**The Ohio State University (OSU)Campus Ministry - May 2023**

One year ago, this presbytery was reminded that we have always had a heart for campus ministry at The Ohio State University (OSU) Many churches have stepped up to partner, support, and champion campus ministry at OSU throughout the years. But in the last several years, it has been harder to give it the adequate support that it takes to run a campus ministry at a university the size of OSU.

Through the Commission on Nurture and Outreach (CNO), a group was formed to dream once again about campus ministry at OSU. The reality is that the dominant voice of Christian campus ministry on campus is not in line with the PC(USA)'s values. Most are not from the reform tradition; in fact, they are intentionally para-church and non-denominational in structure, and do not welcome LGBTQ + young adults. Our young people who are seeking to nurture and explore faith at OSU don’t have many safe options that we would endorse.

In the Summer of 2021, CNO reached out to and partnered with Jacob’s Porch, an established campus ministry program with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, with whom we are in communion as the PC(USA). CNO made a financial commitment of $10,000 to support and be invited to participate in their ministry.

A group has continued to evaluate this relationship with Jacob’s Porch and has discerned a call to renew our Presbyterian commitment to these 60,000+ young adults on campus and their faith by **hiring a full-time Campus Minister** who would work at and with Jacob’s Porch. The Spirit is moving, as the Methodist and Mennonites are doing this at the same time as us - truly a step forward in an ecumenical campus ministry, one that is welcoming and affirming and aligns with our theology.

This new Campus Minister position is made possible through generous funding from the Ministries Initiative Board of the presbytery, as well as funding collected by the previous UKirk Board. A new UKirk Board is being formed which will work in full partnership with Jacob’s Porch. That board has created a MIF for a campus ministry position and has already interviewed several candidates, with support from the Commissions on Operations, and Nurture and Outreach.

The new UKirk Board will be reaching out to Presbyterian churches, not just in our presbytery but throughout Ohio, to add their prayers, financial support, and incoming students to this dream. We hope that we can count on support from each congregation in our presbytery as we continue to make plans for a Presbyterian campus ministry at OSU. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to members of the new UKirk Board – Trip Porch (chair), Todd Tracy, Bob Patterson, Fred Hitzhusen, and Kathi Bubb