



May 14, 2017

## Highlight YOUR Church at General Synod 2017

Is your church doing something to help build a just world for all? We want to know! Make a 30-60 second video of you or someone from your church telling us what you're doing.

Your video can show us anything you're doing to make a difference in caring for all God's children and God's creation. Some examples include:

- Your food pantry or food drive
- After-school program
- Tutoring
- Participation in community projects
- Help for the homeless
- Working to protect the environment
- Housing rehab

Send your video to [jannsoha@ucc.org](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org) and your church will be featured on screen at General Synod in Baltimore this summer!

3 things to remember:

- Video should be 30-60 seconds long.
- Shoot your video horizontally (hold the phone sideways).
- Email your video to [jannsoha@ucc.org](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org) by May 30th

Thanks! We can't wait to see and hear your story!

**General Synod 2017**

Baltimore, Md



## Happy Mother's Day !

In the churches that raised me and shaped my Christian faith, one of the most honored positions was the Mother's Board. It is rare to find this group in the churches of today, but when I was a boy there was no group (and rightfully so) that carried more cache than the Mother's Board. If you wanted to get anything done or approved, the best place to start was the Mother's Board. With their big beautiful hats and purses full of peppermints, these ladies loved the body of Christ, and they were a huge resource to young families and mother's especially. They shared advice, shared in discipline, shared their resources, and were kind enough to let the Pastor believe s/he was in charge.

These grand ladies remind me of the biblical character, Naomi. Having lost both her husband and sons, instead of living a bitter existence, Naomi freely shares her love and wisdom with her daughter-in-law Ruth. Far too often, in the youth focused churches today, we forget that our seasoned sisters still have a lot to give. Their lives have been shaped in the crucible of experience and the wisdom they offer the church is invaluable. We may not all have a Mother's Board, but we should provide the physical and spiritual space for these ladies to offer the church the gifts that only come from a mother with a few seasons at her back.

Happy Mother's Day to these mothers and all mothers on this special day!

- Rev. Cean James, ACM CD

