

**Living Water Association  
Ohio Northeast, Heartland Conference, UCC**

**Annual Meeting Minutes /  
Saturday, November 18, 2023**

- 8:45 am Registration and gathering/Signing in to zoom
- 9:00 am Call to celebrate the Ministry of the Association Charlene J. Smith  
**Quorum declared: Jerry Kruse, Parliamentarian**
- 9:05 am Centering Prayer and Song
- 9:15 am Keynote: Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Health and Wholeness in the Church
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:25 am **Call to receive all reports by common consent, Moderator Charlene Smith. Consent granted.**

Celebrating the spiritual work of the Association - Where is the Spirit guiding us next?  
Nayiri Karjian

- **6 years as Association Minister. Grateful for last summer's sabbatical.**
- **State of our association; 143 Congregations, 18 in transition, 372 ordained ministers in various states of ministry.**
- **Purpose to provide resources and support for congregations.**
- **Creativity, Adaptability, Trust, Compassion – 4 words of purpose for 2022, another word to add, Courage. This word has many synonyms.**
- **We have courage, Holy Spirit is God's Courage in Us. We can move mountains.**
- **Grief, we're not very good at it. Wailing, cheer leading for grief. The church belongs to God. Open our hearts to grief. Death and dying is not a bad thing.**
- **Trust is highly needed in our congregations.**
- **Listen, hear, and work with each other.**
- **Churches are anxious and grieving.**
- **Out of death comes new life. No church or living thing can live forever.**
- **Conflict? How can we make this the best possible conflict for our church?**
- **Courage is a spiritual practice.**
- **Choose the best seeds to grow in your churches garden.**
- **Use the word movement instead of change. The church has been changing since its inception. Everything that moves lives.**
- **Treat your pastors well, treat your congregations well.**

The Association Minister's full Annual Report is available online at [www.livingwaterone.org](http://www.livingwaterone.org)

What is happening in Faith in Action Ministry?

Michael A. Howard

- **Always reach out to the Association.**
- **Expressed thanks to pastors, LWA staff, Michael expressed his gratefulness.**
- **Trauma informed care, not paying attention creates a mess. We all have trauma. Need to practice truth telling and trust.**
- **Highlights: Shift language toward community development. More than transactional (giving money) Direct service is needed, food, housing. Figure out why? Hungry, homeless, feeding only is not justice.**
- **Advocacy is not justice, need to build relationships with the people who need us. It is not just to only do things for them.**
- **Community development is about changing entire neighborhoods. Prophetic Witness grants. Build partnerships with the organizations who do it better.**
- **Working with Greater Cleveland Congregations. Want to mobilize our Cleveland area congregations to work with them.**
- **April is Just Action Month. Examine racist policies, community book study. Authors May 10<sup>th</sup> at Summit County Public Library**

The association minister for Faith in Action's full Annual Report is available online at [www.livingwaterone.org](http://www.livingwaterone.org)

Celebrating SARA

Mission Partnership

Video

A word from Heartland Conference UCC

David Long Higgins

- **Greetings from All Heartland Conference churches, we are all family/partners/networks – rooms of love**
- **Loneliness is a health crisis according to the U.S. surgeon general.**
- **Inspire – we cannot do it alone – loneliness and is a health crisis according to the U.S. Check out Heartland UCC.org for support offered to all churches.**
- **Be conscious of our history so that we can begin to interrupt it.**
- **Intergenerational church should be a priority.**
- **Abundantaging.org – agism is real in our country.**
- **Your individual ministries matter.**
- **Ours is the church the world needs!!! Tom Diptko video interview**

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11:00 am Break

11:05 am Affirming congregations who have completed their ministry

Vote

**Solon, Amistad, Faith Richmond. LWA Council voted to accept their closing, no 2<sup>nd</sup> needed. Motion carried.**

Affirming the merger of Lyndhurst Community of Faith Church Vote  
**LWA granted standing in the Association and Presbyterian Church USA, no 2<sup>nd</sup> needed, motion carried.**

Accepting the withdrawal of St. John UCC in Walnut Creek Vote  
**No 2<sup>nd</sup> needed, motion carried.**

2024 Proposed plan for Resourcing the Association's Ministry Vote  
**The Treasurer reviewed the budget. LWA Council approved the budget, no 2<sup>nd</sup> needed, motion carried.**

Electing new leadership and installing them for their tasks Vote  
**Jerry Kruse, Nominating Committee presented the slate. Unanimous consent, no 2<sup>nd</sup> required, motion carried.**  
**The association minister and the LWA membership installed the new leadership.**

11:55 am Closing ritual

12:00 pm Adjourn

12:00 pm Optional Lunch

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Kate Walsh**  
**LWA Secretary**