

## **Michigan Conference UCC Mission, Vision and Values**

submitted by Rev. Liz Larrivee  
Michigan Conference Board of Directors Chair and President

In January 2025, Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond, Founding Dean, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School, led the Board of Directors and Staff in a joint Strategic Planning retreat in E. Lansing, Michigan. In live, in-person Holy Spirit time, Sarah did a phenomenal job weaving together draft Mission, Vision, and Values statements. Based on input data from the survey participants (those we serve) and focus groups (BOD/Staff leadership), the emerging leadership consensus in the retreat room created compelling final Mission, Vision, and Values statements reflective of our unique MI Conference UCC organizational identity. Spiritual wisdom, robust engagement, and deep discernment are reflected in the outcome.

I particularly appreciate the skill with which Sarah was able to incorporate the language preferences and must-have themes of nineteen strong-willed retreat stakeholders into one cohesive and meaningful whole in such a short timeframe. This is no easy task! Thank you to the Board of Directors and Staff for your patience and stick-to-it attitude throughout the birthing process. The baby has arrived.

Over the next several months, the new Strategic Planning BOD Sub-Committee will be charting a Michigan Conference UCC strategic plan using our Mission, Vision, and Values statements as our compass. The plan will include goals, actions toward these goals, and measures for goal attainment. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, Karen Metcalf, and I are currently serving on this team with more folks to join in the effort soon. Look for

additional Mission, Vision, and Values communications from Lillian and me over the next several months.

Continued blessings and God's grace as we forge new paths built on our Mission, Vision, and Values with the goal to become a healthier, more vibrant, and stronger Michigan Conference UCC for those we serve.