

## 2016 Report Dialogue Resource Team

The Dialogue Resource Team (DRT) serves as a process facilitation ministry to the Conference Minister and Leadership Board, and through them to the member congregations of MSMC. Requests for assistance at the congregational level can be channeled from congregational leaders through the Conference Minister; as appropriate, such requests will be assigned to one or more DRT team members for response.

The team has had six members for the past year: Alice M. Price of Alamosa, Jeff Newcomer-Miller of Albuquerque, Barry Bartel of Denver, Jill Schmidt of Denver, Charlene Epp of Lakewood, and Duncan Smith of Lakewood. Brief biographies are on the MSMC web page and a team brochure is available. Drawing on their professional training and experience, team members are available to provide a variety of services within the Conference, such as conflict assessment and coaching, designing and facilitating mediation and dialogue processes, teaching conflict-related principles and skills, and engaging at times in more extended strategic or conflict resolution processes with congregations .

The team also provides the monthly a “With Care...” column in the conference *Zing!* newsletter. Recently Alice Price led a webinar for conference leaders on conflict principles, and team members have facilitated portions of conference gatherings and been available to conference leaders in a consulting capacity during the past year. The team has not been called on to help with significant issues in individual congregations during this period. The team’s strength is to serve as a ready resource, available with a range of services when others feel we can be helpful , and in a waiting mode when our skills are not needed!

A process for assessing expertise and inviting new persons to join the team has been implemented through the conference Leadership Discernment Committee.

Report from Barry Bartel and Alice Price for the DRT