PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

July 12, 2023

Greetings members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

On July 4th the 34th UCC General Synod in Indianapolis ended. Synod is our denomination's biennial gathering during which we conduct the business of the National Church, attend seminars and learning sessions, celebrate new and newly affiliated congregations, attend worship, and be inspired by guest speakers, all to renew and strengthen our covenantal relationships. Our Conference was blessed by the faithful commitment of 21 volunteer delegates who lent their voices to the movement of the Holy Spirit in wide-ranging discussions, debates, and decisions. Here are a few highlights.

Our Keynote speaker, Rev. Nadia Boltz Weber, galvanized many of us by reminding us of the "gorgeous" gift of forgiveness and salvation given to us by Jesus, and urged us to practice that same forgiveness in our own lives. Weber reminded us that the Devil will go trolling through the garbage of our past actions looking for things to show us, so we remain trapped by regret and recrimination instead of embracing the gift of forgiveness. (This powerful image was attributed to Martin Luther.) Her message was both deeply personal and broadly applicable to the wider church. Weber has the remarkable gift of weaving together traditional Christian images and language (e.g., principalities and powers, the throne of the Lamb) with contemporary spiritual and psychological challenges. I confess to being deeply moved while also recognizing the rarity of hearing such a voice.

We celebrated the historic election of Karen Georgia Thompson, the first black female General Minister and President of the UCC! Rev. Dr. Thompson was already known to many of us via her work in wider church and global ministries. She brings a unique ecumenical perspective and has broad experience with various expressions of religiosity. No doubt the UCC is forging new paths. To read about the election, go here: https://www.ucc.org/

Continues on back

Contact us!

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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...

Trinity UCC, York

Zion UCC, York

St. Jacob's UCC, York New Salem

St. Peter's UCC, Aaronsburg



karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/

The UCC By-laws amendment passed (by a single vote), changing Synod frequency to every three years beginning with Synod 36 in 2028. No surprise that this discussion was the most contentious of our gathered time together. The change in frequency is a step that recognizes the enormous human, financial, and environmental costs of a Synod event. It also recognizes and responds to the changing face of the denomination as we become much smaller, and our national staff shrinks.

Years of work by the UCC Historical Council resulted in the formal recognition and celebration of the Afro-Christian Convention as the "Fifth Stream" of the UCC, joining the Congregationalist, Christian, Evangelical Synod, and German Reformed traditions. This was a recognition that was long, long overdue. Following the recognition, our General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer took the stage to offer a humble, moving apology for the ways the UCC has stifled or ignored the voices and contributions of the Afro-Christian Convention over time. Read more about this historic moment here: https://www.ucc.org/from-synod-stage-dorhauer-apologizes-to-afro-christian-convention-for-rewriting-of-our-history/

Our dedicated and thoughtful delegates were busily engaged with work around the proposed resolutions. You can see a listing of the resolutions with their original wording and the amended versions at https://generalsynod.org/proposed-resolutions I commend our delegates for completing some intensive work and engaging fully in the process. I hope you will hear of their experiences at upcoming Association gatherings. The experience of Synod is always eye-opening! There are several resolutions of particular interest to our delegates, so watch for opportunities to help us implement that work. To hear directly from our delegates in their own words, check out the reflections from Kathy Brown, Andrew Boyer and Jerry Thomason.

https://www.badasswomenandthefaithofourfathers.com/post/general-synod-34-making-all-things-new

https://files.constantcontact.com/18c44923001/f15c355a-9de9-4afc-8c8e-e9405bc9df8d.pdf

https://files.constantcontact.com/18c44923001/78a9187f-e4b4-432d-8fc0-53df8fafcc77.pdf

Thank you to the Conference and Associations for providing the funds for our delegates to travel and engage with the wider church in Indianapolis!

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference

Annual Meeting Service Project Update

We are so pleased with the generosity of our churches at this year's Annual Meeting! We delivered 227 packages of maxi pads, 158 packages of tampons and 83 packages of wipe (for a total of 468 packages of products) to The Period Project Harrisburg. We have also received $370 to pass on to the Period Project.

We have begun uploading video from the 61st Annual Meeting to the PCC YouTube. We have several workshops up now, with more to come, as well as the photo booth slide show up now. Watch our channel for more workshops and clips from the meeting soon!

Hartman Center Homecoming week

July 31 through August 5, 2023

We will be returning to Hartman Center Campground in Milroy, PA as guests. Camping experiences for all ages, including intergenerational camps.

For more information, contact
Rev. Alice Rauch alirauch07@gmail.com (director) or
Rev. Amelia Price aashivers@gmail.com (registrar)

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week