



July 30, 2017

Schuylkill Association Committee on Mission Making a Difference

The Schuylkill Association Committee on Mission is breathing new life in many directions. Currently our committee is a small, yet faithful, group that meets periodically to discuss ideas for local mission projects in our association. We are also working out ideas for a joint mission trip next year with the invitation to go out to all of our member churches.



One of the first places we've started working is the community of Tremont. We specifically targeted some projects around the Tremont Community Center. Upon receiving approval from the Tremont Borough Council, we got to work! Of course, vacations, commitments, and Mother Nature delayed us a bit. However, we pressed on, and have made significant progress and hope to wrap up this project by the end of Summer. Thanks be to God!



We recently repainted several picnic tables in the playground area with a patriotic theme and we also began repainting a well-known wall that separates the pool area from the basketball courts. This small project has had a significant impact and the feedback we have received through social media has been great. Truly, folks in the Tremont community are grateful!

In working on this project so far we have been joined by folks from First UCC in Schuylkill Haven, St. Marks in Cressona, and St. Peter's in Pine Grove. Of course, we can't leave out the children and parents of Tremont who helped out as well.



There is no doubt that the mission field is expansive and growing. Be sure to look close to home for mission opportunities as well as abroad.

Are you a church leader in need of financial assistance or advice on church real estate? Do you need help with overwhelming building challenges?



Every year since 2009, the **United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF)** has convened

at least one **Partners in Building (PIB)** training event in different regions around the country. This year's event will be held on **Friday September 22 to Saturday, September 23, 2017 in Cleveland, Ohio**. The registration cost to PIB participants is only **\$100 per person**. CB&LF pays for housing, meals and travel expenses for up to three church leaders. Church leaders that register for PIB will be asked to complete a short questionnaire that will be reviewed by CB&LF staff to determine that **PIB** will benefit their congregation.

For the second year in a row CB&LF is offering the opportunity for **PIB** participants to **attend one of five workshops that will be offered BEFORE the regular PIB program begins**. The registration fee for each **Pre-PIB seminar** is an additional **\$70 per person and includes lunch**. Interested registrants may choose **ONE of the five pre-PIB seminars offered at 11:45 am on Friday afternoon, September 23rd**:

The Future of Stewardship: Partnering to Build a More Vibrant Church -Learn about the United Church of Christ's new program to help churches strengthen finances and increase giving.

Partners in Vision: Taking on Large or Complex Church Building Projects -Learn how CB&LF assists churches and church organizations with large and/or complex building projects.

Living Legacy – Learn about the UCC resource designed to assist churches entering into the final phase of their organizational and missional lives.

It Begins with Mission & Vision – Articulating your congregation's "why" is the most important first step in any church building project. This workshop will help church leaders to begin to discern their distinctive mission and vision.

Bricks to Mission: Repurposing Church Property – Ways that churches may approach new uses for older church properties.

The **Deadline to register is August 26, 2017**. For more information go to:

<http://www.cblfund.org/learn/>