

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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breathe

2003

ANNUAL REPORT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

breathe

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



consider

Consider our Reformed ancestors who smuggled the liberty bell out of Philadelphia, hiding it from the British beneath a church floor. Consider our Evangelical ancestors who founded an innovative village in Missouri, giving dignity and respect to the developmentally disabled. The question for us [today] is much the same as it was for those who came to the defense of the Amistad captives. Do we love Jesus more than the lure of respectability? Are we prepared to demonstrate amazing generosity in support of a church embodying resistance and daring in our generation?

John Thomas, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ
General Synod 24, Minneapolis, Minn., July 2003

m

my mother was a grammarian
she rested well

knowing that she had bundled up her children
and pushed us out the door
tummies warmed with the ability to craft a
grammatically correct sentence

under her watchful eye i learned
that a sentence can only run on
with no direction
when one doesn't take the time to breathe

the comma is where one takes a breath
breathe in
for that brief moment in time
one waits
expectant
ear pressed against the wall
one listens
eager
string taut between two tin cans

a comma creates a space
so small that it can't be measured
so large it can contain God

my mother always taught me
not to interrupt when someone else is speaking
i learned not to talk more than my turn
God must never have met my mother

this God who interrupts and never lets me get to the end
of my sentence
never an end of story
never a case closed

this God of every superlative
who dares to
speak without punctuation
conjugate our lives
make every noun genitive
who edits my heartbeats
and modifies my every intention

this God of commas
who always speaks
and speaks still
who whispers in my ear
breathe,

breathe,

a poem by Margaret G. Borrelli



Margaret G. Borrelli is a UCC Accredited Church Educator. She serves as Commissioned Minister of Education at West Park United Church of Christ in Cleveland, and Director of Gerry's House Resource Center for the UCC's Western Reserve Association. She is a UCC Partner in Education and serves on the Steering Committee for the Resource Center Network. Her poem was a winner in the UCC New Writers Contest in 2003. She says about her entry, "It started out as an essay but it kept telling me it wanted to be a poem."

God fills the small spaces and niches of my daily life like pauses
between breaths of air or blinks of an eye.

breathe

**Don Wills, local pastor
Gunnison, Colo.**





There was a period (.) recently in my life that ended my ministry as I had previously known it. A young, second-career, fresh-out-of-seminary pastor showed me his zest for life and fearless ministry. His exclamation point (!) has renewed my faith in the church and has given renewed life to my ministry.

**Jane Buck, UCC layperson
Highland, Ill.**



This has been a year of paradox for the United Church of Christ. In a time when the painful realities of terrorism, warfare and economic uncertainty provoke fear and anxiety, our ministry has had a profound impact on the lives of individuals and communities. Looking back at 2003, we celebrate many noteworthy achievements while acknowledging significant challenges in our struggle to minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

Current church growth statistics give us pause as we ponder what lies before us: While almost 1,000 UCC congregations (16 percent) are growing numerically, 52 percent of our churches show no membership change and 32 percent are losing members. Local church giving increases at an average yearly rate of 2 percent; however, it is not enough to offset the harsh economic realities forcing congregations to make painful choices between staff, building maintenance, outreach, and giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Declining OCWM income has had a debilitating effect on national and Conference ministries, forcing cutbacks and curtailment of many important programs.

This annual report reflects our denomination's accomplishments and highlights and, if we are honest, our setbacks and shortcomings. It also announces the initiation of the Still Speaking Initiative — a bold plan for church-wide renewal. In the days ahead, our churches will hear more about the "God is still speaking," national identity campaign, which portrays the story, image and ministry of the United Church of Christ, inviting the unchurched into our congregations. The Still Speaking Initiative also seeks to inspire greater generosity in our members and to increase giving to the local church and its wider settings — in the knowledge that healthy, vital congregations are the foundation and the future of the United Church of Christ.

So please, take time to read — and consider what it means to breathe in God's Spirit, celebrate our heritage, affirm our covenant, anticipate our future — and in so doing hear from your colleagues in ministry across the country about their experiences with the still speaking God. Take a comma's breath and discover the holy space where the still speaking God intersects your life, calling you to the bold task of following Jesus in this time.

breathe

I recently realized that I have a voice and presence that is respected, valued and, therefore, expected — a very far cry from my being invisible in the back of the room.

**Ruth Hainsworth, UCC commissioned minister of Christian education
Rumford, R.I.**



CONSIDER ... OUR BREATH

The question for us today is much the same as it was for our forebears ...

TAKING TIME TO BREATHE

under her watchful eye I learned that a sentence can only run on with no direction when one doesn't take the time to breathe

breathe



According to the book of Genesis, when God created the heavens and the earth, “the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” [Gen 1:2b]. In both Hebrew [ruach] and Greek [pneuma] the word “spirit” has at its root the meaning, “a movement of air.” Spirit is literally translated as “wind” or “breeze” and conveys the essence of “breath.” Our ancestors recognized this life principle of spirit as the breath of life and celebrated it as a gift from the Creator. Spiritual seekers throughout the centuries have found a deep source of spiritual renewal and transformation by centering on their breathing.

In our chaotic and frenzied 21st-century lives, we barely take the time to breathe, perhaps losing an opportunity to savor the wellspring of our spiritual nature. Margaret Borrelli’s poem, *breathe*, acknowledges not only the need to take time to breathe, but what could happen to us if we savored a comma space, and listened intently for the breathy voice of the still speaking God.

With each breath we are called to make choices in our life ... and in our ministry. May the following testimonies of our partners in ministry inspire (literally, to “inwardly breathe”) you, invite you to pause and discover the ways in which, together, we listen for God’s still speaking voice and respond as living, breathing commas.



[I experience] the gentle nudge of God pushing me in directions I don't want to go, allowing me to accept God's grace — in both failure and success.

**Lisa Nickerson, UCC layperson
Centerville, Mass.**

CONSIDER ... OUR HERITAGE

Do we love Jesus more than the lure of respectability?

CREATING SPACE FOR GOD

*a comma creates a space so small that it can't be measured
so large it can contain God*

Our forebears understood that their response to Jesus often meant being at odds with society — requiring resistance, daring and decisive action as they wrestled with issues facing their generation. When the Pilgrims set sail for the new world in 1620, their pastor, John Robinson, told them: “God has more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word.” Our forebears took this to heart and, even though our history has had some misdirected efforts, we can look back at a number of significant “firsts.”

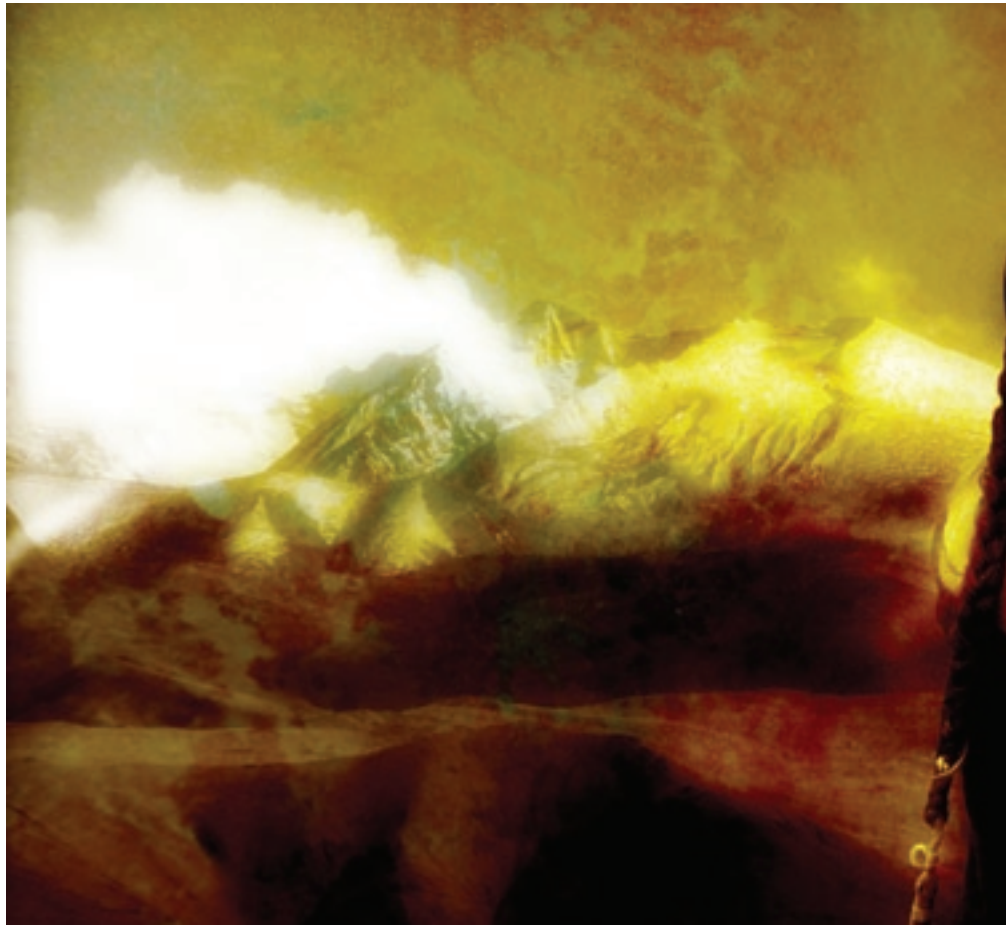
- Forebears of the UCC were the first mainline church to take a public stand against slavery, in the year 1700.
- We were the first predominantly Euro-American church to ordain an African American as a minister — Lemuel Haynes in 1785.
- In 1810, we organized the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the first foreign missionary agency in North America.
- We were the church that initiated the defense of the Amistad captives in 1839, and supported their case to the Supreme Court, which eventually led to their freedom.
- We ordained the first woman to ministry, Antoinette Brown, in 1853.
- We were among the first to establish homes for orphaned children — like Bethany Children’s Home and Hoffman Home, both in Pennsylvania, which now are places for troubled young people and their families.
- We founded some of America’s premier colleges (Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Oberlin, Elon, UC Berkeley and Elmhurst); hundreds of schools to educate freed slaves after the Civil War; and African-American colleges (Fisk, Taledoga, Huston-Tillotson).
- Noted theologian and pastor Reinhold Niebuhr composed the Serenity Prayer: “God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.”
- As a denomination, we were on the front lines of racial desegregation and, in 1959, we challenged the Federal Communications Commission to allow people of color to have access to and be seen on the televised airwaves.
- We ordained the first openly gay person, William Johnson, in 1972.

We often have been referred to as the “early” church, because we’ve been early in addressing the important issues facing our society and taking uncomfortable positions that sometimes go against cultural acceptability. Why? Because we love Jesus more than the lure of respectability.

Do all of our 6,000 congregations and 1.3 million members think exactly the same way? Hardly. Our autonomous roots run deep. Yet we willingly bind ourselves in covenant to join as one church, affirming our differences and diversity, and celebrating our commitment to breathe together as the body of Christ.

Give up the comfortable. Allow someone else to learn and lead, and with my eyes look around — there's so much more God wants me to do. And with risk comes blessing.

**Sandy Freeman, UCC layperson
Forest Grove, Ore.**



CONSIDER ... OUR COVENANT

Are we prepared to demonstrate amazing generosity ...

LISTENING FOR GOD SPEAKING STILL

this God who interrupts and never lets me get to the end of my sentence never an end of story never a case closed

Covenant is the starting point in the belief that God is still speaking, and did not stop speaking when the biblical canon and ancient creeds were crystallized. Therefore, we are still listening, learning and growing in a faith anchored by God's pledge of never-ending covenant. In the United Church of Christ, local churches are the basic unit of ministry. Joined in covenant with other settings, our 6,000 congregations share in God's mission, locally and globally.

Associations gather nearby local churches for fellowship, education, worship and cooperative ministry. Associations grant membership to new UCC congregations, and authorize commissioned, licensed and ordained ministers through ordination and the granting of standing.

Our thirty-nine Conferences provide care and support to congregations and their pastors; organize congregations for mission in regional locations; provide outdoor ministry opportunities for youth and adults; help congregations seeking a new pastor; and assist local churches in their own ministries through staff, print, video and web resources.

The national setting of the United Church of Christ includes four Covenanted Ministries serving the needs of congregations and extending their ministry throughout the world: Office of General Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries — in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as Global Ministries. These ministries are located at the Church House in Cleveland and in smaller offices in Washington, D.C.; Franklinton Center, N.C.; and Indianapolis. The Pension Boards (an Affiliated Ministry) and the United Church Foundation (an Associated Ministry) are located in New York City.

In addition, there are seven UCC-related seminaries, 20 UCC-related colleges and universities, and 360 human service institutions joined together in the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM).

These ministries of partnership with local churches are supported by Basic and Special Support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), Special Mission Offerings, individual gifts, and income from endowments.



breathe

This is not the end of the story.

**Shirley Hetz, UCC layperson
Greensburg, Pa.**



CONSIDER ... OUR FUTURE

... in support of a church embodying resistance and daring in our generation?

LIVING AS GOD'S COMMA

this God of commas who always speaks and speaks still who whispers in my ear breathe,

These are tough times for the Church. Giving is down in mainline churches and, on Sunday mornings, most pews are filled with graying worshippers. A recent survey revealed that 87 percent of Americans feel that religion is important to their lives. Yet only 42 percent of Christians attend worship services on a regular basis. Even more startling — 85 percent of mainline churches are in a state of membership decline.

If so many people feel that religion is important, why do so few attend church? There are several reasons: a large segment of our society has little or no church background; others feel that worship is boring and uninspiring; some maintain the church has lost its vision in society; others have had a negative personal experience in the church and feel unwelcome.

The religious community faces a choice: either we do things the way we've always done them and continue to face declining membership, or we learn from our culture and embrace new ways to tell our story of faithful devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. What would a modern profile of our denomination look like to those outside the religious mainstream who are searching for a breath of fresh air in their spiritual quests? Some people outside the church, who have taken a hard look at us, answer it this way:

I am the United Church of Christ. My roots go back 2,000 years, but I am very much now and today. I embrace modern intelligent thinking: Acceptance. Inclusiveness. Justice. I can even be light-hearted. My open armed approach is appealing to people of all races and lifestyles. Which might explain why my congregations are diverse and unique.

Another funny thing happens when you're less judgmental. You allow people to search, discover and flourish. My friends come to me to seek their own answers, look inside themselves and explore their relationship with God. In the end, my personality is reflective of Christ's. Open. Embracing. Nurturing. And eternally relevant.

The Still Speaking Initiative, in collaboration with Covenanted Ministries and Conferences, is in the initial stages of addressing the many challenges before us — spiritual, financial, and demographic. New television commercials will air in 2004 to let the unchurched know about the UCC's unique witness and welcome. Congregations will receive media resources to proclaim their ministry. Our Church's Wider Mission advocates will provide congregations with assistance to empower their stewardship commitment. Rather than lamenting the good old days, the United Church of Christ is developing a strategic plan to cast a vision for our ministry of God's mission in this new century.

Once I think I have it all
figured out, God inserts a
comma that makes
me pause, breathe, reassess
and refocus.

breathe

**Carla Koenig, UCC layperson
Tucson, Ariz.**





Plan, start, interrupt, revise, interrupt, adapt, start again,
interrupt, revise, redesign, test, revise, interrupt, start again,
interrupt, start over, revise, discover, reflect, revise ...

**Thom Bower, UCC-related seminary faculty member
Chicago, Ill.**



CONSIDER ... OUR BREATH, OUR HERITAGE, OUR COVENANT — OUR FUTURE,
*the comma is where one takes a breath,
one waits — expectant,
one listens — eager,
breathe in,
breathe,*



breathe

Theologian Emil Brunner once stated, “The church exists for mission as a fire exists for burning.” The United Church of Christ is passionate (on fire) about its mission and ministry. Our constitution states that we recognize “that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.”

A simple formula for our church’s existence could be expressed as

$$f + pi \times \$ = M^2.$$

When our faith is complemented by passionate involvement and multiplied by our financial resources, then Ministry and Mission can be accomplished. As we consider our future — waiting expectantly, listening eagerly — let us take a comma’s pause and breathe; and in that holy pause, listen for the voice of the still speaking God calling us to active discipleship.

2003 MISSION SPENDING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

unaudited statement for the year ending 12/31/03

MISSION FUNDING *	EC	OGM	JWM
OCWM - National Basic Support	0	2,465,931	1,897,290
OCWM - Special Support	0	0	979,413
Total Return Draw on Investments	21,378	1,137,288	1,639,532
Trusts & Gifts	5,075	104,428	80,328
Reimbursements	170	581,582	45
Resource Sales/Fees	39,762	808,901	4,165
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	300,000	1,025,959	139,900
Internal Fund Transfers	419,698 (Note 2)	0	0
Other	2,616	21,485	4,923
TOTALS	788,699	6,145,574	4,745,596

MISSION SPENDING *	EC	OGM	JWM
Program Ministries	0	1,938,441	777,224
Staff Ministries	0	2,752,469	2,323,910
Overseas Personnel	0	0	0
Retired Overseas Personnel	0	0	0
Shared Ministries (Common Services)	0	548,943	466,289
Operating & Support Ministries	347,250	625,860	771,158
Church House and Other Facilities	0	217,425	117,179
Ministry of Governance (Includes General Synod)	283,989	62,436	98,527
Grants & Subsidies	157,460	0	191,309
TOTALS	788,699	6,145,574	4,745,596

EC Executive Council
 OGM Office of General Ministries
 JWM Justice and Witness Ministries
 LCM Local Church Ministries
 WCM Wider Church Ministries
 PB The Pension Boards
 UCF United Church Foundation

LCM	WCM	PB	UCF	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
3,215,005	2,586,220	770,945 (Note 1)	0 (Note 1)	10,935,391	26.9%
141,242	3,084,997	0	0	4,205,652	10.3%
6,090,211	3,740,796	0	0	12,629,205	31.0%
625,020	551,766	0	0	1,366,617	3.3%
2,234,155	2,135,607	0	0	4,951,559	12.2%
2,254,068	1,841	0	0	3,108,737	7.6%
615,604	861,615	0	0	2,943,078	7.2%
90,290	0	0	0	509,988	1.3%
36,234	19,357	0	0	84,615	0.2%
15,301,829	12,982,199	770,945	0	40,734,842	100%

LCM	WCM	PB	UCF	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
4,357,770	4,705,284	770,945	n/a	12,972,755	31.8%
6,026,962	1,909,105	n/a	n/a	13,012,446	31.9%
0	3,582,196	n/a	n/a	3,582,196	8.8%
0	480,451	n/a	n/a	480,451	1.2%
1,784,928	641,084	n/a	n/a	3,441,244	8.5%
876,018	962,881	n/a	n/a	3,583,167	8.8%
472,613	136,916	n/a	n/a	944,133	2.3%
135,043	141,191	n/a	n/a	721,186	1.8%
1,648,495	423,091	n/a	v	1,997,264	4.9%
15,301,829	12,982,199	770,945	0	40,734,842	100%

Note 1: Pension Boards is included to report their distributive allocation of National Basic Support (NBS). United Church Foundation does not receive NBS.

Note 2: Represents the amount transferred from the Office of General Ministries to the Executive Council budget.

* Figures on this statement include interministry transfers. Interministry transfers are eliminated in the audited financial statements.

2004 MISSION SPENDING PLAN

MISSION FUNDING *	EC	OGM	JWM
OCWM - National Basic Support	0	2,593,250	1,995,250
OCWM - Special Support	0	0	934,014
Total Return Draw on Investments	25,000	1,001,046	1,380,018
Trusts & Gifts	0	79,000	85,000
Reimbursements	304,010 (Note 2)	636,345	0
Resource Sales/Fees	0	854,600	0
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	0	359,897	244,917
Other	0	26,000	0
TOTALS	329,010	5,550,138	4,639,199

MISSION SPENDING *	EC	OGM	JWM
Program Ministries	0	1,327,510	872,694
Staff Ministries (All Staff)	0	2,572,700	2,334,965
Overseas Personnel	0	0	0
Retired Overseas Personnel	0	0	0
Shared Ministries (Common Services)	0	610,237	483,880
Operating & Support Ministries	125,000	735,257	632,810
Church House and Other Facilities	0	263,934	239,850
Ministry of Governance (Includes General Synod)	40,000	40,500	45,000
Grants & Subsidies	164,010	0	30,000
TOTALS	329,010	5,550,138	4,639,199

EC Executive Council
 OGM Office of General Ministries
 JWM Justice and Witness Ministries
 LCM Local Church Ministries
 WCM Wider Church Ministries
 PB The Pension Boards
 UCF United Church Foundation

LCM	WCM	PB	UCF	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
3,381,000	2,719,750	810,750 (Note 1)	n/a (Note 1)	11,500,000	30.3%
60,000	3,000,000	n/a	n/a	3,994,014	10.5%
5,384,043	3,587,000	n/a	n/a	11,377,107	30.0%
355,520	570,000	n/a	n/a	1,089,520	2.9%
2,333,907	1,813,407	n/a	n/a	5,087,669	13.4%
1,927,265	0	n/a	n/a	2,781,865	7.3%
496,835	935,743	n/a	n/a	2,037,392	5.4%
33,500	25,000	n/a	n/a	84,500	0.2%
13,972,070	12,650,900	810,750	n/a	37,952,067	100%

LCM	WCM	PB	UCF	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
3,554,954	4,256,020	810,750	n/a	10,821,928	28.5%
5,618,155	2,007,251	n/a	n/a	12,533,071	33.0%
0	3,660,924	n/a	n/a	3,660,924	9.6%
0	485,000	n/a	n/a	485,000	1.3%
1,839,989	625,000	n/a	n/a	3,559,106	9.4%
1,021,085	944,170	n/a	n/a	3,458,322	9.1%
548,757	165,000	n/a	n/a	1,217,541	3.2%
124,200	125,000	n/a	n/a	374,700	1.0%
1,264,930	382,535	n/a	n/a	1,841,475	4.9%
13,972,070	12,650,900	810,750	n/a	37,952,067	100%

Note 1: Pension Boards is included to report their distributive allocation of NBS. United Church Foundation does not receive NBS.

Note 2: In 2004 \$329,010 is budgeted to be transferred from the Office of General Ministries to the Executive Council to fund their budget.

* Figures on this statement include interministry transfers.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OCWM BASIC SUPPORT 2003 / 2002

CONFERENCE	2003		CONFERENCE	% of Total	TOTAL
	NATIONAL	% of Total			
CAL NEV NORTH	106,853	18.2%	480,335	81.8%	587,188
CAL NEV SOUTH	196,682	40.0%	295,022	60.0%	491,704
CALVIN SYNOD	600	Note 3	Note 1	Note 3	600
CENTRAL ATL	431,791	37.1%	733,322	62.9%	1,165,113
CENTRAL PAC	69,632	22.5%	239,842	77.5%	309,474
CONNECTICUT	1,592,163	63.2%	927,666	36.8%	2,519,829
FLORIDA	132,984	18.8%	575,381	81.2%	708,365
HAWAII	117,368	31.2%	258,860	68.8%	376,228
ILLINOIS	638,162	31.5%	1,388,653	68.5%	2,026,815
IL SOUTH	229,045	34.7%	430,483	65.3%	659,528
IND-KENTUCKY	391,625	34.1%	755,230	65.9%	1,146,855
IOWA	501,205	46.0%	588,370	54.0%	1,089,575
KANSAS-OKLA	72,807	25.0%	218,423	75.0%	291,230
MAINE	137,000	22.5%	472,083	77.5%	609,083
MASS	1,408,315	60.0%	938,877	40.0%	2,347,192
MICHIGAN	276,120	32.3%	577,485	67.7%	853,605
MINNESOTA	317,023	34.8%	593,823	65.2%	910,846
MISSOURI MID S	221,678	25.0%	665,034	75.0%	886,712
MONT N.WY	34,470	20.0%	137,880	80.0%	172,350
NEBRASKA	145,336	30.4%	332,416	69.6%	477,752
NEW HAMPSHIRE	352,461	47.0%	398,024	53.0%	750,485
NEW YORK	140,500	14.6%	820,150	85.4%	960,650
NORTHERN PL	13,070	11.5%	100,536	88.5%	113,606
OHIO	836,018	30.2%	1,931,638	69.8%	2,767,656
PACIFIC NW	171,035	29.3%	412,049	70.7%	583,084
PENN CENTRAL	527,691	42.9%	703,420	57.1%	1,231,111
PENN NE	82,069	11.4%	638,619	88.6%	720,688
PENN SE	400,171	30.8%	899,902	69.2%	1,300,073
PENN WEST	66,408	16.1%	344,913	83.9%	411,321
PUERTO RICO	5,500	Note 3	Note 1	Note 3	5,500
RHODE ISLAND	130,000	44.8%	159,983	55.2%	289,983
ROCKY MT	102,307	20.0%	409,228	80.0%	511,535
SOUTH CENTRAL	60,000	20.5%	232,365	79.5%	292,365
SOUTH DAK	73,038	25.0%	219,112	75.0%	292,150
SOUTHEAST	32,000	12.8%	217,768	87.2%	249,768
SOUTHERN	65,404	10.0%	588,638	90.0%	654,042
SOUTHWEST	90,307	23.0%	302,332	77.0%	392,639
VERMONT	213,447	44.9%	261,663	55.1%	475,110
WISCONSIN	500,000	22.1%	1,759,983	77.9%	2,259,983
MISC.	53,106	100.0%	Note 2/Note 3		53,106
TOTAL Note 3	10,935,391	34.1%	21,009,508	65.9%	31,944,899

Note 1: Information not provided by the Conference

Note 3: Excluded from retention %, no conference data available.

Note 2: Support sent directly to National by churches or individuals.

2002					CHANGE GAIN / LOSS		CHANGE GAIN / LOSS	
NATIONAL	% of Total	CONFERENCE	% of Total	TOTAL	NATIONAL	CONFERENCE	TOTAL	
153,685	25.0%	461,056	75.0%	614,741	-46,832	19,279	-27,553	
207,096	40.0%	310,644	60.0%	517,740	-10,414	-15,622	-26,036	
300	Note 3	Note 1	Note 3	300	300	N/A	300	
432,002	37.0%	735,571	63.0%	1,167,573	-211	-2,249	-2,460	
70,748	22.5%	243,689	77.5%	314,437	-1,116	-3,847	-4,963	
1,699,868	63.3%	984,527	36.7%	2,684,395	-107,705	-56,861	-164,566	
148,083	18.7%	643,651	81.3%	791,734	-15,099	-68,270	-83,369	
99,964	29.2%	242,903	70.8%	342,867	17,404	15,957	33,361	
668,115	32.1%	1,415,066	67.9%	2,083,181	-29,953	-26,413	-56,366	
262,512	40.0%	393,768	60.0%	656,280	-33,467	36,715	3,248	
473,535	39.3%	730,763	60.7%	1,204,298	-81,910	24,467	-57,443	
501,140	46.0%	588,295	54.0%	1,089,435	65	75	140	
69,009	24.0%	218,529	76.0%	287,538	3,798	-106	3,692	
137,000	24.3%	426,367	75.7%	563,367	0	45,716	45,716	
1,352,318	60.4%	884,878	39.6%	2,237,196	55,997	53,999	109,996	
327,397	35.0%	608,523	65.0%	935,920	-51,277	-31,038	-82,315	
313,290	34.8%	588,264	65.3%	901,554	3,733	5,559	9,292	
239,104	25.3%	704,491	74.7%	943,595	-17,426	-39,457	-56,883	
33,946	20.0%	135,784	80.0%	169,730	524	2,096	2,620	
155,194	32.7%	319,443	67.3%	474,637	-9,859	12,974	3,115	
376,238	45.0%	459,846	55.0%	836,084	-23,777	-61,822	-85,599	
215,000	21.0%	810,511	79.0%	1,025,511	-74,500	9,639	-64,861	
14,599	12.6%	100,972	87.4%	115,571	-1,529	-436	-1,965	
850,277	30.3%	1,954,486	69.7%	2,804,763	-14,259	-22,848	-37,107	
173,843	29.4%	418,174	70.6%	592,017	-2,808	-6,125	-8,933	
669,588	47.2%	750,541	52.9%	1,420,129	-141,897	-47,121	-189,018	
75,345	10.0%	678,104	90.0%	753,449	6,724	-39,485	-32,761	
427,100	32.9%	870,571	67.1%	1,297,671	-26,929	29,331	2,402	
88,240	19.1%	374,134	80.9%	462,374	-21,832	-29,221	-51,053	
5,500	Note 3	Note 1	Note 3	5,500	0	N/A	0	
152,551	50.6%	149,213	49.4%	301,764	-22,551	10,770	-11,781	
162,140	30.0%	378,327	70.0%	540,467	-59,833	30,901	-28,932	
58,312	20.0%	233,246	80.0%	291,558	1,688	-881	807	
79,043	25.0%	237,180	75.0%	316,223	-6,006	-18,068	-24,073	
28,000	12.7%	193,022	87.3%	221,022	4,000	24,746	28,746	
54,000	7.8%	637,353	92.2%	691,353	11,404	-48,715	-37,311	
84,509	22.0%	299,622	78.0%	384,131	5,798	2,710	8,508	
252,114	50.1%	251,313	49.9%	503,427	-38,667	10,350	-28,317	
500,000	21.8%	1,797,868	78.2%	2,297,868	0	-37,885	-37,885	
32,152		Note 2/Note 3		32,152	20,954	N/A	20,954	
11,642,857	35.3%	21,230,695	64.7%	32,873,552	-707,466	-221,187	-928,653	
					-76.18%	-23.82%		

CONSIDER ... OUR ART

this God of every superlative

who dares to

speak without punctuation

Writer Frederick Buechner maintains that “the most basic lesson that all art teaches us is to stop, look and listen to life.” Perhaps, then, it is the artist that opens a creative pathway for hearing the voice of the still speaking God in our lives. What is God saying to us beyond the punctuation of the printed page — in the image of a kite soaring above an urban landscape? In the silhouette of Spirit sweeping across the waters of creation? In the musician’s dance resurrecting hope from despair? In the playfulness of frolicking in God’s creation? In a pathway stretching toward the future’s horizon?

May the prose, poetry and artistic imagery in these pages be an imaginative and inspiring pathway enabling you to hear God still speaking in your life and ministry. Breathe deeply as you explore the journey of faith to which you have been called.

Creator God: Composer, Author, Painter, Sculptor of all creation; breathe anew within us as we move into an uncertain future, seeking to live as co-creators, transforming your world with a spirit of hopefulness and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

breathe



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jim Carroll creates award-winning digital images for corporations, publishers and individuals. His work has been featured in numerous books and magazines, as well as the UCC Sunday Bulletin service. He has shown in national and international galleries and museums, including The Leonardo da Vinci National Museum of Science and Technology in Milano, Italy, and the United Nations headquarters in New York. Carroll has taught computer art at the School of Visual Arts in New York and at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. He shares a life with his two children in Chatham, N.Y.