helped in this matter. The board also carried out evaluations of worship staff. Along with the giving of helpful suggestions, it was felt that the staff is doing a fine job.

One small change was made in the way in which communion is done through intinction. It was felt by the ministry that it would be easier for persons to come forth from the front of the sanctuary. This has proven to be a helpful change.

The Deacon's ministry hopes to continue its tradition of leading spiritual growth and faith development in 2009. One of the plans related to this is to make an audio recording of those who have played a part in our church's participation in the civil right's movement. It is also felt the perhaps members of our congregation can do volunteer work at places like the Method Community Center.

The deacon's ministry of Community United Church of Christ stands firm in its commandment to spiritually support the work of our church congregation and church community.

Respectfully Submitted, Robert Parish, chair of the Deacons Ministry