

## **A REPORT TO THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FROM THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION**

The 85 churches of the Western North Carolina Association send their warmest greetings to our sisters and brothers throughout the Southern Conference as they have gathered with us for the Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference.

The Western North Carolina Association is one of the many places where God is still speaking and where we are still listening and obeying. Much ministry is going on in our churches. We are listening to God speak and responding by providing ministry to our church members and our communities as we touch the lives of thousands of people in Western North Carolina each week. God is still speaking and we are still listening and we are still active in ministry.

Talks are underway with Church Development and Church Renewal about two new church starts in WNCA. One church start near Asheville is making rapid progress to becoming a new church in the Western North Carolina Association.

We were delighted that a number of our WNCA youth went to the National Youth Event held in Knoxville, TN, last July. The Board of Directors provided scholarship money to help those attending who needed assistance.

There was a mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. They continued to help in the much needed repair and rebuilding of homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Our churches continue to support the mission efforts of the UCC through financial support for our missionary outreach.

The WNCA Board of Directors congratulates The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society as they published their new book *Churches Related*. (Copies of the book are available from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.)

We held a Church Vitality Workshop in April with Charlene Smith at Peace Church in Greensboro. Several churches are actively involved in church vitality and have held Church Vitality Workshops. We anticipate new and great ministries coming as a result of these initiatives.

The Rev. John Thomas, our current UCC President, came to the WNCA over Mother's Day weekend (2009) and was warmly received and welcomed. We express our appreciation for his ministry to the UCC, the Southern Conference and the Western North Carolina Association.

While Christ encouraged us to move on to perfection, we haven't arrived – yet. But with God's grace and assistance, we continue to make progress in the Western North Carolina Association as we listen and obey our still speaking God.

Respectfully Submitted,  
H. Warren Casiday  
WNCA President