

**The Report of the Association General Minister  
To the Council of Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast,  
Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ**

**Saturday, September 19, 2020**

**The Generosity and Stewardship Festival held on April 25** via zoom with Michael Piazza was a success with 101 in attendance.

**Association Sunday Worship** – The Generosity Festival was followed by an Association Sunday recorded service, where Association ministers preached and a few lay leaders participated as liturgists and leaders. Our gratitude is expressed to First Congregational Hudson who welcomed us in their sanctuary, recorded the service and helped with all details.

**Annual Meeting 2020 is coming up on Saturday, November 7 via zoom:**

Theme: The Church as a Spiritual Community

Keynoter/Preacher: Bishop Yvette Flunder

We are working on many details to make this event a success on zoom. Watch for materials soon.

**New Technology Grant** from Church Vitality fund is provided for our congregations that have technological needs to continue their ministries during these days of COVID. Applications and guidelines can be found on our website.

**Redirecting for the next couple of years:**

**Our current Calling – Refresh Renew Restore**

Refreshing souls, hearts, lives

Renewing Churches and faith Communities

Restoring the world to what God intended it to be

During annual meeting I will suggest that our calling at this time is:

**Explore Experience Excite**

Exploring and experimenting to discover new ways of living our faith

Experiencing God in our churches and faith communities to uncover new ways of connecting with God, with one another and the world

Exciting one another for prophetic ministry of justice, reconciliation and healing

**An additional bonus Healthy Practice for Ministry** will be offered for Authorized Ministers in Mid November about self care. Our authorized ministers are tired and anxious leading congregations who too are anxious and distressed.

**Committee on Ministry**

The work continues as we credential, discern and oversee. We continue to ponder and discuss lay authorized ministry and multiple paths to ordination.

**Search and Call**

Currently assisting 8 congregations through Transition process.

**I continue to envision** how we can successfully guide our congregations toward their respective futures.

### **COVID 19**

- All meetings and gatherings continue electronically on zoom
- We continue to provide resources and guidance to our congregations and pastors about worshipping during time of COVID
- Tuesday mornings continue to be a zoom opportunity for conversation for our Authorized Ministers at 10 am, and for all at 11 am.
- Our Association office continues to be formally closed, except for our registrar who works in the office daily. Our Financial admin comes in once a week. WE all stop in as needed.
- I continue to connect with church committees, teams, pastors, via zoom, as do other Association staff as needed

### **OH Interim Ministry Network Working Group**

A collaborative ministry of OH UCC and OH DOC, I continue to participate and lead this group. This year only one training will be offered in the fall via zoom on October 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14 6 pm—9 pm.

**Heartland Conference Annual Gathering is on September 26 via zoom.** Theme: From Pandemics to Possibilities.

### **Heartland Conference collaborative ministries and visioning continue.**

- Some steps forward have taken place. Cheryl Lindsay chairs the One Heart Working Group guiding this visioning effort.
- The 4 Association Ministers and the Transitional Conference Minister continue to explore ways for shared ministry and collaboration.
- A shared Communication specialist position with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the Illinois South conference is in place.
- United Church Homes has begun to do the financial bookkeeping for the Conference, SONKA and Central Southeast Associations at no cost.

Thank you for your leadership. And, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Association.

Nayiri Karjian