



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.



## A Message from PCC

**April 6, 2022**

### Dear Friends and Members of Penn Central Conference,

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. – Elizabeth Andrew*

(Elizabeth Andrews OBE (1882–1960) was the first woman organizer of the Labour Party in Wales.)

It is my pleasure to update you on the actions of your Board of Directors following our meeting this past Saturday. As you may have guessed from the quote above, one of the topics we discussed are the upcoming Officer positions that will need to be filled by people with very specific skills and talents. When Rev. Dwight Hein becomes the Moderator at our annual meeting in June, the position of Vice Moderator is open. After serving 12 years as our Treasurer, Mr. Ron Royer plans to retire from this position. In addition, Ms. Elspeth Williams is retiring from her position as Secretary. Both Ron and Elspeth have been key to the smooth operation of the Board and will be greatly missed. We know there are others in our Conference with the heart and talent needed to serve. If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions, please contact me at skeithknox@comcast.net or your local Nominations Chairperson. We are accepting nominations now.

I. Financial Updates: Revenue in December was exceptional. Thank you to local churches for fulfilling your OCWM commitments. With the sale of Hartman Center, \$59,515 was added back into conference operating accounts. This was the amount that the conference spent to get the camp ready to sell, i.e. broken cables and sewer lines, cost of the survey, removal of the oil

## Contact us!

### PCC Office Staff

**Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD** - Conference Minister  
email: [ccall@pccucc.org](mailto:ccall@pccucc.org) / Phone: 717-433-3196

**Rev. Nora Driver Foust** - Associate Conference Minister  
email: [nfoust@pccucc.org](mailto:nfoust@pccucc.org) / Phone: 717-433-2587

**Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D.** - Associate Conference Minister  
email: [mlaviola@pccucc.org](mailto:mlaviola@pccucc.org) / Phone: 717-433-3564

**Rev. Rick Luciotti** - Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families  
email: [rluciotti@gmail.com](mailto:rluciotti@gmail.com) / Phone: 717-433-6306

**C. Paul Keller** - Office Manager  
email: [pkeller@pccucc.org](mailto:pkeller@pccucc.org) / Phone: 717-652-1560

## 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. John's UCC, McEwensville**

**St. John's UCC, McKnightstown**

**St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg**

**Trinity UCC, Mercersburg**



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tank, etc. The remainder of the dollars will be used to support Outdoor Ministries.

2. The Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated. We are making considerable progress on our goals and new goals were added, including: 1) development of cultural humility modules for clergy; 2) developing lay leadership resources and workshops for times of transition; 3) Creation Care/Creation Justice; and 4) long term mission and ministry viability. The Strategic Plan is a living document that changes as the needs of the conference change. I am thankful to our conference staff and board for being attentive to our goals and for the progress made. Our Strategic Plan requires the conference to look to the future and prepare for a strong conference and faith presence. Rev. Dr. Carrie Call is forming a Futures Task Force to help us gauge the future of the conference.

3. The Board reviewed the 2023 budget that was prepared by the Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Conference Minister. Minor changes were made, and the board approved a budget that will be presented to the conference at the June 11 annual meeting. This budget represents what the conference needs (\$813,074) from our churches to make the Penn Central Conference function.

4. The board approved a comprehensive and standardized evaluation process for the Conference Minister. Of course, this included the input of our current Conference Minister.

5. Rev. Nora Foust informed the board that the 1st Outdoor Ministry Commission meeting is scheduled for May 23rd. We were excited to learn that both board members and 9 additional folks have agreed to serve. One of the tasks is the establishment of the grant applications for outdoor ministries.

6. Planning for Penn Central Conference 60th Annual Meeting "Mission in Focus" is underway, and recipients of the E-News should have received some initial information. Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations in the UCC and Co-Executive for Global Ministries is our guest speak-

er. Annual meeting will occur the week of June 6-11, 2022. The week begins with an online Opening Plenary on Monday, June 6th at 6:30 PM. A selection of online workshops occurs on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights (June 7 -9 at 6:30 PM). Topics include: Pandemic Defeated- Congregational Care; Responsible Engagement with Sponsored Refugee Families; Planting, Growing, Sharing-The Ecology of Regenerative Agriculture and Church Gardens; Moving the Racial Justice Agenda Forward in the Local Church; God's Church Post Pandemic-God's Church in the 21st Century; A Mission Success Story – Opportunity International; Music and Worship in Smaller Congregations; and Understanding and Eliminating Systemic Racism. The online Business Meeting and worship service will be Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Stay tuned for details and registration information.

7. The board approved the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2023. Contact conference staff for a copy of the guidelines.

This will be my last board report to the conference. It has been a pleasure serving as the Moderator for the Penn Central Conference. I have been blessed by serving as the Board Moderator – getting much more than I gave! Elizabeth Andrew's quote is right on. When I think of those serving alongside me on the board, I am so thankful. We are surely a group of very busy people, yet it is because of our heart and our faith that keeps us engaged in the work of the conference and our commitment to the Church and the United Church of Christ.

### Blessings!

**Shirley Keith Knox**

Moderator

Penn Central Conference

