

UPPER IOWA RIVER CONFERENCE  
NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD – ELCA  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The 2008 spring assembly was held at First Lutheran Church, Decorah on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>.

The program was a presentation by Hope Lutheran Church in Farley, Iowa regarding conference support of their Harvest of Hope program to help their financial status as a congregation.

The Conference Coordinating Committee has met either monthly or bimonthly to fulfill its role in promoting interdependent ministry within the Upper Iowa River Conference in the areas of stewardship, evangelism, youth, education, and social ministry.

The Conference Coordinating Committee consists of: Pastor Robert Thacker, Chair; Kathy Massa, Treasurer; Phyllis Burri, Secretary; Glen Barth; Pastor Doug Mathison; and Pastor Kris Snyder.

Synod Assembly Delegate orientation for first-time voting members took place at Peace Lutheran Church in Ridgeway, led by Pastor Marshall Hahn.

One scholarship of \$200.00 was given to a member of the Conference to attend a church-wide event.

Safeguarding God's Children training was held in two settings in order to accommodate a variety of schedules: St. Paul, Elma on two consecutive Wednesday evenings (one and a half hours each session) and at Waterville Lutheran Church on a Saturday morning (three hours).

Eight congregations took part in the 2008 CROP walk, with CROP receiving \$400.00 in matching funds from the Upper Iowa Conference.

Our Conference support goals for the Oyobade's and the Mashiah Foundation Clinic for 2008 were \$30,000.00. We finished the year totaling \$22,820.17 in support as of January 18, 2009.

The Long commitment of the Upper Iowa River Conference to mission was shown serendipitously with Pastor James Hougen being present to help update the conference on its support of Mary Beth Oyobade and the Mashiah Foundation Clinic in Jos, Nigeria. Pastor Hougen reported that he had been present at the very same conference assembly meeting 35 years earlier when

the conference voted to fully support him in his missionary work. That is ministry coming full circle!

Pastor Robert Thacker, Correspondent  
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