

# From Our Conference Minister

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## **2017 Annual Meeting – A Celebration of Our Shared Ministry!**

It is always good to gather with sisters and brothers!

This past weekend's #pccuccannualmeeting17 was a beautiful gathering of 370 followers of Christ with 49 people attending for the first time. Photos from the Annual Meeting are available on the Conference Facebook page.

There was plenty of room for more, especially with the change back to Weber Chapel. If you missed the meeting this year, please plan to join us at the next meeting June 8-9, 2018.

Penn Central Conference is truly blessed to have many gifted people share their gifts to build up the body of Christ, as the Apostle Paul exhorts us to do:

*“...Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” --- (Ephesians 4:12-13)*

The collective gifts were evident across various capacities, some served as:

- liturgists, choir members, musicians, singers, bell ringer and hymn writer

- teachers facilitating workshops and sharing information about their organizations
- technology gurus, videographer, photographer, and so on

During the *2017- 2020 Strategic (Missional) Plan* presentation we highlighted the local talent of a Pennsylvania winery by using their wines at the wine and cheese reception. The reception was sponsored by the generosity of the UCC Insurance Board.

The *Missional Plan* was developed to focus on strengthening the ministries and mission of our local churches, including small and rural congregations. The plan generated several questions and very rich conversations that I hope will continue over the next three years. A couple of Association leaders have offered reflections on the plan, and one of our new Board members shared news that her church recently added the four missional goals to their website banner. I am thankful for their collective and connectional leadership!

If you are interested in reading the *Strategic (Missional) Plan*, it is available on our Web site.

May we begin to walk in the light of our new vision:

*United in Christ's love, we are **Connected...**  
**Engaged...Transformed!***

*In Christ,*

*Monica*

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