

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

Saturday, November 21, 2020

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

The Association Annual Meeting 2020 held via zoom on November 7 with Bishop Yvette Flunder as our preacher was inspiring and meaningful and well attended. 205 registered to attend. 170 attended with 83 authorized ministers, 32 lay delegates, 55 guest participants all representing 82 of our congregations. Deepest thanks to Moderator Steven Savides for his expert leadership.

During annual meeting I suggested that since we are living in times when the issues we face are not problems with prescribed solutions our calling can be expressed in the following three words:

Explore • Experience • Excite

- **EXPLORE** – Set out in search for new meaningful, spirit filled ways of being church. Seek different ways, Think of God in new ways. Go places you have not gone before. Inquire. Be curious. Ask new questions. Explore.
- **EXPERIMENT** – Try things out. Sample them. Test them. Encounter the spirit in them. Try it, you may like it. Experience them. The words experiment and experience share the same root.
- **EXCITE** – Stir. Awaken. Move. Inflammate the Spirit within and among you. Energize for mission, for healing and restoring the world to what God intended it to be. Excite for the work of reconciliation and peace and justice, for world of peace and abundance for all. Exploring and experimenting to discover new ways of living our faith

New Technology Grant from Church Vitality fund continues to be a sought out. We are delighted to provide for our congregations' technological needs during these days of COVID and beyond. Applications and guidelines can be found on our website.

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.

Staff Annual Performance reviews have been conducted and filed.

In early September I attended a week long Mediation Skills Training with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center through zoom, a helpful continuing education event.

An additional bonus Healthy Practice for Ministry was offered for Authorized Ministers on Nov 11 to address self-care and wellbeing. Our authorized ministers gained tools to put healthy boundaries in place for self-care and sabbath.

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

OH Interim Ministry Network Working Group, a collaborative ministry of OH UCC and OH DOC, held it fall Basic Interim Training via zoom. I continue to lead and guide this group.

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 have formed a leadership roundtable and continue to explore ways for shared ministry and collaboration.
- 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