



August 1, 2021

PSEC Minister Contributes to General Synod Retreat Space

Attendees of previous General Synods will remember a physical space set aside for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Within 2021's virtual format, organizers planned a similar opportunity for participants by creating an online retreat space, *Sacred Time*.

Last spring, the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay of the UCC National Ministries Office put out an open call for submissions of resources for this *Sacred Time* space. She then selected the works of some dozen writers and musicians, both amateurs and professionals, from around the country. These devotions, reflections, songs, and prayers all centered on the GS33 theme, "Rooted in Love."

Among the contributors to *Sacred Time* is PSEC member Janeen Adil, Commissioned Minister of Christian Spirituality. Chosen for inclusion were her two reflections: "Roots and Walls" and "Roots and Stars."

All the *Sacred Time* content is currently available for download at [UCC.org](https://www.ucc.org). Under **Worship Quick Links**, click on any of the three **Worship** tabs—**Opening, Wednesday, or Closing**—to access these materials.



General Synod Recap

Our UCC's 33rd General Synod closed with worship Sunday, July 18, eight days after the historic "Special Edition" (meaning entirely virtual event) opened. Instead of gathering in Kansas City, Missouri (as was the pre-pandemic plan), the 715 voting delegates and almost 2,000 visitors logged on from their homes, or in small clusters at churches or hotels to attend.

Half of the PSEC delegation gathered at the Doubletree in Reading, PA for the last three days of Synod during the business heavy portion of the meeting which included:

- Budget discussions

- Nominations and an election of Associate General Minister Traci Blackmon.

- Eleven resolutions in which the Synod lent its voice to theological and social issues including (but not limited to): a call to be a Church of Contemplatives in Action, recognition of the United Nations International Decade for people of African descent, a Declaration on the Rights of Nature, a call to ban conversion therapy, and Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. News on all the General Synod Resolutions can be found at:

<https://www.ucc.org/tag/general-synod-2021/>

For anyone who has been to Synod more than once, our national gathering has the feel of a family reunion. There are long conversations across delegate tables and dining tables about the things that matter most to our local churches and Christian faith. Debates carry long into the night in hotel lobbies and local restaurants. Our well-functioning virtual platform (meet.UCC), enabled discernment and decision making that was sometimes wonky and disjointed but effective at helping people scattered across the nation and globe get rooted together in a Spirit of love and grace if not consistent unity.

As one of the final pieces of business, members of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference invited the church to its next General Synod, scheduled for the summer of 2023 in Indianapolis when, hopefully and prayerfully, we will be 100% COVID free!

Rev. William P. "Bill" Worley
Conference Minister