



November 4, 2019

Dear partners in Christ,

I bring you blessings and best wishes from Penn Central Conference. We are well into autumn; a time of changing leaves, a time of harvest, and a time of thanksgiving.

It is thanksgiving that is at the heart of my requests to you at this time.

I want to extend my thanksgiving to you for your love of Christ and for being the church. You are the body of Christ and are serving God through your good works and generosity in your community and around the country and around the world through your covenant with the United Church of Christ.

I also want to thank you for your covenant to be the church through your generous contributions and commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Your donations to OCWM help us together to be the United Church of Christ in central Pennsylvania.

As we enter the season of thanksgiving, we pause to reflect upon our many blessings and are called to act in response to our gratitude for God's abiding love.

One of the actions that we take in the life of the church in this season of thanksgiving is to plan our church budgets and benevolent contributions for the coming year. Through this process, we reflect upon God's call for us to act and our commitments to fund the good works and our witness of Christ's love in the coming year.

I would like to ask you and your church leaders to invest at least 30 minutes on the following four items as you consider your connections with Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ:

1. Review the 2019 Penn Central Conference financial slide presentation to obtain background and understanding about the conference financial challenges and commitments.
  - a. The link to the 2019 Penn Central Conference financial presentation slides is:  
<https://pccucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Penn-Cental-Conference-2020-Financial-and-Budget-Presentation-Final-Distribution-Version-Rev-2.pdf>
2. Take 15 minutes to view the video of the 2019 Penn Central Conference financial message that I was called to give at annual meeting to open our hearts and share the facts about the state of covenant to be the church together as Penn Central Conference.
  - a. The link to the 2019 Penn Central Conference financial video is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQiHlo35qa8&feature=youtu.be>
3. Contemplate and reflect upon this message and consider you and your church's relationship and covenant with Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ.
4. Consider your commitment to OCWM as you develop your budgets, benevolences, and stewardship plans for the coming year.

I would also ask you to consider increasing your gifts to OCWM out of recognition for God's love and as a tangible way of demonstrating your commitment to the work that we do together as Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ.

I also want to let you know that I have personally taken the time to reflect on the abiding love and incredible blessings that God bestows upon me. I have also thought about the joy that I find in being a part of Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ. My response to this discernment is to personally commit to giving \$500 to OCWM in 2019 and to increase my personal OCWM give to \$600 for 2020. It will be a stretch for me to do this, but it is my tangible, conscious response of thanksgiving to God. It is also a commitment above and beyond my contributions to my church.

I want to thank you for considering these four simple requests and for investing 30 minutes to view and reflect upon your thanksgiving and covenant with Penn Central Conference and the United Church of Christ.

In closing, thank you for your generosity in support of OCWM and for the love of Christ that you share with all of our neighbors.

Peace be with you,

Dale H. Mease  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Penn Central Conference  
United Church of Christ