

UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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March 12, 2023

After a year-long search, the United Church of Christ Board's Search Committee for General Minister and President has made a historic choice. The committee will be recommending Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the UCCB this week as nominee for General Minister and President. If elected, she would be the first woman, and the first woman of African descent, to lead the denomination. To read the letter to the wider church from Search Committee Chair, the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, go to ucc.org and click on the purple ribbon on the opening page that reads "Search Committee Recommends Thompson for GMP"

**A Call to Action,****Reconnecting the Church to a Vocation of God's Justice****Date: April 16, 2023 at Ascension UCC or Online****Free Registration at:**<https://acalltoaction.eventbrite.com>

Reverend Traci Blackmon will be visiting Ascension UCC on April 16th and speaking about the importance with connecting the Church to justice work. Rev. Traci Blackmon is Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ and serves as pastor in residence for Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. As a public theologian, Rev. Blackmon's voice is featured on many local, national, and international platforms spanning the breadth of the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican, as well as several documentaries and print publications.

From 2009 through 2020, Rev. Blackmon served as pastor of Christ the King United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO, a position she retired from to serve the wider church fully. The ministries of the church expanded under her leadership, serving as a sacred launchpad for communal engagement. After the police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., Christ the King hosted the first community-led town hall meeting and dialogue with law enforcement and elected officials. The church led several other mobilization efforts and healing spaces during the Ferguson uprising.

The question of how to enact the role of the church in community justice work is often overwhelming for many local congregations. Determining the next steps is essential for the church to live out the vocation to which God has called us. We hope that she will be able to share her voice at this moment in Norristown and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Join us to connect with a community working towards a more just world as we learn from the words and wisdom of Reverend Blackmon. This will be an interactive event. There will be a time for questions and answers to Rev. Blackmon's lecture. This will be followed by breakout sessions and time to discuss next steps.

For additional information or questions, please contact the church office at Ascension Church at ascensionucc@comcast.net or 610-539-1693.

OFFICIAL CALL—  **ANNUAL MEETING 2023**

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference**Friday, June 2—Saturday, June 3****@ West Chester University****110 W. Rosedale Ave.****West Chester, PA****Register at: <https://psecannual23.eventbrite.com>**