



# NEWS of the 24 Churches of the York Association

Partners in Blessing - Cooperative Mission, Cooperative Ministry

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## JUNE 2024 – 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)

### Giving Thanks for the Rev. Dr. Ron Oelrich’s Service to our Association

Because the Rev. Dr. Ron Oelrich, Pastor at Faith UCC for over twenty years, his wife the Rev. Sue Oelrich, Pastor at Locust Grove UCC and former Chaplain at Pleasant Acres Nursing Home, and their daughter, Stephanie Oelrich, who recently received her Master's of Divinity degree from LTS, are moving to Missouri to be closer to their son and his family, it is appropriate to remember and give thanks for Rev. Dr. Oelrich’s service to the York Association.

Of course, no one in the Association called him Rev. Dr. Oelrich. He was always Ron, an unprepossessing, warm, and upbeat presence wherever and however he served. Most recently he served on the Council as Vice-President for two years, and then President for two years. During that time, he was known for sitting in on many Committee meetings ex officio, and for worshipping at other churches in the Association whenever he could. He had more knowledge of the life of the Association than anyone else. As President, he encouraged other Pastors to submit articles to the Association newsletter about the life of their congregations. His contagious enthusiasm for the churches in the Association led him to think outside the box and look to the future with hope. When others were disappointed with the lack of volunteers, Ron would say, “Look at who we are blessed with!”

Prior to leading the Council, Ron served on the Committee on Ministry for six years, the last two years as Chair. In this role he offered hospitality and encouragement to Members in Discernment seeking ordination, and to clergy new to the Association, and clear-eyed wisdom in situations of conflict.

He served our Association in countless other ways through the years, and we are thankful to God for his long season of ministry among us.

*Submitted by: Rev. David Martin*

### Congratulations Graduates!

We wish to congratulate **Equilla Curry** and **Stephanie Oelrich** on their graduation from Lancaster Theological Seminary! We look forward to seeing where God will lead each of you!

We celebrate the journey of both of these members who have discerned the calling of God in their lives!

Joslin has accepted the call of Immanuel UCC in Catonsville, MD.



## Cam Richesson Approved for Ordination

Called to Dover UCC as their Bridge Pastor last fall, and as their settled Pastor last winter, Cam Richesson was approved for Ordination by *all* the delegates at the York Association Ecclesiastical Council held on May 5. Raised in the United Methodist Church (her father was a Methodist pastor) in Pennsylvania, Cam for several decades postponed a call to ministry while working as a counselor in the criminal justice system. Finally relenting to God's call, she went to LTS where she was immersed in UCC's culture and values and received her Master's of Divinity degree. Realizing that she felt most at home in the UCC, she sought ordination in our denomination. Our York Association joins with Dover UCC in thanking God for calling Cam to ordained ministry in our midst. We welcome Cam and her wife, Nancy, into our Association!

The Committee on Ministry asks that you mark **August 25** and **September 22** on your calendars as dates for upcoming Ecclesiastical Councils. The location will be announced soon.

**Andrew Boyer** will begin at Lancaster Theological Seminary with a full scholarship in the fall and is now a member in discernment. **Rev. Pete Seiler** has announced his resignation from New Hope Fissel's UCC and they are now in transition.

## Service Marks Closure of St. Paul's UCC in Dallastown

A moving service of closure on May 6 celebrated the ministry of St. Paul's UCC in Dallastown. Much of the congregation, three York Association clergy, the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, and several other clergy were present. The Rev. Dr. Chris Rodkey led the service. Rev. Rodkey was called in 2013. Even then the congregation's future was uncertain. Perhaps the most significant aspect of this last decade was the Open and Affirming Covenant the congregation developed and lived out. This covenant was in deep congruence with the congregation's values of serving the vulnerable and marginalized. In closing the church's consistory announced plans to distribute its assets in ways consonant with its values. A check for \$25,000 was given to True Tabernacle Seventh Day Adventist Church, which had purchased the building, and a \$90,000 check was given to the Penn Central Conference to support the Conference's Open and Affirming Task Force, its camping ministry, and the Conference's many other needful ministries.

## Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting June 7-9, 2024

We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.

(<https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/keystone-conferences-annual-gathering>).

Blessings,

C. Paul Keller, Office Manager

## Around the Association

### Time to Celebrate and Connect St. Paul's UCC

#### 2173 Stoverstown Road, Spring Grove, PA

St. Paul's UCC is hosting its first ever Community Block Party! The event will run from **11 AM to 4 PM** on the church lawn at the corner of Stoverstown and Short Roads on **Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Food trucks, inflatables, and lawn games. Bingo, craft activities and local vendors will set up under the big tent! Music will be provided by a local band, *Hen in the Rooster House*, as well as the *Spring Grove Alumni Band*. The event is being planned in conjunction with the weekend celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the congregation's current building. **Friday night's free outdoor movie night will run from 7:30 – 10:00 PM**, with everyone invited. A **special Homecoming service is being planned for Sunday's 10:15 Worship**, with a meal to follow. For more information call the church office - 717-225-6357.

#### Locust Grove UCC, 1035 Locust Grove Rd, York

##### What: Chicken BBQ & Bake Sale

##### When: Saturday, June 1

##### Time: 11am until sold out

Our dinners will include: ½ chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll & butter, cupcake, and a bottle of water for a cost of \$11.00. We will offer eat-in or carry-out. You may pre-order by calling 717.755.1318 and leaving a message including your name, phone number and the number of dinners. All ordered dinners must be picked up by 1pm.

#### Zion UCC, 100 Lafayette St, York

Zion UCC is seeking a part-time organist and/or pianist starting September 1, 2024. Interested individuals should contact Mrs. Barbara Neiman, Zion Worship Committee Chair, by phone (717-792-1658); cell/text: (717-880-7458) or e-mail ([can@gte.net](mailto:can@gte.net)).

#### Organ Concert By Anna Elise Smith



DATE: Sunday, June 23, 2024

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

Concert is free and open to the public. Please direct questions to the church office, 717-854-1184.

#### Attn: York Association UCC Clergy

The next meeting is on **June 12, at 11am**, at Lion's Pride Restaurant, Red Lion, PA.

**TRINITY UCC - YORK  
SUMMER MUSIC SERIES!**



**July 21, 2024 - 1 PM**  
Lahoda String Ensemble



**August 24, 2024 - 1 PM**  
Sterling Overshown - Pipe Organist

**FREE ADMISSION**

32 W. Market St.  
York, PA 17401  
Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner,  
Pastor



**September 29, 2024 - 1 PM**  
Mark Anthony Hadley - Vocal Recital

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**717-848-1775**



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**The next newsletter, JULY, will be emailed June 20, 2024.  
Please send articles to [news@yorkassociationucc.org](mailto:news@yorkassociationucc.org)  
by June 18. Thank You!**