



NEWS of the 29 Churches of the York Association

**Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission,
Cooperative Ministry**

York Association website:
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July 2017 - Newsletter

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

Greetings from YA President

As I write this article, I've just returned from the Friday night session of the **Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting – June 9**. As is becoming an annual problem, we did not have enough delegates present to do the business of the conference. There were enough people signed up for Saturday's annual meeting, so we are hoping that most of them are planning to be there for Saturday's meetings.

We had a fellowship after the evening session that was an information sharing session concerning the long-term plans for the Conference and the eight Associations; presented by the Strategic (Missional) Committee. First, there are 188 Churches, there are over 400 authorized ministers and there are approximately 40,000 members in the Penn Central Conference. We are the 7th largest Conference in the United Church of Christ and are in good shape, more or less.

Ok, all that said and done; the Strategic Committee is proposing that we consolidate the eight associations into 4. Each association would consist of somewhere around 45-50 churches and the hope is that this would help with the filling of committee positions and provide more support for the local churches. The idea is also to try and cross-pollinate large churches with small churches; to help both to grow. This is about the same for us in the York Association. We are already configured as described.

The four proposed associations would be North, Central, Southwest and Southeast. We would be the **Southeast (York Association and Lancaster Association would be combined)**. The most important part of this

configuration is that Hallam would become the center of the proposed association and not the extreme right of the formation. All kidding aside, there would be more travel involved, and there would be more use of technology. That said, our proposed association would be the smallest of the proposed associations.

The idea is that we would have considerable conversations over the next three years and the entire conference would vote (most likely multiple times) on the various issues that are presented. There is far more to the proposal; there are four key focus points for the Conference (goals) and there is a new proposed vision statement; the previous vision statement would become the Conference Mission Statement. There are moneys that are being proposed for each facet, not all in this year's budget, since we are not that far along.

The four goals for the Conference are:

- 1) Overall church revitalization, including emphasis on small and rural churches.
- 2) Clergy and lay leadership development.
- 3) Fund and donor development.
- 4) Leadership to address community needs and justice issues.

Each of these goals have objectives, time-lines and proposed investments for the coming three years. Each are well laid out in a PDF file on the Conference webpage we should read this information. Also, as these meetings begin to take place, we should all invest time and energy to this endeavor. There is much more to say, but we are limited in space, so I'll stop here.

Peace,

Rev. Kelly Shiflett, York Association President

“Go Green” Sunday ~ August 13, 2017

The Community Outreach Committee will host the 3rd annual “Go Green” Sunday on Aug. 13th from 2 pm to 4 pm at Shiloh UCC. This is a free event that is open to the public.

Activities will include a recycled art contest, eco-friendly crafts, activities for all ages, free food, a paper shredding truck, butterfly- pollinator displays and MORE!

Mark this date on your calendar and watch for more activities to be included!

Recycled Art Contest

Individuals, families and groups are welcome to participate in a “Recycled Art” Contest to be held Sunday, August 13th from 2 pm to 4 pm at Shiloh UCC, York.

Entries may be taken to Shiloh UCC, Monday, August 7th through Wednesday August 9th, from 9 am to noon and Wednesday, August 9th from 6:30 pm to 8 pm.

Artwork will be awarded prizes in the following groupings: Kindergarten age & Younger; 1st - 3rd Grade; 4th – 6th Grade; Middle & High School; Adult; Group Projects. Prizes will be given in each category.

This event is being held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual “Go Green Sunday,” sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee of the York Association.

York Association Annual Meeting Speaker - Mark Lutz, Author of UnPoverty

Sunday, November 12th, the York Association will gather at Salem-Dover for our annual meeting. This year we will have a special speaker, Mr. Mark Lutz.

Mr. Lutz, the author of *UnPoverty – Rich Lessons from the Working Poor*, grew up in South Africa, the son of missionary parents. He lived there for twenty years under apartheid and has visited fifty countries. His life and experiences have led to a vision that poverty can be eradicated.

In preparation for his visit, the Outreach Committee of the York Association has acquired copies of his book which will be made available for churches to borrow. The Committee has also prepared a study guide. The study guide and information about borrowing these books will be sent to your church in the coming weeks. We hope you will mark your calendar for this event and join us in reading UnPoverty!

Around the Association

New Hope (Fissel’s) UCC

3426 Fissel’s Church Rd, Glen Rock, PA 17327

- will host “**FROG – Fully Rely On God**” Vacation Bible School - **Mon, July 10 - Fri, July 14**. The program will run from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. each day and will include Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and snacks. Children ages 3 to grade 7 are welcome to participate. To register, call Linda at 235-2033.

Locust Grove UCC - 1035 Locust Grove Rd, York, PA

- Locust Grove UCC is holding a **chicken barbecue and bake sale** on **Saturday, July 29**, beginning at 11:00 AM, rain or shine. The public is invited. Dinners will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, until sold out. The cost of the dinner is \$9.00. A dinner will include one-half chicken, baked potato, applesauce, dinner roll and butter, cupcake and beverage. Dinners can be eaten on site or carried out. The contact number for the chicken barbecue is 755-1318. To reserve dinners, please leave your name, phone number, and number of dinners.

There will be no August barbecue.

Starview UCC - N Sherman St Ext, Mt Wolf, PA

- Join us for **VBS – July 9 – July 13**. Children from ages 3 to 12 are invited to join in a fun-filled experience this year with the theme - **Galactic Starveyors**. A light meal will be provided each evening at 5:30 pm. Persons interested in attending the program only should be at the church by 6:00pm. Pre-registration is encouraged. Contact the church office at 266-4248 for questions or registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Heidelberg UCC - 47 W. Philadelphia St, York PA

- Join us for **First Friday York, July 7**, when we will have **Elijah Cross** on our stage singing and performing magic. He will give a preview into his new show for his September 29th fund raising show at the Pullo Center. Elijah has written a show entitled “Rise” to raise funds for the York Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. To learn more, check out this link, <https://www.gofundme.com/risheshow>

August newsletter deadline is July 11

This newsletter (July) will be emailed June 15.

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