

**GRANITE FALLS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
210 Ninth Avenue  
Granite Falls MN 56241  
Change Service Requested  
THE ENCOUNTER  
August Issue No. 8**



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# Minnesota Conference

United Church of Christ

## *Diving Deeper,*

### *ANNUAL MEETING 2016 REPORTS*

## *Race, Economics and Faith*

### **2016 Annual Meeting - Basic Income Guarantee Proposal – Additional Resources**

Basic Income Guarantee defined: The Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) is a government ensured guarantee that no one's income will fall below the level necessary to meet their most basic needs for any reason. As Bertrand Russell put it in 1918, "A certain small income, sufficient for necessities, should be secured for all, whether they work or not, and that a larger income should be given to those who are willing to engage in some work which the community recognizes as useful. On this basis we may build further." Thus, with BIG no one is destitute but everyone has the positive incentive to work. BIG is an efficient, effective, and equitable solution to poverty that promotes individual freedom and leaves the beneficial aspects of a market economy in place.

The term BIG is more specific than terms like income maintenance or income support, which refer to any kind of program designed to aid those with lower incomes. The Basic Income Guarantee differs from existing income maintenance programs in the United States and Canada in that it is both universal and has no work requirement. It is therefore, very simple and easy to administer. It helps the working poor, single parents, and the homeless, without placing anyone under the supervision of a caseworker.

The Basic Income Guarantee is a generic name for many similar programs aimed at providing universal income support. The name Basic Income Guarantee was chosen because it is similar to both "basic income" (the best-known version of BIG in Europe today) and "guaranteed income" (as the idea was known in the United States when it was seriously considered in the 1960s and 70s).

Funding options:

Various BIG proposals have included the following types of funding.

**Income taxes**

**Sales taxes**

**Capital gains taxes**

**Inheritance taxes**

**Wealth taxes**

**Luxury taxes**

**Elimination of current income support programs and tax deductions**

**Land and natural resource taxes**

**Pollution Taxes**

**Fees from government created monopolies (such as the broadcast spectrum and utilities)**

**Collective resource ownership**

**Money creation**

**Tariffs, the lottery, or sin taxes.**

There are many different funding options for BIG and no solid agreement among BIG supporters about which is best. One thing is certain and that is that the amount needed to bring the least advantaged in society up to or near to the poverty level is quite small relative to GDP and thus it is financially feasible.

From: <http://www.usbig.net/whatisbig.php>

What other countries are advocating for a basic income guarantee for its citizens?

Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland,, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Finland is unique in that 65% of the newly elected Parliament is in favor of a basic income guarantee in order to help raise the economic vitality of the country and end recession. Ontario, Canada has passed legislation that will allow some residents to be paid a basic income starting this year. Details are not clear yet who will receive the funds, nor a set dollar amount. The outcomes will be carefully studied. All the other countries are still at the citizen initiative level.

Who will do the work that needs to be done?

Studies show that having a basic income is actually an incentive to work rather than a deterrent. States with the highest welfare allocations results in fewer people being on welfare programs and for a shorter amount of time. It makes sense that when poor people have more money they spend it, which in turn creates demand and more employment opportunities.

Also a basic income encourages cooperation and reduces competition and crime. We are by nature altruistic and we care about each other.

Additional sources of information:

- ◆ Borg, Marcus Convictions-How I Learned What Matters Most Copyright 2014 HarperCollins Inc.
- ◆ About Basic Income
- ◆ [http://www.basicincomeaction.org/about\\_basic\\_income](http://www.basicincomeaction.org/about_basic_income)
- ◆ The Conservative Case for a Guaranteed Basic Income  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/08/why-arent-reformicons-pushing-a-guaranteed-basic-income/375600/>
- ◆ Ontario Is The Latest Place To Test A Basic-Income Guarantee  
<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3057309/ontario-is-the-latest-place-to-test-a-basic-income-guarantee>
- ◆ How Universal Basic Income Will Save Us From the Robot Uprising  
<http://io9.gizmodo.com/how-universal-basic-income-will-save-us-from-the-robot-1653303459>
- ◆ Basic Income Canada Network <http://www.basicincomecanada.org/>
- ◆ On Point: Time for a Guaranteed Basic Income?  
<http://onpoint.wbur.org/2016/01/14/universal-basic-income-government-welfare>
- ◆ Universal basic income  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2015/09/28/universal-basic-income-a-primer/>
- ◆ Guaranteed Basic Income: What happens when we give every American a free paycheck, for life? The answer may surprise you!  
<http://www.catholic.org/news/politics/story.php?id=66349>
- ◆ Basic Justice  
<http://americamagazine.org/issue/basic-justice>
- ◆ “Calling”: A Christian Argument for a Basic Income+  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/download/docs/meiris.pdf>



**AUGUST CALENDAR**

Friday	August 5	Summer Olympics Begins in Rio
Saturday	August 6	Hiroshima Day of Remembrance
Sunday	August 7	9:00am Worship/Communion
Wednesday	August 10	7:00pm Council Meeting
Sunday	August 14	9:00am Worship
Sunday	August 21	9:00am Worship/Noisy Offering
Sunday	August 21	5:00 pm Community Meal
Sunday	August 21	Summer Olympics Conclude
Monday	August 22	Deadline for ENCOUNTER articles
Wednesday	August 24	5:30pm Worship & Membership Meeting
Sunday	August 28	9:00am Worship



**Aug. 25-Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2016**  
**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR**

# STORY OF FAITH

This story was written by one of our neighbors and church member, Laura Butterbrodt. The article appeared in the *Granite Falls Advocate Tribune* June 30, 2016. Laura is a member of the Granite Falls United Church of Christ (Congregational.)

## *Miss WF Royalty Program teaches young women to shine*

### 2015 Western Fest Princess

When I was crowned a Western Fest princess a year ago, I was excited for the year that was to come. I was excited to get to travel to parades and to get dressed up in my brand new, sparkly crown. What I wasn't expecting was the amount of confidence and poise I would gain or the sense of pride I would have for my town.

You might think that spending an entire year with the same people might get tiring, but reigning with my queen Cassie Thielen and princess Sidney Knapper could never get old. Even during the week of Western Fest, when we had all-day events for eight days in a row, we managed to get by without any fights.

Throughout the year of my reign, I grew less and less nervous about introducing myself at events and became better at conversing with each person I talked to. Visiting ten different city celebrations really helped me to appreciate the sense of community that Granite Falls has. It is very touching to hear all of the support from people around the community for our program.

I was privileged to have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. I will never forget the time we



were on the Jumbotron at Target Field for Sparkle Night or the Hopkins Ball, which was like prom except with crowns everywhere and no boys. At Glenwood Waterama, we got to ride around Lake Minneswaska on a ferry boat with other royalty from around the state. One of the most memorable events we attended was the Anoka Halloween parade. We dressed as characters from Toy Story and decorated our float to match. We even got to take Junior Princess Reagen Steenerson trick-or-treating afterward!

Some of the best parts of being royalty were the small things, like the drives to parades or the sleepovers with my partners-in-crown that we had so we could do our hair in time for the parade the next morning. It is also worth noting that between the royalty brunches and our parents, we never went hungry.

Princesses get a lot of free food!

I think my all-time favorite part of being royalty, though, was interacting with kids. There is no better feeling than seeing a shy little girl who is excited to meet a princess, then telling her she is a princess too and seeing her smile. It's that kind of thing that makes the Miss Western Fest program so great. We work to represent and serve our community, and achieving that goal is something that is always in mind.

The Miss Western Fest program teaches young women how to be more outgoing and poised while getting girls to step out of their comfort



# CELEBRATING



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 3	Jeremy Posey
Aug. 4	Vicke Zumhofe
Aug. 5	Rich Dill
Aug. 10	Jennifer Krinke
Aug. 14	Lou Anne Kling
Aug. 16	Deb Koerlin
Aug. 20	Gayle Inks
Aug. 21	Nicholas Anderson
Aug. 22	Kent Sunderland
Aug. 23	Adam Koepke
Aug. 25	Jeff VanOverbeke
Aug. 27	Rich Rollins
Aug. 27	Keith Koerlin
Aug. 29	Helen Stukel
Aug. 29	Imo Sunderland
Aug. 30	Jon Anderson

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 1	Babe & Sherri Gatchell
Aug. 12	Steve & Vicke Zumhofe
Aug. 20	Jerry & Barb Gustafson
Aug. 22	Jon & Tammy Anderson
Aug. 28	Kent & Imo Sunderland
Aug. 31	Wayne & Lou Anne Kling

## Stories of Faith (continued)

*(Continued on the birthday page)*

zones with mentorship along the way. Getting to be a mentor to the five candidates we had this year was such a fun experience. I saw each girl change and come out of her shell in just six days. By the end of the week, the girls who were scared of public speaking rehearsed a speech onstage and answered a question on the spot in front of everyone in the audience. I am so incredibly proud of them for taking the opportunity to do something that they normally might not do and for being able to face their fears. In my opinion, the girls who participate in this program don't require a crown at the end of the week in order to be considered a winner.

Some of the biggest lessons I learned as a Western Fest Ambassador were to never miss a chance to try something, take as many pictures as you can, be a role model even when the crown is off, and never stop smiling.

My year as Western Fest Princess flew by, but there is no question it is something I never will forget. I am so excited for the new princesses Danica Anderson and Morgan Busack and Miss Western Fest Haley Halvorson as they embark on their journey. If it is anything like mine, I know it will change their lives in the best way.

*Thank You, Laura Butterbrodt and the Advocate*

## AUGUST RESPONSIBILITIES

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28	
<b>Usher</b>	Dick Anderson	Dick Anderson	Dick Anderson	Dick Anderson	
<b>Usher</b>	Sharon Anderson	Sharon Anderson	Sharon Anderson	Sharon Anderson	
<b>Fellowship</b>	Sue Selden	Sharon/Dick Anderson	Curt/Paula Soine	Jon/Tammy Anderson	
<b>Fellowship</b>					
<b>Liturgist</b>	Karen Schmidt-Dill	Terry VanDerPol	Helen Stukel	Sue Selden	
<b>Clean Up</b>	Jerry/Sheila Koepke	Mike/Shelly Gaffaney	Wayne/LouAnn Kling	Gail Rohlik	
<b>Clean Down</b>	NA	NA	NA	Gail Rohlik	

**Please have the church cleaned by the listed date.**

In the July *Encounter* the MN Conference 2016 Annual Meeting final resolution was printed regarding immigration issues. Below is part one of some supporting material that helps us understand this issue in a progressive manner.

## Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation



### The Journey is Made by Walking

The United Church of Christ has a long history of working in the fields of justice. One of our strongest justice endeavors has been standing with our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers and advocating their full inclusion in church and society through the Open and Affirming process. The Open and Affirming process is an experience that is filled with education, breaking down stereotypes and getting to know, through face to face encounters, the struggles and suffering of our GLBTQ brothers and sisters. The Open and Affirming process has transformed many members and churches and has helped them connect and be engaged in a real justice issue of our day.

Somewhere along the way of walking toward justice the church and its people have also found other areas where church and society needs to broaden the circle of inclusion. Immigration is one of those areas that have cried out to members and churches to get involved. In the early 1990's with the abrupt change from a National economy to a Global Economy, communities across the country began to experience a wave of immigration that has challenged the U.S. Society and left many with questions and concerns. Some congregations began to study the issue of immigration and learned of root causes, they studied the impact of the Global Economy and Free Trade Agreements, as well as learned about immigrant communities that were present in their cities and towns. Some of these congregations were led to offer direct service while others found different ways to be engaged and involved in the immigrant justice movement. It is amazing how walls and barriers are broken down when people meet face to face, when people become educated, and start looking for solutions.

The church has an important role in the immigration discussion. Our faith tradition and sacred texts are saturated with stories about immigrants. We have a special ability and calling to reach out and love the neighbor---all of our neighbors. But it takes education, face to face encounters, and an effort to engage the sensibilities of our faith. Churches and communities have been

*(continued on church council page)*

*When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were an immigrant in the land of Egypt.*



## AUGUST

### Mission Emphasis is the UCC Disaster Response Ministry

Pictured to the left is a mud-out trailer. This one was recently used to help with OHIO clean-up. As far as is known, this is the only response ministry that provides free assistance to anyone, not just United Church of Christ members.

*(Immigrant Welcoming continued)*

asking for a process much like the Open and Affirming process that would carefully help them study, engage, and encounter immigrants and the issues that they face. Ultimately the road to immigration reform at a legislative level will demand the broader education of congregations and communities across the country. Our goal with this study is to help your church become an “Immigrant Welcoming Congregation” that can be in solidarity with the immigrant issues in your community. The journey to solidarity can only happen by walking together with our sisters and brothers. Feel free to take these materials and ideas to build your congregation’s own process of becoming an “Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.” Remember to be creative, flexible and engaged.

For more information please contact Mari Castellanos, Head of the UCC Immigration Task Force, [CastellM@ucc.org](mailto:CastellM@ucc.org), Noel Andersen, Grass Roots Organizer for Immigrant’s Rights for Church World Service, [nandersen@churchworldservice.org](mailto:nandersen@churchworldservice.org), Randy Mayer, Pastor of The Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, AZ, [bienshphrd@aol.com](mailto:bienshphrd@aol.com).

**Part 2 will be published in the September issue.**



### NO REPORT FROM THE JUNE 8, 2016 MEETING

#### OUR COMMUNITY

Granite Falls is a wonderful community to live in. The City Council meets on the first and third Monday’s of each month. What issues happen or are brought up at those meetings that this church community could be involved with?

Would anyone like to attend the meetings and then report back to the congregation matters that might affect our wider community? Can we help bring the kind of community that Jesus demonstrated daily?



## The Pastor's Quarter



It was difficult to pen this article, as I felt I had not moved forward since I last shared my thoughts with you. I still want to seek new ways of being community. Perhaps I've fallen into the trap of some of our ancestors who came to this "new world" with the intension that they would create a new, heavenly world here on this earth. Indeed, one colonial community, the Shakers,

expecting Jesus to come back soon, forbade all sexual relations. Needless to say, that particular movement within the Christian faith came to an end through mere attrition.

Seeking words to frame my thoughts, I pulled from my shelves, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life: Welcoming the Soul and Weaving Community in a Wounded World*, by Parker J. Palmer, and the words began to pour forth.

Palmer asks the readers if they feel a sense of something missing, a place where they are truly known by their neighbors, including even the members who are in our pews on Sunday morning. One might assume that because so many grew up in this area that there is nothing new to learn. Yet is this not to which our sacred texts testify – that God is about to do a new thing, not simply for ourselves, but for all our neighbors throughout our two communities?

Palmer is adamant that we cannot do this alone. He writes, "The journey toward inner truth is too taxing to be made solo: lacking support, the solitary traveler soon becomes weary or fearful and is likely to quit the road." He goes on to say that we cannot find guidance without the larger community who offers us encouragement – and assurance that their path makes a difference.

That's true for everyone irrespective of their age. Indeed, last Sunday, I mentioned one of the members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church who had served as a missionary in Iran and Syria. (I'm serious!) Because she is unwilling to let go of her many acquaintances, she

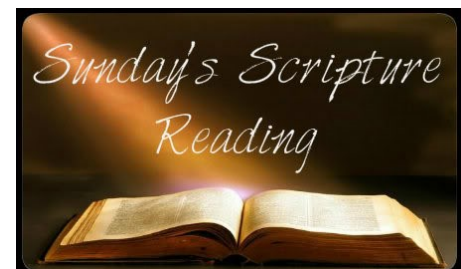
starts addressing Christmas cards several months in *advance* to ensure that no one would be forgotten. What if all of our members exchanged Christmas cards to let them know their lives mattered and why?

Of course, this raises the question whether we can do this alone in the comfort of our homes, our gardens, or even jobs that give us meaning. Being the youngest of five children, I had plenty of assistance from siblings in being reminded of my humanity. And certainly as we continue to grow together, there will be challenges, but those challenges will only be limited by our imagination, as there are many ways of being community.

Perhaps one of the ways we could begin the conversation is by inviting all of our members to identify what are the unmet needs of our neighbors, assuming we know our members. Indeed, even an outrageous idea might free our imagination to see possibilities that had always been waiting to be let free.

Peace,  
Pastor Dan

P.S. If you observe needs in our wider community, or topics you would like to discuss, please let me know.



<b>AUGUST 7</b>	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 or Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
<b>AUGUST 14</b>	Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; or Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
<b>AUGUST 21</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6 or Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
<b>AUGUST 28</b>	Jeremiah 8:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16 or Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14