



February 10, 2019

Youth Opportunities at General Synod 2019

June 21-24 @ Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Join with fellow youths from around our Conference and experience the UCC's 32nd General Synod!

Do you like engaging in church in deep and meaningful ways? Are you interested in how the UCC works at the national level? Do you want to go on an adventure?



Join us for United Church of Christ's General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 21 through 24 (we anticipate flying out in the morning on June 21 and returning home the evening of June 24). The event is at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee and we will be staying at a hotel or Airbnb in walking distance.

The Youth @ Synod program is for 13 to 18 year olds. This is an incredible opportunity for youth to experience what the United Church of Christ is like beyond your local church and to see firsthand what the national and wider settings of the United Church of Christ are all about. It is an excellent chance for young people to engage in learning about the work of the Church as well as stepping into leadership opportunities. Youth will be fully integrated and involved in all that Synod has to offer.

The total cost per youth is \$1080 – this includes flights, hotel, transportation, meals, and synod registration. You are not expected to pay the entire cost, but what the conference can pay is dependent on how many youth are interested in attending synod.

For more information go to:

<https://psec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/youth-at-synod-psec-2019.pdf>

UCC Congregations Positively Affecting Their Communities

One of PSEC's **2020 Vision objectives** was "to see 5 cities or towns being positively affected by the presence of a UCC congregation as measured by the quality of life standards (i.e. education, housing/homelessness, crime reduction, employment opportunities, health/wellness) of those communities."

That objective was reached in several towns of the Schuylkill Association. The pastors and lay leaders of local churches there worked together in response to summertime flood damage in and around their communities. The Mayor of Tremont, PA, Mr. Ricky Ney presented a plaque, now in the keeping of St. Peter's UCC, Tremont, in gratitude for all that the United Church of Christ did in support of the people in Tremont, Pine Grove, Hamburg and the surrounding areas.

There are too many people to thank for making this happen and I am always fearful of not including someone's name, but it is important to lift up the work of Rev. Karl Jones, PSEC Disaster Ministries Coordinator, Schuylkill Association Pastors Claude Schach, Jason Stump, Maureen Duffy-Guy, Shawn VanDyke and Craig Zimmerman for the roles they and their congregations played. Add to that a long list of contributors from congregations across our Conference who responded to the call for financial support and we have 'a portion of the Body of Christ moving in a collaborative direction to effect for God and for good the lives of all people.'

Someone recently reminded me that the church is the only organization in the world that exists solely for people who are not (yet) members. There are countless residents in Schuylkill who now know that is true. I hope and pray the same thing can be said in the cities, towns and villages you call home.

Prayers that it may be so.

Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister