



November 25, 2018

Nominations open for Antoinette Brown Awards

Nominations are open for the UCC's Antoinette Brown Awards. Each biennium, the award is given to two outstanding clergywomen whose ministries exemplify advocacy for women and significant leadership in the local church, community, or other church-related institution.

The Antoinette Brown awardees will be celebrated at General Synod — June 21-25 in Milwaukee — with a presentation of medals and a public reception. Awardees also will speak at the UCC Clergywomen Leadership event in 2020.

Nominations for the Antoinette Brown Awards close Jan. 15. Read more about the awards and find the nomination form here:

http://www.ucc.org/news_nominations_open_for_antoinette_brown_awards_honoring_trailblazing_women_clergy_

Lay Boundary Training

The Conference will sponsor a Boundary Training event for Lay individuals on Saturday, January 26th @ Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyertown from 9:00 am—12:00 noon.

More details will be forth coming.

Quiet Days

The last of the 2018 Quiet Days will take place on Tuesday, December 4th at New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville. At this busy time of year, take some time of quiet solitude, individual reflection, fellowship and sharing. Quiet days are from 9:30 am—1:00 pm. Bring your Bible, journal, pen and a bag lunch. Come and see what God has in store for you!

2019 Quiet Days will begin in February!

A Recap of the PSEC Fall Meeting

A total of 227 delegates and guests from ministry settings and 109 local churches brought to life an exciting Conference Fall Meeting at Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Boyertown, PA on Saturday, November 10th. Among the highlights:

We worshiped together with music leadership from Good Shepherd's Matt Wary, the Men's Choir of Falkner Swamp UCC and Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman (Calvary UCC, Reading). We communed and prayed together with words crafted by the Annual Meeting Worship Planning Team and filled the sanctuary with full throated hymn singing!

We celebrated all that our OCWM contributions accomplished this year and committed to a 2019 spending plan that includes a retiree's scholarship fund, increased support for young adult ministries and a 2.5% increase to staff salaries.

Rev.'s Worley and Morris introduced the Re-visioned UCC Manual on Ministry to lay leaders and authorized ministers; a revision that includes (among many other things) a move to two forms of ministerial authorization (Lay and Ordained) and "Exempt Status" for self-identified retired clergy.

The afternoon discussion on Penn Northeast and Pennsylvania Southeast Conferences coming together was spirited, thoughtful and faithful. Disappointingly, the resolution to consolidate conferences was not approved. More work needs to be done before this partnership reaches its final form and to that work many Conference members have, and will continue, to strive. We owe deep gratitude to Rev. Barbara Pence for her leadership along with the rest of the members of the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team.

Deep gratitude is due also to Ms. Jennie Strauch who successfully Moderated her first Conference Meeting; Rev.'s Matt Hoover, Kim Berenotto and our gracious hosts at Church of the Good Shepherd; the PSEC Staff, Members of our Conference Consistory and the Annual Meeting Planning Team chaired by Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger who, by their dedication, made our meeting a faithful success!

May God Continue to Bless Us All!

Rev. William (Bill) P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister