



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

June 16, 2021

Mission Statement: Proclaiming the wisdom of Jesus Christ and affirming our covenant with one another, the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ guides and nurtures our clergy, congregations and covenanted ministries in discovering their God-inspired mission and a path for their future.

Vision: Establish a Christ-centered culture of accountability in all covenantal relationships, excellence in lay and clergy leadership, and adaptability to changing circumstances.

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference -

I am so excited about our new Strategic Plan which was recently finalized by the Board of Directors and shared with the conference. The Mission Statement and Vision, stated above, provides a framework as the spirit works within us and among us. This plan focuses on three main goals: accountability, excellent leadership, and adaptability. This strategic plan guides the work of our Board of Directors and staff as we meet the needs of our churches, clergy, and ministries of the Penn Central Conference.

During the past week, the Board of Directors held a board meeting, and our Annual Meeting was held this past Saturday. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of our discussions and decisions.

With Gratitude: We are grateful for the work of the staff during the past year – a year in which all staff needed to pivot due to this unprecedented pandemic. Please check out the staff report on the website to learn how staff are fulfilling their call in new and exciting ways. We are grateful to the Board of Directors who, despite a pandemic, revised the PCC Bylaws developed a new strategic plan, provided guidance for the sale of Hartman Center and St. John's, updated personnel policies, and much more! With gratitude, the board says GOODBYE to

Continues on back

Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation

Summer Camp: REGISTER ANYTIME!

The 2021 summer camp schedule is set! There are camps for all ages and interests at both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. Check out what is offered online.

Summer Staff Recruitment -- GOING ON NOW!

Hartman Center Spirit Week:

Week of August 8 at Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg.

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.

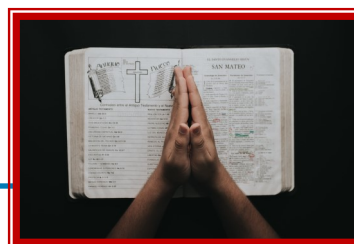
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

Emmanuel UCC, New Berlin

Zion UCC, Newburg

St. John (New Chester) UCC, New Oxford

St. Pauls UCC, New Oxford



Message from the Conference cont'

outgoing board members: Kendra Snyder, Bruce Weaver, Rev. Gloria McPherson, and Rev. Kelly Shifflet. And we welcome the Rev. Dr. Chris Rodkey as a new board member and look forward to the gifts he brings. We thank Phil Landers, Linda Vignati, and Rev. David Downer for agreeing to another term on the board.

At the board meeting, we recognized the exceptional and caring work of the Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler and wished her well as she ends her time with us. The board decided to fill the position as soon as possible as this position has been critical to the support of our clergy, The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call will move forward with advertising and filling this position. In addition, the board agreed to enter into negotiations with Rock of Salvation Pentecostal church for purchase of St. John's UCC in Lebanon. We are thrilled that this historic property will continue its life as a church.

On Saturday, June 12, the 59th Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference was held. Thank you to all who attended, both near and far, both in person and sitting in front of a computer screen. Please check out the meeting materials on the PCC website. Some highlights include:

1. The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call provided a detailed State of the Conference report, including information about church attendance, church size, and comparisons to other UCC churches. While showing how much the PCC has changed over the last twenty years, she emphasized the strength of our conference and how we continue to live in the Spirit among us and with others.
2. The Bylaws were approved. A copy of the new Bylaws can be found on the website
3. A Nominations Report from The Rev. Dr. Galen Russell was approved.
4. "Who Will Speak for the Trees?" Penn Central Conference will! The conference approved a motion to support this General Synod Resolution which calls for a change in the relationship between humans and nations, from one of separation and exploitation to interdependence and becoming citizens of the web of life on earth. This resolution, if approved at General Synod, calls upon individual churches to respond to the Rights of Nature by taking action.

5. Hartman Center Property: The committee reports that marketing and promotion of the property is extensive. There have been serious inquiries and interest in the property to date. We anticipate that the property will be sold in 2021.

6. The conference blessed the Summer Camp Staffers who are serving as summer staff in the camping program at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and Mount Luther. We sent them out with love from the entire Penn Central Conference.

7. The Conference's 2022 budget was approved.

Throughout the annual meeting, we were blessed with times of remembrance, worship, and spirit-filled music. The closing of Annual Meeting included the Installation of The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola into the full covenant of call into the Penn Central Conference as Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Transitions. We celebrated her ministry with us over this past year and look forward to all that she brings in years to come. The Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Vermont Conference Minister delivered the sermon.

Thanks to all who make the annual meeting a success! Check out the website for additional information about the 59th Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Shirley Keith Knox

Moderator

