

## **Council President's Report**

*May 11, 2009*

In the three weeks since our last Congregation Council meeting, I've had the great pleasure to be part of a small group of Trinity members traveling to Columbus, Ohio, April 25-26, to visit Upper Arlington Lutheran Church (UALC). Other members participating in this visit were Jeff & Bert Weaver, Joe & Molly Fidler, Ryan Hannigan and Fred Bohls.

Although the drive to and from Ohio was a long one, the travel time spent together enabled us to prepare a list of questions for this very progressive and growing ELCA congregation. Most of the Trinity delegation was already acquainted with the leaders of UALC, many of whom came to Trinity several years ago to provide training for our "Christ Renews His Parish" initiative.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a relaxing picnic and lively conversation with a broad spectrum of UALC laypersons. We attended two different styles of services on Sunday and toured the facilities of two of the church campuses. UALC is just over 50 years old and began its ministry in a residential neighborhood northwest of downtown Columbus. Now UALC operates three campuses, two in suburban locations and one in the inner city, each with distinct ministries. With total membership over 5,000 persons, the average weekly attendance in about 11 different services is in excess of 2,400. This congregation is among the leaders of the entire ELCA in terms of mission and benevolence support. For more than 20 years, UALC has been committed to spiritual renewal and places much time, energy and resources into spiritual discernment and prayer.

One example of this was of particular interest to me as Council president – UALC's Council holds 3 meetings per month. The first, is a meeting entirely devoted to discernment and prayer on the issues facing the council at that particular time. The second is a smaller Executive Committee meeting at which the actual Council meeting agenda is established. The third is the Council "business" meeting at which actions may be taken but always in conjunction with the discernment and prayer held earlier in the month surrounding the issues.

It was an inspiring visit that provided your Trinity representatives with much food for thought as we seek to implement our new Vision and Mission Statement. May the Holy Spirit move in our midst as we seek to move our congregation toward a more personal "discipleship model" here at Trinity.

Peace,

Doug Bonsall  
Council President