

Patience Area Annual Meeting 2010

The 2010 Annual meeting of Patience Area, Florida UCC Women was held on Thursday, January 28th, 2010 at Venice United Church of Christ, in Venice, Florida.

There were 63 attendees, representing 10 of the Patience Area churches. We were honored with the presence of our state president, Bunny Gruntler and our Area Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Jean Simpson.

The day began with registration in NAAR Hall, and very welcome "eye openers", including coffee, tea, juice, and a great variety of tasty goodies presented by the ladies of Venice Church.

We then moved to the beautiful sanctuary where we were officially welcomed by Mary Ann Forsberg, president of the Venice Women's Fellowship group. The ladies from Lehigh Acres Community Congregational led very moving devotions. We were especially happy to have these members present, as they have endured a sad development in their church, and were even uncertain whether they should attend our meeting. Following devotions, Dr. Jean Simpson brought us news from the Conference, including the announcement that the Florida Conference will be hosting the UCC General Synod July 1-4, 2011. FLAUCC Women President Bunny Gruntler then brought greetings from her board of directors. She gave an explanation of the naming of the six areas of our association for the "Gifts of the Spirit". She admitted that the names are not very definitive, and there may be some changes. Bunny also reminded us of our state association Annual Meeting in Sebring from June 11 to 13, 2010. The theme is "Gathering At Miriam's Well". More details will be forthcoming.

Reading for Renewal Chairman Carol Brueckman talked about the reading program, and provided the Reading For Renewal list for the coming year. Next on the agenda was the business meeting. We then moved back to NAAR Hall where the Venice ladies provided a delicious lunch which we all enjoyed. June Walter and Carol Brueckman gave a very enthusiastic report on the 2009 Southern Regional Meeting which was held in Texas.

The theme for the day was "Let The Light Shine", which was introduced in the devotional period. The ladies of North Port Community UCC continued the theme in the program, using music, the reading of poems, stories, and an inspirational meditation. The program concluded with the entire group participating in "Letting the light shine."
An interesting and informational time of members sharing the many and varied ways that they are letting the light shine in their individual churches and communities. What an amazing amount of light is spread because of all of our efforts. May the Lord be praised!
The day concluded with the forming of our traditional Friendship Circle and the singing of "Bless Be the Tie That Binds".

My deepest appreciation goes to all of the women who helped to make this a great meeting today, and also to all of the women in Patience Area who have lent their help and support throughout the past year in so many ways.
Marian McWhirter, Patience Area Representative

Important Dates: FlaUCCWomen Annual Meeting, Sebring, Fl. June 11-13
In the Company of Women Sun City Center, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010
Patience Area Annual Meeting North Port Community UCC January 27, 2011
(Fourth Thursday) Devotions, First Congregational UCC, Sarasota
Program, Pilgrim UCC Port Charlotte