

Purpose

The purpose of DARF/U-CAN is to develop a fellowship of persons to facilitate and support the joint ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ by working through the Common Global Ministries Board to make available contemporary electronic communication tools such as radio, telephone and computers for the work of the church and its various ministries.

To fulfill this purpose, DARF/U-CAN shall:

1. Develop and encourage a fellowship of persons with interest and skills and abilities in various communication technologies that could be of service to the church and its work.
2. Recruit persons with communication expertise to consider the contribution of their talent, equipment and resources to assist the work of the church around the world.
3. Remain current in the development and utilization of emerging communication technologies.
4. Maintain regular contact through amateur radio, computer networks, mail, etc. with members of the fellowship and interested persons as to the needs and accomplishments of the organization and the church.
5. Encourage and train overseas staff and missionaries to use communication equipment to maintain timely contact with staff and partner churches in remote outposts in the country in which they serve.
6. Assist churches throughout the world develop internal and external communication in order to enhance their own mission of witness and service.
7. Share with congregations the importance of communication technologies for overseas ministries.
8. Solicit the contribution and support of individuals, churches, and organizations to provide communication equipment and services for use by Common Global Ministries overseas staff and staff of partner churches in other countries.

How to get in touch

<http://www.darfucan.org>

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/DARF_UCAN

president@darfucan.org

Amateur Radio Nets:

Standard Daylight

| Day | UTC | UTC | Band | MHz | Area |
|--------------|------|------|------|--------|---------------|
| M-F | 1230 | 1130 | 75m | 3.853 | Midwest |
| M-Sa | 1500 | 1400 | 75m | 3.940 | Northwest |
| M W F | 1830 | 1730 | 40m | 7.270 | Midwest |
| Tue | 1530 | 1430 | 20m | 14.342 | United States |
| Sat | 1530 | 1430 | 20m | 14.287 | United States |

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Church nets established by DAR/U-CAN

Congo: 6.997 MHz; Lesotho: 4.035 MHz

Zimbabwe: 3.840 MHz; Guatemala: 5.4350 MHz

Communication for Mission

Utilizing Computers Internet HF Radios Telephone

Working together

to assist the outreach ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
United Church of Christ

through

Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship
United Church Amateur Network
with the Common Global Ministries Board



A new radio in Guatemala brings joy to the Mayan community.



A Fellowship computer users radio operators internet enthusiasts and communication hobbyists

Two amateur radio organizations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ began working together in 1990 to assist the worldwide outreach of their respective divisions of overseas ministries.



These organizations, the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship, and the United Church Amateur Network (DARF/U-CAN), pooled their resources and shared their expertise in electronics and communication to provide communication equipment, training, and technical support for churches in such divergent locations as Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Congo, Swaziland, Paraguay, Kenya, Honduras, Guatemala, and the Philippines.

DARF/U-CAN maintains an active fellowship through on-air "nets," an internet group, biennial meetings held during their respective General Assembly or General Synod, and through "roundups" held in various locations in North America.

Working closely with the various mission agencies of the Disciples and UCCs, DARF/U-CAN has built communication networks that have linked isolated outposts, communities, clinics, program centers and congregations in remote locations throughout the world.

The fellowship is now expanding by including computer and internet users.



DARF/U-CAN repaired radios in the Congo.

Projects

Beginning in the 1960s, through DARF/U-CAN, the Disciples and UCCs have provided communication tools and training so that missionaries and overseas staff around the world could have contact with missions headquarters. More recently, DARF/U-CAN has specialized in working in partnership with overseas churches and Division of Overseas Ministries staff to establish regular and emergency communication within the overseas churches themselves.

One of the first such networks was in the **Congo** in the 1970s. This provided the first-ever regular communication with outposts hundreds of miles away where canoes had been the only means of sharing messages. The churches are separated by thick tropical forests, swamps and rivers.



Training is a vital part of a network installation.

This network was rebuilt in 1988 and remained a vital link for these isolated outposts. These stations were instrumental in helping overseas staff escape during uprisings.

In 1992 and 1996 networks were installed in **Lesotho** and **Zimbabwe** which are very rugged. The churches and outposts are separated by high mountains, deep gullies, and rugged cliffs. Many communities are not served by roads, telephone, or electricity. Emergency messages and assistance are days and weeks away, and pastors are out of touch for weeks at a time.

In 1997 a satellite telephone was installed in **Kenya** for use by missionaries.

The most recent project of DARF/U-CAN was completed in 2002 and 2004, with the establishment of a radio network in **Guatemala**. This country is isolated by rain forests and difficult terrain. The Mayans had been driven off their lands during military uprisings, forcing them to start over with no infrastructure: no roads, electricity or communication. DARF/U-CAN conducted training workshops and the Mayans did most of the installations, carrying the equipment through forests and over mountains. DARF/U-CAN also did computer networking and training.

Component organizations

DARF: Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship

DARF, is made up of amateur radio operators "hams" and computer hobbyists. Though the group is ecumenical, most members are also members of the Disciples of Christ.

DARF was conceived at the Portland International Convention in 1953 and organized at the St. Louis convention in 1958 and is a volunteer association with no paid staff. It regularly responds to needs expressed by overseas churches to establish new radio stations in remote areas through contributions from members and friends throughout the world.



Most radio systems are solar powered.

U-CAN: United Church Amateur Network

U-CAN had its beginning in the 1960s. A group of amateur radio operators, members of the United Church of Christ (UCC), a Methodist and a Roman Catholic, gathered regularly to provide communication and support for missionaries of the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM).

U-CAN has also supported the church's disaster response program, providing emergency communication in Belize, Haiti and Honduras following natural disasters.

C4M: Communication for Mission

C4M is the newest "group" within the fellowship that focuses on computers, internet, satellite and other emerging technologies needed to assist the mission of the church.



Computers and internet communication are installed in Guatemala.