



NEWS of the 26 Churches of the York Association

Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

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January 2023 – Newsletter

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God’s redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

Leadership Change for the York Association

Thanks for the honor of serving on the York Association Council for several years, these last two years as president. Engaging with the committees of the York Association, addressing budget issues, connecting with conference leaders as well as lay leaders, clergy, and members in discernment, has been a true blessing for me!

I can say with certainty that we have much to be proud of in the York Association—our people, our churches, our ministries, our concern for the world God has entrusted to us, our partnership with the wider church, and our strong faith in Christ Jesus.

I look forward to my continuing relationships with all of you and promise to be supportive of the leaders of our association going forward. Here are our council members for the coming year...

2023 York Association Council

Lisa Young	president
Rev. David Martin	vice-president
Charles Eisenhart	treasurer
Jan Hopple	secretary
Rev. Danielle Neff	committee on ministry chair
George DeMers	outreach committee co-chair
Glenn Young	outreach committee co-chair
Rev. Curt Weber	nominations committee chair
Nancy Cherry	member at large
Rev. Kelly Shiflett	member at large
Joann Kreeger	member at large
Rev. Martha Boyer	member at large

*Blessings,
 Ron Oelrich, outgoing president*

Blessings for the Season

I would like to thank Ron Oelrich as his term as York Association President comes to an end. I look forward to working and serving with you over the coming year as we continue the work of the church through the York Association. In the coming months, we will explore who we are as a Connected and Connecting Association.

Prayers for the New Year.

Lisa K. Young

PCC Office News

On Friday, November 11, 2022, the second gathering of the Keystone Study Group (a study and discernment group of the 4 PA UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, Pennsylvania SE) continued to build our understanding and framing around the possibility of coming together for the work of mission and ministry as one (1) Pennsylvania conference. Over the last several months, using resources provided by all 4 conferences, initial conversations have occurred to explore what new thing God may be calling together in our area.

We spent much of our time identifying a vision for healthy congregations, the supports needed from the conference, and the potential roadblocks to moving forward together. As churches and leaders across many denominations discern the changing landscape of “doing church” and how we can “Be the Church” in new and life-giving ways, we are exploring what we, as conferences, could do to help

local congregations and pastors experience deeper connections and provide support for vitality. We are identifying the challenges of navigating through uncertain times and new ways of intergenerational connections to our present and future communities with the message of hope our faith, experience and tradition has to offer. Together, the study group will be asking the significant questions to strengthen the connection between pastors and local congregations and larger conference networks of the PA UCC conferences to share support, resources, experiences, training and equipping and offer hope.

We welcome and appreciate your prayers as this body of leaders from the 4 PA UCC Conferences study and explore together, gaining valuable information from you and melding the ways we work together to imagine and see the possibilities God is bringing to us. We hold all these things in sacred trust of our shared covenantal relationships.

Respectfully submitted,

Keystone Project Communications Team

Steve Davis	St John's UCC Fullerton (Penn NE)
Sterling Fritz	Redeemer's UCC Littlestown (PCC UCC)
Robin Hightower	Peace in Zion UCC Zigglerville (Penn SE)
Deb Long	First Trinity UCC Youngwood (PWC)

Please mark your calendar for the next meeting. For more information contact:

Martha Boyer, Communicator
717 858-2991,
marthahboyer@hotmail.com

York Association UCC Clergy Gathering
Wednesday, January 11, @ 11am
Lion's Pride Restaurant
20 Dairyland Square, Red Lion, PA 17356

The Communications Ministry of the York Association
Newsletter – Sue Barnes, news@yorkassociationucc.org
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The next newsletter will be emailed on Jan 15th. Please send all articles to news@yorkassociationucc.org by Jan 11th. Thank You!

Around the Association

**St Paul UCC,
161 S Main St, Shrewsbury, PA**

What: New Year's Eve Service

When: Saturday, Dec 31 @ 2pm

Please join St. Paul UCC, as they celebrate a New Year's Eve Service, the final day of their 200th Anniversary Celebration, Pastor Martha Boyer's final service as Pastor followed by refreshments and a program of "Short Stories of Love and Peace."