



July 23, 2023

General Synod Highlights from Conference Minister

The 34th UCC General Synod in Indianapolis came to a close July 4th. Our Conference was blessed by the faithful commitment of thirty-one volunteer delegates who lent their voices to the movement of the Holy Spirit in challenging discussions, debates and decisions. Your prayers for them as they traveled to and through the very long days that Synod required were much appreciated.

Our General Synod Highlights Included:

The recognition of Open Table UCC, Pottstown among the new church starts celebrated from around the denomination.

The inclusion of PSEC/PNEC Ecumenical Partners from the Church of South India, Bishop Prasana Samuel and his wife Esther, who spoke briefly to the Synod about anti-Christian violence Manipur, India.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson was the first Black woman elected to the position of General Minister and President. She takes the place of outgoing Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer who was elected in 2017. Prayers for John as he returns to local church ministry in Illinois.

The frequency of General Synod meetings was changed from two to three years due in part to the substantial cost of large national gatherings and the significant reduction in National Staff members over the last twenty years. That change will take effect following General Synod 35 in Kansas City, Missouri in 2025. General Synod 36 will gather in 2028 at location to be determined.

Resolutions and pronouncements regarding a number of social justice concerns. Those and other actions taken by the Synod can be found on the General Synod News website page generalsynod.org/news.

The work of General Synod did not end in Indiana. There is much to do to implement the resolutions that were passed and to forge a relationship with our new General Minister and President whose leadership will shape the near and distant future of our denomination. Please pray for our "united and uniting" church as it continues to be the bold and faithful witness to the power of the resurrected Christ that our broken world so desperately needs.

With the best of God's Blessings,

Pastor Bill *Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister*

Lifting Up Additional 2023 Anniversary Churches Celebrating 250 Years of "Being Church"

St. Peter's Union Church, Macungie

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul Sorcek

St. Peter's Union Church is located on St. Peter's Road it has been a landmark for many years, and is often referred to as "The Little White Church On The Hill". The earliest reference to services being held at the St. Peter's Church site was 1773. Services were held in a small stone building known as "Die Barrick Schule"



On June 2, 1844, in the 68th year of American Independence, the Church Articles were drawn up for a Union Church to be called St. Peter's German Lutheran and Reformed Church. The cornerstone to the Christian Education Building was laid in 1969, by Mary Lessig, who served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for more than 50 years. She became Superintendent when she was 17. The building was dedicated to Mary Lessig and known as Mary Lessig Hall. Many changes have taken place over these years.

Celebrating 175 Years of "Being Church"

Salem UCC, Donaldson

Salem UCC is a small congregation but one that is proud of its Faith and Fellowship. They are led by Eugene Horner.

Celebrating 75 Years of "Being Church"

Saint Stephen's UCC, Philadelphia

Pastored by Rev. Dr. William Alexander who is a retired military chaplain.



They have a day care in connection with the Grace Neighborhood Development Association which is recognized as the best in Philly! The day care also offers an after-school program.