



October 14, 2011

Greetings!

To our dear sisters of the UCC and Disciples of Christ churches of Northern California-Nevada,

It is with deep sadness and regret that we must announce our **decision to cancel the Women's Network Winter Weekend Retreat scheduled for January 27-30, 2012.** Last year, after increasing difficulty working with the business demands of Mercy Center, we made the decision to move the venue to Val-lombrosa Retreat Center, which was willing to work with our financial requirements. We hoped that would be the only major transition we'd face.

However, due to so many different life circumstances, one by one we have lost several experienced leadership members from the planning team that we count on to make this retreat happen. It really does take a village to put on a retreat, and falling to just four or five is more than we want to ask of anyone. As a result, rather than scramble to find new leadership at this late hour, we felt the wisest thing to do was to cancel the full weekend retreat for 2012. Instead we will host a time for **Coffee and Conversation on Saturday, January 21, 2012, 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. at the Congregational Church of San Mateo, UCC, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA.** (<http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/directions.php> for directions.) **Please RSVP Kay Harris** at kay@communi-ks.com so we have a headcount.

This will be an opportunity for Disciples and UCC women to discuss what the future might hold and to identify women who are interested in providing the future leadership. We will ask the question, "What's Next? How might the UCC/Disciples partnership serving women go forward, maybe even expand to other denominations-and who will lead it?" We hope you will consider joining the conversation and provide your time and talent.

Thank you for your past support of the Winter Weekend Retreat. We all treasure our fond memories together.

Cindy Leachmoore, Winter Retreat Chairwoman, 831 475-9245
Rev. Paula Pociecha, Christian Church of N. CA-NV, 925 556-9900
Kay Harris, NCNC-UCC Women's Ministries, 650 572-8378

Additional Background:

The United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ have provided special leadership training and events for their women for over 100 years! For decades women have stepped forward to serve in these local organizations known as the UCC Women's Network, and Disciples Women's Ministries (DWM). In 2007, the DWM WomenSpirit joined with the UCC Women's Network to co-sponsor this women's spiritual retreat.

The Network is the only *Woman's Program* in the NCN Conference. It sponsored the NCNC Outstanding Women's Award Luncheon and local day retreats. Last year these projects did not come to full fruition. Though requests have been made, new leadership has not stepped forward to continue the NCNC Women's Network. So, in a difficult, soul-searching decision, the current Steering Committee has decided to end the function of the UCC Women's Network as it is currently organized. Perhaps this is the time to create something new.