



# NEWS of the 28 Churches of the York Association

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

## September 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)

### More 2017 General Synod Reflections

Nearly 3000 delegates and visitors from across the nation met June 30 - July 4, 2017 for the 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland's Convention Center.

Synod convenes every two years at different cities across the United States and this was a perfect venue. It was great to have it near Penn Central Conference as many Penn Central folk traveled to Baltimore for the public Sunday service and on other days to visit.

The theme of the Synod was **MAKE GLAD** based on Psalm 46:4, "There is a river whose streams MAKE GLAD the city of God" and all those attending did just that--MAKE GLAD!

We did that with inspiring worship services and presentations led by such luminaries as author Glennon Doyle, The Rev. Traci Blackmon, newly elected Executive Minister of Justice and Witness ministries, and Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister of the United Church of Christ.

We did it with workshops, hearings, plenary sessions for business and voting, perusing exhibits in the exhibit hall and connecting with many new and longtime friends and participants attending Synod.

We prayed, sang, studied, voted, deliberated, debated, celebrated, danced, spoke our truth, acted upon and reacted to proposed resolutions and pronouncements from all over the United Church of Christ with such varied topics as:

- New endowments to strengthen future ministries
- Endorsing raising the minimum wage
- Gun violence
- The environment

- Children living under military occupation
- Corporal punishment of children
- Immigrants
- Persons with disabilities
- Bylaws changes... to name a few

A full reporting of all the actions of the General Synod will be available at [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) under the Synod section. Ask any Synod Delegate about their experience or invite them to report at your church or consistory meetings. They will be glad to share. Also, thank them for all their work in preparation and participation in the Synod process as we again had a very hardworking delegation representing Penn Central Conference.

As moderator, I had the opportunity to meet with other moderators representing conferences across the nation. Many were reporting diminishing staff and considering cooperative models and merging of resources in a survival mode mentality. We can be extremely proud of recent initiatives of the Penn Central Conference indicative of a thriving mode for "Together we are doing great things."

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Penn Central Conference at General Synod 31.

*Dr. Craig Ellis, Moderator, Penn Central Conference*

Did you know that the shirts the youth and youth advisors received at General Synod 31 were done by St. John's UCC Red Lion, *Youth Ministries Director, Brooke Bensing*? Thank You! She hand-tied and dyed each one individually and prayed as she was dying each of them. Feel free to contact her if you'd like more information...717-887-0325.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/7724093@N05/albums/72157683590505070>



We have a **new logo** for the national Church. The new logo is in response to our denominations new purpose, vision and mission statements. We have a two-year focus on "A Just World for All." There are three focus points (called the three loves) which are Love of Children, Love of Neighbor and Love of Creation.

The two colors, blue and black, are symbolic of the creation elements of water and earth. You will notice that the comma is still a prominent part of the logo, since God is still speaking to us all. It is also easy to see the world in the newly revamped comma, which goes back to our original cross emblem (remember the circle at the bottom of the cross-that represented the world and our triune God's supremacy).

I think we should spend some time thinking about the three loves. We are a denomination that is passionate for justice. This sometimes causes us pain and conflict within our denomination. Let's face it, we don't always agree on what is just or what is God's stance on any issue; be it gambling, sexuality or political points of view-to name just a few of the issues that cause us pain in the York Association, Penn Central Conference and the National setting.

We all understand that we have been called by God to speak out for the justice of children, our neighbors and the earth. Here in the York Association we are taking steps to answer the call (we have been for decades). Through the Group work-camps, we meet both the needs to teach our children service as well as meeting the needs of those neighbors who are not able to help themselves. Our Go Green Sundays are attempts to bring awareness and teaching concerning our precious natural resources. We have been at the forefront of the microlending movement and even this year, we are planning to discuss options for an Association wide mission project at our annual meeting.

For God so loved the world....Peace.

*Rev. Kelly Shiflett, President York Association*

### Members in Discernment

The Committee on Ministry is happy to share that we have two new "Members in Discernment" in the York Association.

**Joslin Kearse** has completed her first year at Lancaster Theological Seminary, and **Shannon Patterson** is beginning her first year at the Seminary this fall. Both are members of Heidelberg, York. The Rev. Amy Schultz helped guide Joslin and Shannon in the early days of discerning their call, and the Rev. Susan D'heedene now serves as their pastor.

A "Member in Discernment" is one who, responding to God's call to authorized ministry, is following a path of ministerial formation in covenant with a local church and a Committee on Ministry of the UCC.

We continue the journey with our York Association Members in Discernment: **Brian Percy, Kevin Becker, Beth Firme, & Tom Keipert**. Brian, Beth, & Tom are members of Faith, York, where the Rev. Dr. Ron Oelrich is their pastor. Kevin is serving as licensed pastor of Salem, Jacobus. Our best wishes go with them all!

## York Association Annual Mtg – Nov 12 Speaker - Mark Lutz, Author of *UnPoverty*

Copies of the book and the book study are available for you to borrow by contacting Rev. Cathy Sherry  
[CathyLHS19@comcast.net](mailto:CathyLHS19@comcast.net) or purchase via Amazon.

### Around the Association

#### Emmanuel UCC Freysville

1625 Windsor Road, Red Lion, PA 17356

- will host a **Country Gospel Concert** on Sunday September 24. Hillbilly Heaven, Country Sunshine & Safe Harbor will entertain from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served, and a free will offering benefits community projects.

#### New Hope (Fissel's) UCC

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

- A **Make-it and Take-it Craft event** is being held on Oct 21, 8-3 pm. Make Fall, Winter and Christmas decorations and gifts. For more information call Pam 717-521-4259 or the church office 717-235-2033

#### Zion UCC, 100 Lafayette St. York, PA

- has **two (2) classrooms** in their Education wing available for non-profit educational, religious or social use. Rent is "mission-based" and negotiable. Interested parties or referrals should be directed to Charles 'Chub' Neiman, Property Co-Chair, at 717-843-0521 or via e-mail [can@gte.net](mailto:can@gte.net).

#### Starview UCC

4832 N. Sherman St Ext., Mount Wolf, PA 17347

- will host a **Carry-Out only, boiled Chicken Pot Pie** sale on Saturday, October 21. Pre-orders will be accepted through Wednesday, October 18 by calling the church office at 266-4248. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Our Church's Wider Mission. Cost is \$8.00 per quart and \$4.00 per pint.
- Starview UCC is looking to hire a **part time Minister of Music**, responsible for weekly worship and for choirs: chancel, men's, children, and chimes. Piano and/or Organ skills required. Compensation package will be discussed during the interview. Send resume to: [starviewucc@comcast.net](mailto:starviewucc@comcast.net)

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

- Locust Grove UCC is holding a **chicken barbecue and bake sale** on **Saturday, September 2**, 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. The contact number for the chicken barbecue is 755-1318.

### October newsletter deadline is Sept 5

Due to my Sept vacation, the Oct newsletter will be emailed early.

Newsletter Editor – Sue Barnes

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