

Communications



Steve Dennie
Director of
Communications

As Communications Director, I serve all of the ministries of the National Office and leadership teams. It's a centralized role, so everyone is free to barge into my office and ask me to do stuff. If it involves writing, editing, or graphic design, I can probably do it. If it involves the web, I can give it a good shot. If it involves video, I send them to David Kline.

Here's a quick run-down of how I keep busy.

1. Print Publications

Most print publications journey through my humble office in some way. I might do the whole job — writing, editing, and design — or just part of it. Maybe just help write copy or proofread. But more often than not, it's the whole shebang.

I do quite a few things for UB Global. They include prayer cards for missionaries, the *Worldview* newsletter, inserts for Thank Offering and the Easter Offering, and Miriam Prabhakar's quarterly newsletter. I do the annual UB Year in Review, and update the Discipline every two years. I make changes to the Pastoral Ministry Handbook, which can be revised anytime by the Pastoral Ministry Leadership Team. I edit and compile all reports for the ELT meetings. I do materials for pastor summits, for the Cluster Leader Winter Gathering, for regional meetings, and for this and that. Whatever's needed.

2. Internet Strategy

I oversee most of what the national office does on the internet — websites, email, UB app, Facebook, online forms, MailChimp, online church directory, domain names, etc.

Ub.org. My main focus, web-wise, is the ub.org website, which is the official website of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA. If you're looking for information related to the denomination, I want you to be able to find it at ub.org.

UBCentral.org. This is where I publish news about what's happening in the United Brethren world. Part of this is what I call the "UB Daily News," which is a daily email which goes out around 11:00 each morning containing all news items posted on UBCentral during the previous 24 hours. There are about 360 subscribers.

UBGlobal.org. This is our missions website. I do quite a bit of updating, along with David Kline.

Facebook. We've added about a hundred "follows" during the past two years, and are now approaching 2000. Facebook is valuable for getting information to a large number of people quickly. The denominational page is at [Facebook.com/unitedbrethren](https://facebook.com/unitedbrethren). UB Global has their own page at facebook.com/ubglobalministries.

Other. We use various e-letters to get information out. Community Church Builder is a nice tool to communicate with UB ministers, but Cathy Reich takes care of that.

3. Other Things

Events. On odd-numbered years, like 2019, I spend much of the first eight months doing National Conference stuff. On even-numbered years, I put together whatever I'm asked to do for pastor summits and the UB Women's Conference.

Filemaker. I built and maintain the Filemaker database, which has been an important tool for the UB National Office for over 20 years. It contains extensive information about our ministers, statistical information on UB churches going back to 1996, and all kinds of related data. We use the Filemaker database for various kinds of mailings. An app (for UBNO people only) draws information from the database; it's especially valuable for staffers who travel a lot. The online church directory at UBChurches.org pulls the latest information from Filemaker.

Whatever the Bishop Wants. I'm always on-call to help the bishop with whatever he needs — proof a letter, create Powerpoint slides, write a bio...whatever. I also tend to be the on-site UB History Authority, and I get consulted about such things frequently. Sometimes I have answers, sometimes not, and sometimes I bluff it.

Let's
Pray!



On the Personal Side

On the personal side, it's been an eventful and sometimes emotional two years.

40 Years. In June 2018, I completed 40 years at the National Office. I started just after my junior year at Huntington University as assistant editor of publications, became editor in January 1982, and acquired the title "Communications Director" in 1993. It's been a fun ride, and never boring. I've worked with 11 different bishops, all of whom have enriched my life.

30 Years. Two days after the US National Conference ends, Pam and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary. For our honeymoon, we took a Caribbean cruise on a Carnival "fun ship." To celebrate our 30 years together, we are taking our second cruise, this time to Alaska on a Holland America ship, June 23-30. That's during crunch time of preparing for National Conference, but everyone is graciously working around it. If something important doesn't get done for the conference, blame it on Alaska.

20 Years. In October 2018 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Anchor Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Pam and I were part of the core group sent out from Emmanuel UB church in 1998 to restart the former Third Street UB church. Anchor remains our church home. I play the keyboard most Sundays.

Hearing. A month after the 2017 US National Conference, I picked up a virus which stole about half of the hearing in my right ear. That was my "good" ear. The left ear was already down to about 40% thanks to Miniere's Disease, which I contracted in 2004. So I have great difficulty hearing now, and hearing aids help only *sometimes*. It has affected my life in a lot of different ways, and is extremely frustrating. Really screws up playing the keyboard in Anchor's worship team, but I muddle through, usually in the correct key.

Cancer. In March 2018, a biopsy showed that I have prostate cancer. However, lots of men my age (62) have prostate cancer and don't even know it. The numbers don't alarm my urologist. We're doing "active surveillance," and could be doing that for the rest of my life. It's disconcerting knowing cancer is present, but I don't really think about it. Much.

An Honor. In October 2018, the Huntington University Alumni Board awarded me the Distinguished Alumni Citation. It was a big honor, and certainly made my wife and parents proud.

Book #9. In May 2019, I published *Random Pokes*, a collection of 59 columns and other short pieces I've written over the years. Nine were originally written for my "Random Pokes" column in the *United Brethren* magazine. I'm pretty excited about this little volume; I think it contains some really good (and funny) stuff. My Mom says the short chapters make for excellent bathroom reading.

And Finally....

I really, really enjoy working with Bishop Todd Fetters. He's giving good strategic direction to our churches, and in my experience of having worked with 11 different bishops, has great instincts for the role of bishop (a direct result, I'm sure, of growing up around Paul, Barbara, Brooks, and Luke). He's also fun to be around. He makes the National Office a merrier workplace, and applies frequent dollops of encouragement and affirmation.

Cathy Reich, who works right outside my office, is an indispensable part of the National Office team and is Grand Central Station when it comes to the National Conference. Please thank her for everything she does, and for the servant's heart with which she does it. Making the national conference a success is constantly on her mind. She's already working on 2021, 2023, and beyond.

The rest of my colleagues at the National Office are pretty great, too. I could go on and on about each of them. It's a superb team, and they are among my most treasured friends.

I appreciate the many opportunities the United Brethren Church continues to give me.