

Mission 1 and Proud to be RICUCC!!

A request went out for all individual churches to let us know what they did for their part of the Mission 1 project. Here's what we heard from just a few of you.

Barrington - Food: 4,090 food items collected & distributed Including: 2,222 meals packaged by youth for Mobile Loaves & Fishes. Donations: \$1,083 to Neighbors in Need!

Chapel St. - Food/Toiletry items collected for local food shelf: 1222 (Our goal was 1111!). Funds Collected for Mission 1/NIN: More than \$550 to date. Signatures on letters to RI Congressional Delegation: 63

Riverside - We aggressively stepped up our collection of food to stock the local food bank, delivering over one hundred meals. Two people participated in the "Food Stamp Challenge". We put together and delivered 12 Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need.

Way to go RICUCC!!!

Common Global Ministries Board Appoints Nine Missionaries the



The Common Global Ministries Board has commissioned nine new and reappointed missionaries to serve on behalf of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in ministries of accompaniment and critical presence.

Global Ministries celebrates the Nov. 17 appointment of these individuals as they prepare to serve with partner churches and sisters and brothers worldwide.

Commissioned at the meeting along with others were: **Marian Thorpe**, member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washing, and **James deBoer**, member of **Central Congregational Church in Providence, R.I.** Respectively, they will serve a one-year term (with possible extension) as long-term volunteers with the Round Table for Mission Development of the Disciples of Christ Church in Argentina and Paraguay. They will work as consultants for mission development. **James is a member in discernment from the Rhode Island conference and shares his life and work with his wife, Marian.**

Received From Wider Church Ministries

November, 2011

Dear pastors and congregations of the Rhode Island Conference:

Congratulations on accomplishing the designation of "Global Mission Conference" at your Autumnal Meeting! Your conference has been a model of mission and will continue to be for other conferences. There is no doubt the world is a better place because of the passion for mission among your members.

We celebrate with you that this designation is not only a title, but a call; not just the documentation of efforts, but a way of Christian living. We share with you the gifts of the present and of the future ministry of United Church of Christ in Rhode Island.

Know that our thoughts and prayers go with you.

Blessing and mission ministry,

Rev. Jim Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

You or your officers may have received a letter from an unknown source

As Officers of the United Church of Christ, we are deeply troubled by a recent anonymous letter that appears to have been distributed to all our churches, addressed specifically to the Moderator or President. We usually do not respond to anonymous letters of complaint since it is impossible to engage in dialogue; however since this is a repeat of a similar letter delivered to our churches at this same time last year, we felt it was important to make a statement.

As we all know, a mailing of this kind is an expensive investment. In addition to the basic cost of postage and duplication, it required human resource time to gather the data and prepare the mailing. We can only surmise that the support comes from a well-funded operation that seeks to challenge our Bold Public Voice as people of faith for justice and peace. Both the November 2010 and November 2011 letters criticize our prophetic witness in the public square, and question our right to do so by scaring our churches into believing that our 501(c)3 non-profit status is in jeopardy. Don Clark, our Nationwide Special Counsel issued a legal opinion to further clarify our position (please see it below).

Last year's letter was postmarked El Paso, Texas with no return address. We have evidence that this year's letter was mailed from Cleveland using the UCC Logo as the return address, thus giving the impression that it originates from our national offices. Please know that this is absolutely not the case.

Conference and national staff are often the first places churches and pastors go with questions about the UCC. We offer the information below regarding the Neighbors in Need Offering, hoping that it may be of help to you and/or your staff with inquiries on this topic.

In spite of these anonymous communications, we celebrate the generosity of our congregations who so faithfully responded to Mission: 1! Thank you so much for your support of our ONE MISSION – to serve God in the world by following the example of Jesus Christ made real in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that your holiday season be filled with joy and peace. To read the complete letter, click here: [The Collegium of Officers](#)