

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



100 Days in Office

A Message from Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister

Leaders often are judged by their first 100 days in office. June 2 will mark my first 100 days as Designated Conference Minister. I will be giving a "State of the Conference" report at Annual Meeting which will be available also on the website after the close of the meeting.

Please check the website the week before Annual Meeting to read submitted reports. I hope that you will be able to gather with us at Piedmont College as we take the first steps on this journey into the place God is calling Southeast Conference.

May has been more of an in-the-office month including meetings with our Conference attorney, our accounting firm, and other folks who aid us in our ministry. I did manage to get to the fish fry at Deer Lodge Congregational Church in Tennessee. I was privileged to be invited to speak at the Upper Room Fellowship (a gathering of Nashville churches focused on prayer and daily devotions). It was hosted by Howard Congregational UCC and we enjoyed wonderful music by Connye Florance and Kevin Madill, jazz recording artists and Howard musicians. I also had the opportunity to worship with Church of the Savior in Roswell, Georgia, preach Gospel Sing Sunday at Holy Trinity Nashville, and bring greetings to the 147th anniversary celebration at First Congregational Atlanta where Rev. Ozzie Smith, pastor at Covenant UCC South

Holland. Illinois and First Church pastor. Dwight Andrews offered praise as musicians and preachers.

Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION IS ONLINE

You can get all of the information you need for the Annual Meeting on our website, including online registration, schedule, and lodging information. **Registration closes on June 13th, so make sure that you register today!** [Click this link to get connected.](#)

YOUTH GATHERING AT ANNUAL MEETING

In this time and place, youth are a creative, energetic, service focused, playful, imaginative force in the church! Youth from 6th grade to 12th grade are encouraged to join with others from around the conference to explore each of these elements. This gathering includes a service project, a UCC 101 workshop, games and access to the Piedmont gym, and a time to create together. Youth should use the [online registration](#) and select the reduced youth rate!

AUTHORIZED MINISTERS RETREAT

All authorized ministers of the Southeast Conference are invited to spend a day in fellowship, reflection, and sharing stories. This retreat will be facilitated by Valerie Tutson, Linda Jaramillo, and Felix Villanueva. Our conversations together will be the starting point of the assessment, visioning and strategic planning process as the Southeast Conference looks to its future and determines what is needful "for such a time as this." Won't you join the conversation and let your voice be heard and your presence made known.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

As we share our stories with one another when we gather at Piedmont College, each church is asked to prepare a poster size foam core display board that shares the Good News of your congregation. This good news may be an ongoing mission project or a special event or a collection of the ways you do worship, outreach, and justice ministries. All the posters will be displayed throughout the event so we can share with one another how we follow Christ and how the Holy Spirit is leading us as a presence for blessing in this world.

Generosity Corner

AROUND the CONFERENCE

Tornado Cleanup and Trinity Congregational Church in Athens

Once again tornadoes tore through Limestone County and once again brothers and sisters came together to assist and bring comfort. On April 28, 2014, EF3 tornadoes touched down in the Clements, Poplar Creek and Coxe areas near Athens, leaving a broad path of destruction. There were two deaths, several injuries and an estimated \$2.75 million dollars in damages. Just three years ago EF5 tornadoes devastated a large portion of the county on April 26, 2011.



Church World Service provided twenty "Clean Up" kits to be distributed by Trinity Congregational Church, UCC of Athens where Gary Myers is Pastor. Twenty five toiletry packs were also provided by the Christian Education Department of First Congregational Church UCC of Birmingham, Alabama.

[Click here to read the rest of the article on the SECUCC website](#)

Ordination for Drew Terry

George Andrew Terry, known as Drew to his friends and fellow church goers at Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta, was ordained into the Christian ministry on May 11. Drew is has been called to serve Wright Congregational UCC in Boise, Idaho beginning in June.





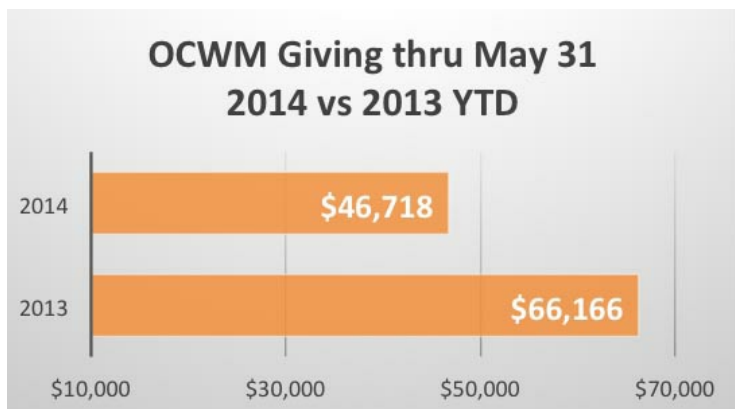
Invest IN THE Vision

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Reminder: Strengthen the Church Special Offering is coming up. This is the second of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. The suggested offering date is Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014. Gifts to this offering will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking," Do you need bulletin material? Mission Moment material? Posters? It is all available to you. Go to this link: <http://www.ucc.org/stc/>

OCWM Our Church's Wider Mission UPDATE

OCWM basic support payments to the conference in the First Quarter of 2014 are well behind prior years. Through 5/31/14 just \$46,718 has been given from about 1/2 the churches. Please, if your church budgets will allow, your Conference's work for programs and ministry needs everyone's OCWM support.



The most efficient way to do that is to send in your OCWM payment on a quarterly basis, if at all possible. The 2nd quarter will be ending soon. [Click here to download an OCWM payment envelope.](#) Thank you for your continuing support of the Conference.

Capital Campaign UPDATE



Laying on of Hands with Revs. Susannah Davis and Ginnie Ferrell



PATHWAYS is a leadership formation ministry of the Southeast Conference, UCC, that has been serving the wider United Church of Christ in the area of theological education since 2011. The program's purpose is to serve the future. PATHWAYS does this by investing in our churches through equipping their leaders for the emerging tasks of ministry. It seems that this future is happening sooner than we ever anticipated. As this time of year is marked by graduation ceremonies across the nation, PATHWAYS is proud to present five graduates who have successfully completed the PATHWAYS Level 2 program.



From top left to bottom right: Heidi Hulme, Mary O'Riley, Marsha Browan, Shonda Deranleau, and Kate Stulce.

Heidi Hulme, full-time pastor at Faith UCC in Davenport, IA

Kate Stulce, pastor associate for spiritual life at Pilgrim UCC in Chattanooga, TN

Shonda Deranleau, part-time pastor at Truro UCC in Truro, IA

There are 25 SEC pledging churches and the Campaign pledged total is \$658,700. A review committee has been formed to review grant applications. If you or your church has a project that needs funding, email dspearman@secucc.org or call Debbie who will be glad to explain the application and granting process. The available grant money is to be used to expand Mission and Ministry in the SEC. [Refer to the Capital Campaign brochure for more information.](#)

by Debbie Spearman

Two positions have just opened up in the UCC Young Adult Service Communities!

YOU could be the right person for one of the them.

YASC at First Parish Church United of Westford, MA - position with the Wish Project or Minute Man ARC

YASC at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia, PA - position with P.O.W.E.R. Faith Based Community Organizing or Broad Street Ministry.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. Begin here:

www.ucc.org/volunteer/yasc

YOUTH PEACE CAMP

July 7 to 13, 2014, 8am-5pm

6th to 12th grade **Peace Camp at Central** will be lots of fun. We are scheduled to go to four different service agencies during the week. One day we will be working on a service project at Central. The other half of the day will be fun activities. Youth from around Atlanta are welcome. Our limit is 24 participants and there is a cost for registration. For more information or to sign up, please contact Lacey Brown, Youth Director (lacey@central-ucc.org)



Vicki Diekmann, the wife of Rick Diekmann, pastor at Brookmeade Congregational UCC Nashville, died on May 17th. Vicki was diagnosed with ALS but maintained as much as possible including walking with Brookmeaders in a C.R.O.P Walk in May. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 21, at Brookmeade. We hold Rick and the family as well as the Brookmeade congregation in prayer in this difficult time.

Marsha Brown, pastor at Phoenix Christian Church in Wildersville, TN

Mary O'Riley, pastoral intern at shared ministry of UCC Congregational and First Presbyterian Churches in Creston, IA

[You can read the rest of the article on the SEC website by clicking here](#)



Join us this Thursday June 5th for the first Just Practice webinar focused on how members and congregations can be engaged in electoral politics. We will explore together:

- Why we are involved in electoral politics and what is our unique voice as communities of faith?
- Our Faith Our Vote, a UCC campaign to assist congregations and members to be faithfully engaged in the electoral process.
- Election rules as they apply to congregations - what we can and can't do.
- What is the Voting Rights Amendment Act? Why is it important for our right to vote and how can we support it.
- Role of "big" money in campaigns - Why this is an important issue and what we can do about it.
- Your questions and concerns

You can get more information by visiting www.ucc.org/justice/training/



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Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ





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