



**Heartland Conference Networks - Inspire, Connect, Equip, and Support  
For Vocational Discernment, Clarity, and Engagement**

**FIND YOUR PASSION! Find Your People! JOIN A NETWORK!**

**JUSTICE NETWORKS**



**Environmental Care and Justice Network** - A network connecting individuals and congregations with a passion or a desire to tend to the realities of climate change meets monthly via zoom. In addition, this network has offered an annual day-long retreat to inspire, connect, equip and support people who have interest and passion to care for the whole creation.

**Pro-racial Equity Network** - Following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children, this network seeks to engage, encourage, equip, and empower the work of antiracism in every arena in life. The Heartland Conference has now partnered with the Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church to engage conversations that work to inform, form, and transform the world in response to racism. The Pro-racial Equity Network meets present and discuss issues, challenges and successes.



**ONA Support Network** - This network is gathering partners from across the conference to inspire churches to become Open and Affirming, create opportunities for connection between individuals and congregations, equip them with resources for this commitment, and provide support for clergy and congregations for the ongoing journey.

**Global Ministries Network** - This network seeks to gather people who have a passion for what is happening around the globe. We create connections with our Global Ministry Partners and those who wish to develop those connections. We meet with special speakers on a wide range of topics about Global needs, issues and ministries.



**CHURCH SUPPORT NETWORKS**



**Generosity Network** - The Generosity network gathers for inspiration and practical ideas for financial development based on gratitude and hope. This group gathers for inspiration and idea sharing. Working in partnership with UCC National Philanthropy Officer, this group helps coordinate online webinars and additional training based on the latest materials.

**STAR (Small Town and Rural) Church Network** - A network tending the unique gifts and challenges of small town and rural ministry. The hope is to connect pastors and lay leaders in these settings for mutual encouragement and resourcing and to also connect to the wider conversations about rural and small town ministry that are happening in the wider life of the United Church of Christ.



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NETWORKS



**Spiritual Companions Network** - This network is seeking to gather those who have been trained as Spiritual Directors or have a special gift for spiritual companionship to cultivate opportunities for mutual encouragement and support. The group is developing resources and opportunities for spiritual learning and teaching.

**Faith Formation Network** - This network brings together those interested in faith formation in every age and stage of life. We offer insights, information and support for shared learning and idea exchange.



**Youth Ministry Network** - A network for connection and encouragement for youth leaders in our congregations. Both volunteer and paid Youth Leaders are welcome. This Network offers both support and new ideas for youth leaders.

**United Disciples Youth Group** - The UCC Heartland Conference and the Disciples of Christ Ohio Region have joined together to offer a statewide youth group! Monthly zoom meetings for youth, several in person gatherings each year and plans for mission and immersion trips!



## HUMAN SERVICE NETWORKS



**Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention Network** - This network has formed in response to the tragic reality of historic numbers of people dying from drug overdose. The HROP network has developed a congregational curriculum to help people better understand what harm reduction is and also clarify a call to this ministry engagement. The curriculum is free and can be found by going to the HROP webpage on the Heartland Conference Website.

**Mental Health Network** - Working to cultivate Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) congregations and communities around Mental Health. Creating resources for local churches. This network works as a collaboration between the Indiana-Kentucky and Heartland Conferences.



**Veterans Ministry Network** - This network and his ministry is focused on the spiritual well being, and soul repair from injuries due to service. With inspiration from John Schluep, D.Min., a retired Senior Pastor and Army Veteran created the specialized ministry for veterans and their families intended to bring veterans home from service in a good way.

**Disaster Response Network** - This network connects for disaster relief in a wide variety of ways including emergency and long term recovery efforts. They are also helping congregations to consider how they can be more "disaster-ready". For more information, contact our Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Kevin Gehres, at [gehreskb@gmail.com](mailto:gehreskb@gmail.com)

