



Central Southeast Ohio Association Heartland Conference December 5, 2019

Note: See the Staff Contacts section. There are new email addresses for Rev. Melodie Rezac and Mary Plumley.

Announcing the HEARTLAND CONFERENCE



“I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them” – Ezekiel 11:19a

With this article it is my great honor to share that at our recent Conference Annual Gathering at Westerville Community United Church of Christ, the vote to change the name of Conference from the Ohio Conference to the Heartland Conference was approved by 93% of the delegates. For those for whom this is completely new information, this vote was the outgrowth of listening sessions over the past several years in which it became clear that we needed a name that was more inclusive of the

geography that we serve: Ohio, West Virginia and Northern Kentucky.

More Than Just Geography

However, the name is about more than just geography. It has to do with the way in which we understand God’s spirit to be pulsing in our common life for the upbuilding of the common good of the communities in which we are located and the wider world. I am excited by the energy that is rising among us to envision ways to ever more robustly learn from one another and support one another across the spectrum of our life. If you are interested in seeing the video of the presentation process from the Annual Gathering, it will be available soon on our website.

Process for Fully Engaging the Heartland Conference Name

The process for fully engaging the Heartland Conference name will entail several steps as we move through the end of the year. The hope is for the name to be fully engaged by January 2020 though we will begin using it more and more prior to that. Some of the specific steps for engaging the new name will be as follows: There will, of course, be the process of making the change legal in terms of our Articles of Incorporation. Our conference attorney had indicated that this process is not complicated, nor costly (under \$100.00). The resolution formulated by our conference attorney that passed at the Annual Gathering grants authority for this to be done.

You may have noticed that word of the name change has already been shared with the national setting of the United Church of Christ through thru the online KYP (Keeping You Posted) email for the week of October 1st. However, specific changes will need to be engaged within each setting of the wider church. In addition, we will need to engage a process of branding and logo development in a way that helps folks know what geography the Heartland Conference covers. A new website will also be in development. Our vision is to engage the associations in this process so that we can develop a more integrated way of communicating across the full spectrum of our life in ways that are clear and easily accessible.

In addition to my travels to local churches and meeting with clergy and other groups throughout our life, I am hopeful that you will share this news with those whom you know. I realize that a new name is only one piece of a process of institutional transformation. In many ways it is just a first step. Yet, I think that it

is an important one so that we may have a fresh language with which to envision our life together as that begins to get expressed and lived into in a variety of ways.

Thanks for your partnership and for any suggestions you may have that would strengthen this process of sharing about our new name. I look forward to our shared discovery of how God's love will pulse through our Heart in ever new ways! Blessings on you!

-Pastor Dave

Clergy Openings



United Church of Granville

Senior Pastor position is open.

[More Information](#)



Westerville Community UCC

Experienced Interim position is open.

[More Information](#)



Grace UCC, Lancaster

Searching for settled Pastor.

[More Information](#)

Pastor Position Opening



Highlands Presbyterian Church in Columbus has an opening for a pastor.

[More Information](#)

Musician Desired...

St. Michael's United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Ohio, is seeking a musician for our Christmas Eve candle light service. Compensation provided. Service is about 1 hour long with traditional Christmas music. Open to any instruments Please contact Rev. Whitney Bruno at whitney.bruno2@gmail.com

Continuing Education & Training

NOTE: If you have taken Ethical Boundary either Anti-racism training then forward your certificate to the office (mary.cseoa@heartlanducc.org) so we can update your record.

Upcoming UCC History and Polity Courses

The New York Conference is offering an online UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network in Jan/Feb 2020, and registration is now open. The instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm EST on the following dates: January 4, 18, 25 and February 1, 2020. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$495. For more information contact course instructor, Rev. David Gaewski, davidgaewski@uccny.org. This polity course is sponsored by the Oneida Association of the New York Conference. Payments should be sent no later than December 20th to: UCC Polity Course, Attn: David Gaewski, P.O. Box 551, Dewitt, NY 13214. Make checks payable to David Gaewski. A syllabus is available upon request. Laity, Members in Discernment and Privilege of Call candidates are all invited! The course will be cancelled if we do not obtain seven registered students. A student is considered registered when full payment has been received. Students who cancel enrollment will receive reimbursements up until January 2nd. Please note several recent courses reached maximum capacity.

Phillips Theological Seminary is offering a UCC History and Polity Course, taught by Margot Pickett. This course will explore the history, theology, polity and ethos of the United Church of Christ in order to provide an understanding of its structure, ministries, and mission commitments. Through weekly reading, online research, reflection, writing, and student interaction this course will enable and encourage students to be faithful interpreters of the UCC. This course also spends time focusing on the emerging UCC and gives students a chance to explore the UCC ethos - what distinguishes us from other denominations. The online course is from January 6-March 1, 2020. The price of the course is \$75. [Click here to register.](#)

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a UCC History and Polity Course for Winter 2020. Information can be found here: <https://faithlead.org/p/ucchp-winter2020>. This course is taught by Rev. Heather Fosburgh, Associate Conference Minister in the Southeast Conference, and is \$629. This course may be available for credit at seminaries or divinity schools; interested students should check with Heather at hefosburgh@gmail.com.

Continuing
Education for
credit offered at
Pittsburgh
Theological
Seminary:

The American Religious Landscape

Preaching A Relevant Word

Kelso Community Conversation on Race and Faith

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a course, Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders for CE credit.

An Invitation to You



An Invitation to You
To Begin a Conversation
About a **Conference**
Inclusion Team

Zoom Call
Thursday, December 5, 7pm

Together with Emily Culp Ashby who serves in the Heartland Conference and on our National UCC Disabilities Ministry Board and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, our UCC Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Ministries, I'd like to invite you to join in a conversation about how we might better engage our commitment to full inclusion of all God's people in the life of the Heartland Conference. We thought a good place to start would be a conversation with any and all who have a passion for this particular work in our life together.

So...If inclusion matters to you...if you want to help build a world more gracious and loving, especially among those with disabilities or mental health challenges, I invite you to be part of this first conversation!

Here is the link to connect by Zoom on Thursday, December 5, at 7 p.m. Hope to "see" you there! Pastor Dave

<https://zoom.us/j/375803428>

Meeting ID: 375 803 428

Dial by your location
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/akO9po28E>

Solar Power 101: A Webinar for Faith Communities

Does your faith community have soul-ar power? For faith communities, solar power can mean putting panels on a roof, but it can also mean much more. The pursuit of solar power can also be a way to serve the community and advocate for a more just society. In this area, Solar United Neighbors has done ground-breaking work that has been replicated all over the country. Topics covered: practical tips for going solar, solar coops as a way to lower costs for faith communities and neighborhood residents, and how faith communities can advocate for energy democracy and equity. The webinar will be on December 5th, but register even if you can't make it in order to receive a link to the video later. [Sign-up now!](#)

2020 Wisdom Conversations Retreat



On Jan. 5 and 6, 2020, the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging will host its third annual Wisdom Conversations retreat, Aging: Realities and Renewal, at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio.

The retreat will feature an evening of relaxation and conversation followed by a day of learning for clergy and

those in ministry with older adults. Participants will enjoy water yoga, massage therapy, Reiki sessions, an essential oils workshop, swimming and evening worship on Sunday. On day two, family counselor and gerontologist Jan Aerie and Parker Center Executive Director Rev. Beth Long-Higgins will speak to attendees about the facts, myths and realities of aging during the morning session. In the afternoon, Aerie and Long-Higgins partner again to present All Congregations Are Aging: Assessment and Planning.

[Registration & Details](#)

OCWM and Other Contributions

As we approach year-end just a reminder that all Year-End financial commitments need to be into CSEOA by January 10, 2020. Please plan your schedules accordingly so that you are able to meet this deadline. Contributions received after January 10 will be recorded as a 2020 contribution.

WHY DONATE TO OCWM? (Our Churches Wider Mission)

[OCWM Video](#)

Great for use to communicate the ministry and mission supported by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support! (11 minutes)

[OCWM Video](#) – short version (1:43 minutes)

CSE Quick Links

[Authorized Clergy and MID Directory](#)

[Calendar of Prayer](#)

[Church Directory](#)

[COM Online Training](#)

2019

Calendar of Prayer

December 8, 2019
CSEOA Personnel Committee

December 15, 2019
Westerville Community UCC,
Westerville

December 22, 2019
Zion UCC, Delaware

December 29, 2019
Zion Reformed UCC, Thornville

**Constitution and By
Laws, adopted 10-27-18**

**Departments, Council and
Committees**

Manual on Ministry

Pulpit Supply List

Visit Our Website



[November Newsletter](#)



[Calendar of Events](#)
[News and Events](#)



[How do I transfer my
standing?](#)

[Heartland Conference website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[UCC Ministerial Code](#)

NOTE:

- **New Email Addresses for Melodie and Mary.**
- **Office hours during Christmas and New Years: The office will be closed December 25, December 26 and January 1. Also, on December 24 and January 2 the office will be open for phone calls and emails only from 10-12 noon.**

Have a Blessed Holiday!

Staff Contacts

Reverend Patrica E. H. Battle,
Association Pastor
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: patriciab@ocucc.org
Call or Text: 614-531-8240

Reverend Melodie Rezac,

Mary Plumley,
Association Office
Administrator/Registrar
Office Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10-2
and Wednesday 1-5

Administrative Minister
Office Hours by Appointment
Email:
melodie.cseoa@heartlanducc.org
Call or Text: 740-503-4803

Email:
mary.cseoa@heartlanducc.org
Call: 614-885-0722, ext. 5
or 800-282-0740, ext. 5

If you have news or photos to share and/or dates you would like to add to the calendar, please submit to mary.cseoa@heartlanducc.org by Monday at 5:00 p.m.
Submit photos in jpeg format.

[Subscribe to the CSE Newsletter](#)



[All UCC LOGOs are Available Here](#)