OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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First UCC, Royersford takes us on their journey of discovering.. "Who are we now?"

Who are we now?

This question is one that we, and many UCC churches are asking as we either prepare for a pastoral transition or work to create the living document that is contained in the "new" UCC Local Church Profile. At **First UCC, Royersford**, we decided to have some fun (and share some food) with the question back in March when we held a World Café event.

At our World Café, volunteers hosted "Countries" complete with flags, decorations and some good food. Groups cycled through the circuit answering questions in our version of Appreciative Inquiry. Not too surprisingly we found that our congregation loves food and events that bring us together. We invited everyone to our event (including our newest visitors who have become more than a little active in our little congregation since).

We were so excited about all the words that came forward to describe our community of faith that a couple of members put them together into this new poster that hangs above our new Rainbow Resource Corner.

We're excited about who we are now, rather than discouraged about who we are not. Yes, we are a small congregation, but rather than a miniature version of someone else's idea of church, we're an authentic version of ourselves – and God is Still Speaking to us and through us.

We encourage every church to enjoy the task of labeling "Who are we now?"

- Rev. Debra Timmins, Designated-Term Pastor @ First UCC, Royersford

NEW SERIES OF COURSES TO BE OFFERED BY PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF MINISTRY

In the United Church of Christ we believe in an educated ministry. We also value the ministry of the laity. Therefore, we are offering courses to laypersons to empower your ministry.

- If you are a church leader - that is, an Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Church Officer, or committee or fellowship chair - You have been set apart for a ministry of leadership in your church.

- We believe that you are conscientious and would like to do your job well.
- We also believe that the Christian faith is important to you and that you would like to continue to grow in your faith.

Therefore we are offering a series of courses to empower your ministry.

The first of these courses we are calling Consistory/Council 101. Our goal is to enhance your understanding of how a local congregation and your denomination can function most faithfully.

Sessions will be as follows:

September 15—"Making Our Church Meetings Effective"
October 6—"Pastor and People Working Together"
October 27—"Connecting Beyond Ourselves"

Sessions will be held on Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.
Sessions will be held at a church near you that has a good internet connection.

Part of each class session will be presented on the internet; part of each class session will consist of discussion at your location.

We have never done this before, so we ask for your patience, as we ask you to register before we have our locations determined.

This will NOT be a boring webinar where one person talks at you, perhaps with a power point. We believe that good learning will occur if we combine presentation of ideas with time to interact and discuss. The interaction will be best if persons from more than one congregation can share in the discussion at each location.

To register go to the PSEC Website (psec.org), click on the tab "Events and News", click on "Calendar" then go to the date of the class you are interested in. Registration information will be found there.