



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

August 11, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruits in its season. Psalm 1:3a

The 33rd General Synod of the United Church of Christ was held in July. Twenty-six delegates from the Penn Central Conference (delegates from each Association) represented the voices of our conference. This is the first time that GS was held virtually, and while we would have wanted to be in person in Kansas City, all the virtual logistics went as planned. The Penn Central delegates joined together in Lancaster for the last part of General Synod - we worshiped together, listened to the plenary sessions, voted on the resolutions, and attended educational intensives.

While it is impossible to share all that we learned and how the spirit touched us, we wanted to share the actions taken at General Synod #33 on each of the resolutions. The national setting of the United Church of Christ does not 'speak for' the local church, but it is important to share what transpired at this year's Synod with the local church.

Over the next few weeks, many of your delegates will share a brief overview of a resolutions, the action taken at Synod, and if available, some resources for learning more. Some of them may inspire you to learn more!

Blessings,
Shirley Keith Knox
Moderator
Penn Central Conference

Continues on back

Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation

CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

August 15; 8-9 p.m.

Come to the Wittel Farm for summer Campfire worship nights.

THE GROWING PROJECT

Volunteer for The Growing Project through October! This project reclaims a portion of the acreage for farming. The crops harvested are donated to assist those in need in Lancaster County.

Learn more here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

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. Peter's Lischey's UCC, Spring Grove

Trinity Roths UCC, Spring Grove

Grace UCC, Spring Mills

Starview UCC, Mt. Wolf



Message from the Conference cont'

Becoming a Church of Contemplatives in Action – Resolution Summary

By Sterling Fritz & Charlotte Pinette

This Resolution of Witness (a resolution affirming the UCC's position on moral, ethical, and religious matters) was overwhelmingly passed by General Synod 33. Biblically based on Jesus' life, examples, and teachings as found in Matthew 4:1-11 Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-21, 13 among other verses. Jesus could often be found teaching, praying, supporting the marginalized, and seeking solitude to commune with God. As Colossians 1:15 says "Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God made visible in the world". The church's vocation is to incarnate Christ in order that God's love, justice, and peace be made manifest.

The resolution recognizes that "the UCC has not historically emphasized to the greatest extent possible the fostering of spiritual, contemplative practices to love God and ourselves and to see God in all things, all people, and creation." That contemplation is a holistic commitment to a spiritual awakening. As Joan Chittister says "Contemplation brings us to see the big picture. It brings us to see beyond our own boundaries, beyond our own denominations, beyond our own doctrines, and dogma, and institutional self interests... We become connected to everything, to everyone...Then action and prayer are one."

A Resolution to Declare and Respond to Racism as a Public Health Crisis—Resolution Summary

By Shirley Keith Knox

"Woe to you who make unjust policies and draft oppressive legislation, who deprive the powerless of justice and rob poor people—my people—their rights, who prey upon the widowed and rob orphans." Isaiah 10:1-2.

Summary of the Resolution: This Resolution calls the United Church of Christ to declare and respond to racism as a public health crisis. Since its inception, the United Church of Christ has been committed to social justice and has dedicated efforts towards racial justice and health justice. We have called for a commitment to be an antiracist church by examining both historic and contemporary forms of racism. This resolution is consistent with the professed and lived ministry of the UCC and seeks to be another expression of God's still speaking voice through proclamation and tools for change, such as education, training, and advocacy. This resolution calls upon our churches and conferences to new and increased levels of attention, commitment, and action to work on the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities.

Local Church Events

"Dr. Joe" Utterback live in concert!

Friday, August 20, 7PM - Free Admission

Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg

2021 Old Zion Reformed Church Anniversary Service

Theme: "Don't Join the Cloister"
Sunday, September 12th at 4:00 p.m.



Contact us!

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