



# HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
N. KY • OH • WV



## What's in a Team?

Certainly not the letter i. These past two years a group of leaders that we have been referring to as the **"Executive Teams"** of the associations and the conference, have met regularly and often. Also, two of each of the "teams" have been part of a smaller group of people called the **"One Heart Working Group"**. The One Heart Working Group and the Executive Teams have worked faithfully and put pen to paper to encapsulate a forward moving vision for the conference that had its springboard from the 2018 Vision Document presented at our 2018 Annual Gathering.

That **"Why, Calling, and Covenant"**, which Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, our Transitional Conference Minister, introduced in his article in this issue of the Conference eNews is designed to move the Conference (meaning of all settings of our ministry together) forward into its future. It has at its core the critical concept of collaboration. These last two years the executive teams have exemplified the hard work of collaboration and the resultant blessings that come from this way of working together.

Over the last few months each of the associations through its own practices and the Conference through the Board of Directors have affirmed the new "Why, Calling and Covenant" intentions. They will now be presented to the gathered body of Heartland Conference at our Annual Gathering on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The affirmation and acceptance of these pieces will serve as our guiding intentions for moving forward together. Over the next few months, you will hear more detail about what went into the meaning of the work that formed the "Why, Calling and Covenant" intentions as well as how it came from the important preparatory work that the 2018. Most importantly you will also hear of many initiatives already underway as we live into this understanding of how to be the Heartland Conference in the weeks and months ahead.

Future communications will focus on the supportive material and concepts that have gone into the above thinking, but before we do that, let us just pause for a moment on this page and thank those who have given so much of their time, their talent, their prayers, and their willingness to be open and transparent with one another. Their work, our work, enabled an understanding and concept to bubble up from all the interaction, one with another, that made it possible to offer this concept to you. Now the work of renewed listening continues. We know there may be many questions and they will be answered. For now, thank you to all the following serving on executive teams in the shared life of our associations and the conference:

Cynthia Tyson, CSEOA • Melodie Rezac, CSEOA • Patricia Battle, CSEOA • Bob Kutschbach, CSEOA • Steve Flenner, CSEOA • William Nirote, CSEOA • David Long-Higgins, Heartland • Tom Hathaway, Heartland • Daniel Doty, Heartland • David Plant, Heartland • Cathy Green, Heartland • Jim Henry, Heartland • Steven Savides, LWA • Cheryl Lindsay, LWA • Nayiri Karjian, LWA • Rachel McDonald, LWA • Kelly Fuhrmann, LWA • Doug Ricci, NWOA • Jay Scott, NWOA • Dan Busch, NWOA • Tom Kagy, NWOA • Larry Clausing, NWOA • Betty Rettig, NWOA • Laureen Roe, SONKA • Joe Kay, SONKA • Carl Robinson, SONKA • Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA • Dan Dietz, SONKA • Jo Anne Orihood, SONKA (my apologies for any omissions or oversights).

Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you to you all!

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