



Central Southeast Ohio Association, Ohio Conference November 7, 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 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



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

First Congregational, Marietta

Rev. David Zerby is the new Interim as

of November 1.



United Church of Granville

Senior Pastor position is open.

[More Information](#)



Westerville Community UCC

Experienced Interim position is open.

[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

In Memory of...

Rev. Lowell Zechiel of Delaware,



Ohio passed away on October 14.

[Obituary](#)

Pastor Jon Martin Peterson of Delaware, Ohio passed away October 10, 2019.

[Obituary](#)

Continuing Education & Training

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

Periodic Vocational Support

[Register](#)

A Periodic Vocational Support Session has been added for Thursday, November 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dublin Community UCC.

Interim Ministries



3-Day Basic Interim Ministry Training
November 11-13, 2019
at Camp Christian

Many Congregations find themselves at a Threshold moment that could take them from Surviving to Thriving? This Interim Ministry Training could help you lead that transition.

Ever thought of Interim Ministry as a calling? The Interim Ministry Working Group is holding their Fall 2019 Training November 11-13 at Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio.

If you've ever thought you might be interested in Interim Ministry, you invited to consider this training offered to all UCC and DOC clergy in Ohio. It will help you with your discernment and prepare you for this important ministry.

Worker Justice Is Climate Justice

As the climate movement pushes our society toward becoming fossil free, how can we ensure that the transition happens in a way that is just and fair for

workers? This question will be at the heart of the UCC's next [Creation Justice Webinar](#). The featured guests will be Michael Leon Guerrero from the Labor Network for Sustainability and Michael Williams from the BlueGreen Alliance. In a world that often falsely pits the well being of workers against protection of the environment, they will help us see how matters of justice are interconnected rather than oppositional. The webinar will be on November 14, but register even if you can't make it. [Sign-up now!](#)

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, 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 or 614-885-0722. The Make A Difference (MAD) committee looks forward to helping you to get your special ministries underway!

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. 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, Council and
Committees

Manual on Ministry

Member In Discernment Manual,
rev 7, 10-9-13

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).

Calendar of Prayer

November 10, 2019

CSEOA Department for
Preparation for Authorized Ministry

November 17, 2019

Trinity UCC, Baltimore

November 24, 2019

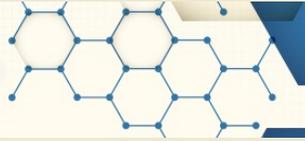
Trinity UCC, Columbus

December 1, 2019

Trinity UCC, Thornville

December 8, 2019

CSEOA Personnel Committee



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



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

[Ohio Conference website](#)

[Outdoor Ministries](#)

[UCC Ministerial Code](#)



Calendar of Events
What's Happening Now and in
2019

[News and Events](#)

Staff Contacts

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Reverend Melodie Rezac,
Designated Administrative Minister
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: melodier@ocucc.org
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Mary Plumley,
Association Office
Administrator/Registrar
Office Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10-2
and Wednesday 1-5
Email: 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 by
Monday at 5:00 p.m.
Submit photos in jpeg, png format.

[Subscribe to the CSE Newsletter](#)



[All UCC LOGOs are Available Here](#)