



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

January 15, 2020

Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference -

Greetings from the Penn Central Conference Board of Directors. We met in our regular quarterly meeting last Saturday at UCC Homes in Camp Hill. I am delighted to report that good things are happening in our conference and we are going in a good direction.

When the Board hired the Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call as our Transitional Conference Minister for a year, she was given a number of areas to focus on during this time. These things included the management and organization of the Conference staff, providing pastoral leadership for the Conference, and the wider church. We are already seeing the results of her work through the many ways she has worked with our committees and staff, meeting with them regularly. She assisted in re-writing the description for the ACM for Congregational Transitions and a search committee is in the process of finding the right person to fill this position. They have received a number of applications and hope to conclude their work soon. The work of the conference office staff is being realigned in preparation for this new position. The Area Search and Call Associates are continuing their work with individual churches in the transition process. She has conducted Town Hall meetings in almost every association, met with the Search and Call Associates on a regular basis, is preaching as invited, in different churches, meeting with Association Executive committees as much as possible and providing direct in-person assistance where there is conflict or transition needs. She has worked to establish the job description for the new Coordinator of Camps and Retreats and was integral in hiring Zoe D'Heedene for that position, as well as working with the Hartman Center Committee during these crucial days. In addition, she continues with her love of teaching through her various interests in the Mercersburg theology and tradition and will be the lead teacher for a UCC Polity course this spring at Lancaster Seminary. We can be proud of what has been accomplished thus far in her work among us. She is pleased to be a part of our con-

Hartman Center

Upcoming Retreats:

The PCC Confirmation Retreat will be held March 27 - 29, 2020 at Hartman Center.

Stories Jesus Told: How To Read A Parable with Dr. Greg Carey - February 11-13 Learn more here

Marriage in the Later Years of Life - March 2-4

Pride Retreat for LGBTQ Folks & Allies - May 29-31 (details to come)

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Early bird pricing for those who pay in full before March 31, 2020.

Learn more and register at
<https://hartmancenter.com/summer-camp/>

Prayers for Penn Central Conference

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

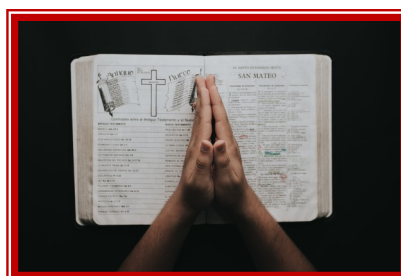
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

St. John's UCC, Boalsburg

Saint Paul's UCC, Bowmansville

Saint Jacob's (Stone) UCC, Brodbeck's (Glenville)

Salem UCC, Campbelltown



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Message from the Conference cont'

ference work and I hope that you have all had or will have the opportunity to meet and interact with her soon!

In important actions, the Finance Committee recommended and the Board approved sending an additional \$10,000 in OCWM to the national church as a one time gift. Thank you all - churches and individuals - for stepping up to the plate with your own giving. We are now seeing an improvement in the budget and felt it important to give what was removed last spring. It was also voted to put \$10,000 back into the Wilbur Valentine Fund to return some of the \$60,000 we needed to take out last spring.

We are happy to welcome Zoe D'Heedene as our new Coordinator of Camps and Retreats. Her energy and enthusiasm for Outdoor Ministries is contagious and her dedication to this position is evident. The summer camp brochure is out and I truly hope that our churches will see that many youth and adults are able to participate in this year's camping season. Summer church camps play an invaluable role in the spiritual development of young people. There is an exciting season being planned. Please be in touch with Zoe about the offerings at Hartman Center. The committees established at the 2020 Vision Retreat last fall are at work on various activities and Dave Bushnell is working hard to organize retreats and events for adults at Hartman Center in addition to what was already planned. The work on Michaux Lodge planned for this year is completed.

There have been several benchmarks set for this year that must be met in order for us to be able to continue operating Hartman Center as the conference camp. You can be a part of helping us attain those goals by your participation in the retreats and camps being held there, and by encouraging and enabling others as well!

The Hartman Family descendants have all signed off on the deed restrictions placed many years ago when it was given to the Conference. We are extremely grateful for the Haines and Hartman families for their gift to the conference and that now allows us complete decision making as to the future of this property. The sewer problem that was identified last year has now been determined to be fairly simple and will be fixed very soon. There appears to be no interest in the Stone House, so it will continue on in its current state.

We are working with UCCR, the camp management company, to determine what needs to happen if the decision has to be made to close down the camp at the end of the year. The Board is working out a time line for when and

how the decisions regarding Hartman Center will be made. In all of this, please be assured that no matter what the future holds, the Board of Directors is committed to Outdoor Ministries, and this ministry will continue on - just perhaps in a different way. We are not giving up on this ministry!!

The Innovation Grants instituted a couple of years ago were discussed and assigned to the Finance Committee to determine where to proceed at this point.

In general, I am personally pleased that we are on a good path for Penn Central Conference. The Strategic Planning Committee is working on a renewed mission statement and planning for the years ahead. The Personnel Committee will begin an evaluation process for our Transitional Conference Minister soon and will have a recommendation for the Board at our meeting in April. We have a great Board of Directors that works well together and I am grateful for each one. Even though we live in a continually challenging and changing environment for our people and our churches, God's spirit is moving and working among us! For that we give thanks!

Rev. Ann Graves

Moderator, Penn Central Conference Board of Directors

Contact us!

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