



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To the Congregations and Members of Penn Central Conference:

“Our relationship with money serves as a witness to who God is and what God calls us to as faithful Christians. Responding to God’s generosity leads us to participate in God’s generosity toward others. And that generosity is best practiced in community.”

– David P. King

I have long suspected that generosity lives here in Penn Central Conference – now I know for sure!

Your generous financial gifts to the *Friends of Penn Central Conference* OCWM fundraising campaign exceeded the goal by 30%, for a total gift of **\$13,040** (vs. \$10,000 goal)! The Friends campaign ended on November 28, but gifts are still being received – thank you!

During my first year as Conference Minister, visits to about 60 congregations has afforded me an opportunity to hear your stories about generosity; over and above what you give as tithes and offering to support your local church:

- Members have donated gifts to pay for special church projects like steeple lighting
- Long time members, now deceased, have left sizable bequests to their beloved congregations to provide scholarships for youth and support church vitality initiatives
- Your purchase of alternative gift certificates helped to fund a new pool at Hartman Center
- Members give generously to help local, national and international concerns

Collectively, over the past three months, congregations have donated over **\$76,000** to assist with national hurricane and disaster recovery efforts. To address local needs, some congregations have formed ecumenical co-ops.

Your collective financial gifts to OCWM tell an encouraging story, as well:

- 17% of churches have already given more in 2017 than 2016
- 29% of our churches that didn’t give last year are giving this year
- only (7%), 14 churches, have not provided any OCWM support over the past 2 years

Although overall OCWM giving is only 81.4% of the budgeted goal through November, we are counting on a strong finish to the year. Therefore, year-end giving will be crucial – from both individuals and congregations. I believe the spirit of generosity that dwells in your heart will continue to overflow and bless those around you.

It is a privilege to serve alongside all of you. Thank you for investing in our continued ministry together in Penn Central Conference and the wider United Church of Christ!

With gratitude,

Monica

Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith
Conference Minister and President

