



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

March 17, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

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Let us pray: We remember that March is Women's History Month. Thank you for the women in our scripture and our stories: Eve, Hagar, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, Bilhah, Dinah, Tamar, Shiphrah, Puah, Miriam, Deborah, Judith, Naomi, Ruth, Esther, Rahab, Susanna, Abigail, Bathsheba, Elizabeth, Mary of Nazareth, Anna, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Salome, Mary Magdalene, Tabitha, Priscilla, Joanna, Rhoda, the Syrophoenician woman, the bleeding woman, the Samaritan woman at the well, and countless other women whose names were lost, or never recorded, but who lived and died as your beloved children.

Thank you for all the cherished women in our lives and in our histories: mothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors. God, may women across the globe continue to be empowered, knowing the love you offer.

Source: The Sojourner's Magazine & Pastor Allyssa Boyer

The Board of Directors met this past Saturday, and we are glad to update the conference on the major actions and decisions made by your board. Here are the highlights:

I. Our conference staff, under the leadership of **Rev. Dr. Carrie Call**, continue to remain busy despite meeting and travel restrictions. They remain in regular contact with and offer spiritual support and guidance to our local churches on many issues. A weekly calendar shares all the group meetings that are held to keep us in covenant with one another. There are weekly lectionary discussions, church empowerment teams, Poetry as Prayer group meetings, and staff continue to attend Ministerium and Association meetings. **Rev. Nora Foust** is holding Ministerial Education Forums and Communities of Practice, and she has restarted the Morsels of Excellence vlog for 2021. **Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola** continues to support 18

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. There is an early-bird registration discount if you register before April 3. Also, if you attend the Open House, you can get an additional discount.

Summer Staff Recruitment -- GOING ON NOW!

Calling all high school kids, college-age young adults, and adults interested in working at camp this summer! Lutheran Camping Corporation is recruiting now for this summer's camp season.

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...

St. Paul UCC, Herndon

Zion UCC, Herndon

Church of the Redeemer UCC, Hershey

Emmanuel UCC, Jacksonville

Message from the Conference cont'

churches in various phases of the search and call process and supporting the Congregational Empowerment Academy. If your church needs search and call or has other transition needs, please reach out to her. **Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler** is recruiting and training our chaplains and staying in touch with clergy with a focus on how pastors make changes and deal with a year of change. She can provide support to clergy on many issues, so please do not hesitate to reach out to her. **Mr. Paul Keller** is busy with communications and the Data-Hub, as well as coordinating numerous ZOOM meetings for the conference and our associations. **Ms. Anne Rankin** has been providing outreach for Outdoor Ministry, keeping us updated on the upcoming summer camp programs and enticing us with new ministry opportunities. Associations and churches are encouraged to have Ms. Rankin present these new opportunities at upcoming meetings.

2. The board reviewed the NEW draft Strategic Plan which outlines the direction for the board and conference over the next 3 years. It does not include a merging of associations, as per our previous plan. We approved changes to the Bylaws and a meeting will be held before the June annual meeting to review the changes and ask questions. The personnel policies are near completion, and the board will review. A format and procedure for annual staff evaluations is underway.

3. The finance committee shared that we are operating at a loss of \$45,000 according to the February financials. The committee will be providing a detailed financial overview at our "Special" April budget meeting. Reports have been reformatted and new reports designed to assist the board in careful review of the conference's financial statements have been finalized.

4. Hartman Center: The Hartman Center Sales Committee receives monthly updates from the realty company. The listing has received interest, inquiry, and visitation in the last several months. One offer has been made.

5. The Sale of St. John's Lebanon – The closing of this church, while sad, has created new opportunities. The board is discussing that the proceeds from the sale be provided back to the Lebanon community, providing microgrants for community-serving organizations.

6. Outdoor Ministry/Summer Camping: The board approved that money from the current endowment investment accounts be used to provide support for the 2021

summer camp enrollment. Guidelines will be established for the use of this money. Members of the board have attended some of the events at Kirkenwald, Nawakwa, and The Witte Farm. In fact, learning that a Medical Director was needed, Dr. Janis Taylor, a member of our board, agreed to serve in this capacity. We so appreciate her willingness to fill this need and to know that the medical needs of our campers will continue at a high standard.

7. Possible Office Relocation: The current conference space has been long underutilized and inefficient for conference needs. Alternate space is being considered keeping mind location, accessibility, and changes in work needs. We have an amazing staff and board of directors. We understand the gift we have in our conference and know the responsibilities that we have been given as your Board of Directors. Thank you for supporting and praying for us as we do the work of the Conference!

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley J. Keith Knox

Moderator, PCC

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD - Conference Minister
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 12

Rev. Nora Driver Foust - Associate Conference Minister
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex.13

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D. - Associate Conference Minister
email: mlaviola@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 15

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler - Facilitator of Care to Clergy & Clergy Families / email: rcomfort-butler@pccucc.org / phone: 717-719-1895

Anne Rankin - Outdoor Ministries Liaison
email: annerankin524@gmail.com / phone: 717-945-4585

C. Paul Keller - Office Manager
email: pkeller@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 14