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