

Moderator's Annual Report 2010

As I look back on the year 2010 I recognize events that caused stress: deaths of family members and friends, children in transition, grandchildren experiencing the challenges and temptations of being young in modern society, an aging parent, and my own efforts to bring fair and just treatment to FSU non-tenure track faculty. These stressors lead me to reflect on lessons I've learned at the United Church.

During the summer, Pastor Jerena preached a sermon from the book of Luke about the Lord's Prayer, in which she said that Jesus is teaching us to pray for ourselves, for the needs of our community, and then for the needs of our world. So, how will these prayers be answered? What Jesus tells us is that we need to ask, and when we ask, God gives us the Holy Spirit. So whatever happens in our lives for good or bad, for pleasure or discomfort, we know that we have the presence of God to guide us.

This brings us then to Pastor Jon's question, "What in God's name is going on around here?" As the moderator, I can tell you that the Governing Board members have an intense appreciation for what is going on around here. At our monthly meetings, we receive a report from each of the commissions. A governing board member who serves on the commission gives a summary of the month's activity. We are often humbled by the energy and commitment that keep our organization running so smoothly. We are also thankful for our staff who willingly and lovingly serve, often going well beyond what their job descriptions require. And quoting from the back page of the November 21 bulletin titled "Giving Thanks," I give thanks "for all the church volunteers: trustees and deacons, greeters and ushers, babysitters and teachers, waiters and dishwashers, and all those who bring the same casserole to every church supper."

As we approach the end of the year 2010, I want to specifically commend those whose terms on Commissions or the Governing Board are ending. Thank you for your service; we trust that you will continue to serve in other capacities. To those whose terms are continuing, keep up the good work. To those who are beginning a new term, we hope that you will find joy and satisfaction in participating. Thank you, also, to Mary Jane Cook, who cheerfully and ably serves as the clerk of the Governing Board.

Alice Bandstra, Moderator

The United Church