



Rev. Dr. Carrie Call,  
Associate Conference Minister

## A Conference E-Pistle

Brought to you by Our Church's Wider Mission

Reflections From  
The Indiana-Kentucky Conference



Sept. 12, 2016

For my final E-Pistle, I want to share a prayer with you. This prayer was written by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw in 1979 as part of a service to honor departed priests. However, the prayer is often attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero. Romero, many of you will remember, was assassinated while celebrating mass in El Salvador in 1980. The prayer is often attributed to Romero and certainly reflects his piety according to those who knew him. While the words are not in the traditional form of a prayer, they were written to be a reminder of our own humility, as well as a reminder that the work we do is not our own. I know of no better prayer for reminding us of how important it can be to take the long view when it comes to the work of the Church in general, and our ministry in particular. I hope it will resonate with you the way it has with me.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent

enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of

saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an  
opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master  
builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

And with these words, each of us may say, Amen.

Carrie Call  
[c.call@ikcucc.org](mailto:c.call@ikcucc.org)

Sincerely,

Indiana-Kentucky Conference  
United Church of Christ  
[ikc@ikcucc.org](mailto:ikc@ikcucc.org)



The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ  
was selected as a Constant Contact All Star in 2011, 2012 & 2013



Indiana-Kentucky Conference  
United Church of Christ  
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 155  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
(317) 924-1395  
<http://ikcucc.org>

