



# Central Southeast Ohio Association Heartland Conference November 21, 2019

## 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 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



## You're Invited to

### Sarah C. Kientz Ordination to Ministry

11 a.m. Saturday, November 23, 2019  
at First Community Church  
1320 Cambridge Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43212

Clergy are welcomed to robe and process; please arrive by 10:30 am.

[View Invitation](#)

## Meet David's UCC Settled Pastor



Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit David's UCC in Canal Winchester voted on October 13, 2019 to call Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell, as the Settled Pastor. He has accepted the call and will begin serving David's on December 1, 2019.

Rev. Darnell is presently the interim pastor of Warwick United Church of Christ, an open and affirming, multiracial and multicultural congregation in Newport News, Virginia. He previously served in pastoral roles at St. John UCC, St. Clair, MO; Bethesda UCC, Bethesda, MD; and New Church UCC, Peoria, IL.

For the past several years, James has been bivocational – working in fundraising full time, while serving part time in pastoral ministry. Since 2017, he has been manager of development research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

He was baptized into the United Methodist Church as a child and joined the United Church of Christ as a teenager. He was ordained to the ministry in 2011 at his home church, The United Church + Die Vereinigte Kirche (UCC/UMC) in Washington, DC. It is one of four congregations in the UCC that still worships in German.

He has a BA in theatre history from Illinois State University and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. James serves on the board of directors of the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society and is a member of the UCC Historical Council. His many hobbies include community theatre, movies, old time radio, history, and all things German.

## 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](mailto:whitney.bruno2@gmail.com)

## Interfaith/Ecumenical Thanks and Giving Service

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
7121 Muirfield Dr., Dublin 43017

[Details](#)

## Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Church



On November 24, 2019 at 3 pm, Bridges of Grace UCC is having it's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Church. It will be a good time. All are invited, you are welcome to bring a side dish if you would like. This all happens at 3 pm at 1009 Virginia St. East, Charleston, WV. Ya'll come!

Please RSVP to 740-972-0199.

## Continuing Education & Training

**NOTE:** If you have taken Ethical Boundary either Anti-racism training then forward your certificate to the office ([maryp@ocucc.org](mailto:maryp@ocucc.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](https://zoom.us)) The tuition will be \$495. For more information contact course instructor, Rev. David Gaewski, [davidgaewski@uccny.org](mailto: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](mailto:hefosburgh@gmail.com).

Continuing  
Education for  
credit offered at  
Pittsburgh

The American Religious Landscape

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.

Brochure

## Make a Difference Grants Application Deadline: December 1

Do you have the money you need to start your next community project? Whether you would like to partner with a local health services agency to confront the opioid crisis, start a racial justice initiative with the churches in your community, or something else, the Make a Difference Grant could help your church serve the community.

The Make a Difference Grant is an endowment created in 1998 that holds earnings designated for support of leadership development, congregational ministries, and community outreach at both the local and regional levels.

Your proposal for funding needs to be endorsed by your Association Minister and sent to [ohioucc@ocucc.org](mailto:ohioucc@ocucc.org), or to the conference office at 6161 Busch Blvd, Suite #100, Columbus, OH 43229, by December 1, 2019. Grant awards are made up to \$1,000.

[>>>Application form and information are available online here.](#)

Questions: Contact the Conference office at [ohioucc@ocucc.org](mailto:ohioucc@ocucc.org) or 614-885-0722. The Make A Difference (MAD) committee looks forward to helping you to get your special ministries underway!

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>, but register even if you can't make it in order to receive a link to the video later. [Sign-up now!](#)

## 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)

**For: Pastor, Music Director or Church Leader . .**



The BLACKWOOD QUARTET of the historic Blackwood Brothers is available to minister in concert at your church.

Available Dates:

I can email you available 2020 dates if you wish.

Cost:

\$350 + a love offering. Very Affordable.

Don't wait! Many other churches are receiving this same email. Please preview their ministry at [www.BlackwoodQuartet.net](http://www.BlackwoodQuartet.net). I look forward to your response.

Michael Heimple  
719-260-1151  
Mike@CapArtists.com

P.S. Please respond only if you are truly interested in hosting the Blackwood's. Thanks you!

NOTE: If this opportunity not work for your church, we would be grateful if you would forward this email to several of your Pastor friends. Thank you and sincerest Blessings on your ministry.

## CSE Quick Links

Authorized Clergy and MID  
Directory

Calendar of Prayer

Church Directory

COM Online Training

Constitution and By  
Laws, adopted 10-27-18

Departments, Counciland  
Committees

Manual on Ministry

Pulpit Supply List

Visit Our Website

## 2019 Calendar of Events

### Female Clergy Lunch

Female clergy in the Ohio Conference are invited to meet monthly for lunch, fellowship, sharing of resources and support.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Columbus area.

Our next gathering is:

November 26, 2019, 11:30 a.m.  
at the Ikea restaurant (I 71 - Gemini Exit).

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### Calendar of Prayer

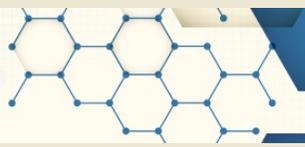
**November 17, 2019**  
Trinity UCC, Baltimore

**November 24, 2019**  
Trinity UCC, Columbus

**December 1, 2019**  
Trinity UCC, Thornville

**December 8, 2019**  
CSEOA Personnel Committee

**December 15, 2019**  
Westerville Community UCC,



[August](#) – Learn More About Your  
Congregation Through Focus  
Groups



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

[Heartland Conference website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[UCC Ministerial Code](#)



Calendar of Events  
What's Happening Now and in  
2019

[News and Events](#)



**Note:**

The office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28. On Friday, November 29, Mary will be available by phone or email ([maryp@ocucc.org](mailto:maryp@ocucc.org)) from 10–noon.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Staff Contacts

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

**Reverend Melodie Rezac,**  
Administrative Minister  
Office Hours by Appointment  
Email: [melodier@ocucc.org](mailto:melodier@ocucc.org)  
Call or Text: 740-503-4803

**Mary Plumley,**  
Association Office  
Administrator/Registrar  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10–2  
and Wednesday 1–5  
Email: [maryp@ocucc.org](mailto:maryp@ocucc.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 [maryp@ocucc.org](mailto:maryp@ocucc.org) by Monday at 5:00 p.m.  
Submit photos in jpeg, png format.

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[All UCC LOGOs are Available Here](#)