

Living Water Association, ONE (Ohio NorthEast)
Heartland Conference UCC
Committee on Ministry Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2020 • 10:00 am • via Zoom

Present: Dick Beck, Pam Beck, Tony Clark, Kim Cran, Allison Gallaher, Ruth Garwood, Jill Harkins Goodman, Amy C. Gopp, Sam Greening, Brent Gundlah, David Herrin, David Hill, Sprite Johnson, Steve Johnson, Allen Kahler, Nayiri Karjian, Kathryn J. Ketchum, John King, Patty Komperda, Donna-Marie Lane, Deb Oden, Nanette Pitt, Doris Powell, Bill Smith

Gathering and preparation – Name, church membership, favourite Christmas ornamentation
Emily Culp Ashby, Member/Associate Pastor at St. Paul's UCC, Cleveland [only pastor until very recently – interim arrived] worship leader at L'Arche – Cleveland; serves on UCC Disability Ministries BoD – **Approved for Ordination – MSP***

Guests – family & church members

Worship led by Emily; service from last summer

Conversation with Emily

Patty Komperda: while serving in Faith Formation – desired a curriculum change → 1st curriculum was more conservative than most UCC theology, although easy to use, not approved by the C Ed. committee; first edited the script, then *worked with the committee* to find a curriculum that was closer to UCC theology

David Herrin – “God eschews the angelic, divinic form of the transfiguration, but after the crucifixion Christ reappears in a human form with wounds and scars.” – please unpack; God has scars so we don't have to change ourselves to meet the Holy; transfiguration=resurrection; if the resurrection happened, how can God not acknowledge that which happened?; focus on a single instance, but Christ does appear in the angelic form in scripture – so isn't set aside

Doris Powell – How do you see & understand sin? Separation from God – that which drives us apart; has non-anthropomorphic theology vis a vie the devil & hell; focuses on *running toward* God (positive side of the theological coin – meets the people of St. Paul's where they are)

David Hill – Reconciliation of ordination with the priesthood of all believers; claiming my call to ordained status -> someone who can articulate the Good News, but does not stand above others, but with them, like a shepherd with the sheep

Dick Beck – personal connection with Walt Brueggeman? No, just missed him at Emory while she was in Belfast
- What drew you to the UCC?; seminary roommate and seminary mentor → emphasis on genuineness of the denomination, liturgical, moves in a more progressive way, building bridges with those with whom we do not agree

Discussion among the CoM –

Jill Goodman – a member at 1st Federated when she changed the curriculum – did it thoughtfully and carefully

Approval of the Sept. minutes – **MSP**

For the second part of our meeting we have invited Rev. Tony Clark from national office of MESA to give us a short introduction to Committee on Ministry and its purpose and function. We will also share any additional information needed.

Prepared by Sprite Johnson

*MSP – Moved, Seconded, Passed