



October 21, 2018

Pension Board Campaign

Early in 2018, The Pension Board of the United Church of Christ challenged PSEC to make a \$50,000 contribution to The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA) Campaign.

For more than a century, The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the charitable arm of The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ (PBUCC), has provided financial assistance to clergy and lay church workers. In recent years, UCBMA introduced leadership development programs for clergy to be effective in today's rapidly changing world of ministry.

Members of our Conference are direct beneficiaries of UCBMA's work.

Only seven percent (7%) of our clergy are younger than 40 but four of those participate in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative Program;

three pastors have benefited from the mid-career CREDO program. In 2017, more than \$60,000 in Ministerial Assistance Grants went to individuals in Pennsylvania Southeast.

The need will increase dramatically over the next several years as half of all our authorized ministers are now 60 years or older. Soon, there will be more retired than active authorized ministers in our Conference.

This shift persuaded delegates of the PSEC 2018 Annual Spring Conference Meeting to join other UCC partners in a \$20,000,000 Pension Board Campaign to do several things:

- Meet financial assistance needs for 14,412 retirees by 2027
- Fund 150 new Next Generation Leadership Initiative participants
- 1,000 participants in the CREDO wellness program
- 240 clergy receive personal financial management training, and 500 receive assistance with seminary debt reduction

(You can find additional information about the UCBMA's campaign here: <https://pbucc.org/index.php/capital-campaign>.)

You can find more information on the "Framework for a Partnership with the PSEC" here <https://psec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Framework-for-a-Partnership-with-UCBMA.pdf>).

Conference Consistory has authorized an initial \$5,000 pledge from Endowment Funds and from those funds will also match pledges, dollar for dollar, from every church and individual up to a maximum of \$30,000. Consistory Members have pledged themselves to a gift of \$1,000. If all 161 PSEC churches contribute \$273.00 to this Conference initiative, we will far surpass our goal. That's \$54.65 each year over five years of the campaign. This is the minimum contribution we hope all congregations will make in support of those who have served the church for so long and so well; and in support of those who are preparing to do so long into the future.

May it be so with God's blessing and yours!

Bill

(*Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister*)



Plans forming for PSEC—PNEC Rebuild Trips to Puerto Rico

PSEC and PNEC will sponsor **rebuild mission trips to Puerto Rico** April 28-May 4 and May 12-18, 2019. We will be working in conjunction with UCC Disaster Ministries who has established a rebuild mission on the island. The work could include anything from fixing roofs to painting walls. We will know more as we get closer to our departure.

The cost per participant will be somewhere between \$700 to \$1,000. This will cover the cost of transportation, food, lodging, supplies, etc. The deadline for registration is Nov. 15. Registration requires a \$50.00 deposit. Make check payable to Penn Northeast Conference, UCC.

The next information/planning meeting will be held Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at Greenawalds United Church of Christ, 2325 Albright Ave, Allentown, PA 18104, at 6:30 pm.

To receive more information on these trips please email Karl Jones at kjones275@comcast.net and copy Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez at gilbertor@pnecc.org.