53rd ANNUAL MEETING

May 31—June 2, 2019

Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC
Pleasant Hill, Tennessee

That We May All Be One

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
# SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY – May 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Set up Expo</td>
<td>Heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Pioneer Museum Open</td>
<td>Boyce Hall/Pleasant Hill Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Registration opens</td>
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<td>Expo Opens</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Adshead</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:30</td>
<td>Opening Worship</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>2:30 – 3:00</td>
<td>“That We May All Be One”</td>
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<td>Rev. Char Burch, Southeast Conference &amp;</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President</td>
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<td>3:00 – 3:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:30 – 4:45</td>
<td>Business Session I</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Call to Order</td>
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<td>Introduction of Guests and Staff</td>
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<td>Designation of the Parliamentarian</td>
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<td>Declaration of a Quorum</td>
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<td>Adoption of Agenda</td>
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<td>Adoption of the Standing Rules</td>
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<td>Approval of the Minutes from Annual Meeting Junes 8-9, 2018</td>
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<td>Moderator’s Report</td>
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<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
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<td>Introduction of the Spirit of the Cross Church - Huntsville, AL</td>
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<td>In-Seat Chair Exercises</td>
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<td>OCWM Video Presentation</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee Report</td>
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<td>Announcements and Shout Outs</td>
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<td>4:45 – 5:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>5:00 – 6:30</td>
<td>Polynesian/Hawaiian Themed Pig Roast</td>
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<td>sponsored by Uplands Village</td>
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<td>6:30 – 8:00</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
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<td>6:30 -</td>
<td>Hike Opportunity</td>
<td>Meet at Community House</td>
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<td>(20-30 Minutes – 1 mile)</td>
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<td>8:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Dessert Social</td>
<td>Boyce Hall/Pleasant Hill Church</td>
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SATURDAY – June 1

7:00 – 9:00 am  Breakfast
8:00  Hike Opportunity  Meet at Community House
       (30-40 Minutes – 1.3 miles)
8:00  Registration Opens
8:00 – 8:30  Morning Prayers
9:00  Expo Opens  Heritage
9:00 – 10:30  Workshops
9:00 – 12:30  Pioneer Museum Open
10:30 – 10:45  Break
10:45 – 12:15  Workshops
12:30 – 1:45  Lunch and Celebrations  Adshead
              Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries
              Recognition of 5 for 5 Churches
1:45 - 2:00  Break
2:00 – 3:00  Business Session II  Sanctuary
             Call to Order
             Vote on Budget
             Election of New Board and Committee Members
             Installation of New Board and Committee Members
             The Way Forward
             Announcements and Shout Outs
             Adjourn Business
3:00 – 4:30  Southeast Conference at Worship
             Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer preaching
4:30 – 5:00  Break
5:00 – 6:30  Dinner  Adshead
6:30 – 9:00  Southeast Conference Celebrates!  Community House

SUNDAY – June 2

6:30 – 8:30 am  Breakfast  Adshead
7:00  Hike Opportunity  Meet at Community House
       (50-60 Minutes – 1.6. miles)
9:00 – 10:30  Workshops
10:45 – 12:00  Worship with Pleasant Hill Community UCC  Sanctuary

Safe Journey Home!
WORKSHOPS

Following the theme for the Annual Meeting, this year’s workshops have been organized following 4 different tracks. This means that if you are interested in a particular aspect of the theme, you can find at least one workshop addressing that particular focus during each workshop time. Of course, you do not need to follow any particular track and can just choose what is appealing to you during each workshop time. The four tracks are as follows:

- Unity Across the Lines
- Strategies for Creating Unity
- Unity Within and Without
- Unity with Creation

FRIDAY, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Conversations in Theological Diversity- (Track 1) - Workroom

Participants will describe their theological location and have the opportunity to ask one another questions about their descriptions of their theologies. This gives a space in which we can express our diverse theologies and grow in our understanding of others. We will touch on a tangential discussion of social location as a contributing factor in our theological development.

PRESENTER: Rev. Glenna Shepherd, Pastor at Pleasant Hill Community Church. She has facilitated this on four continents, and it has invariably led to greater understanding and appreciation of the variety of theologies that are represented in our faith communities.

Welcoming our Veterans and their families to enter our doors and stay on our pews: Recognizing the challenges of reintegration and building a pathway to care - (Track 1) - Room 4

Many say one of the first casualties of war is the God of one’s childhood. Our faith communities often are an important point of contact for our veterans and their families, and yet sometimes we are unaware of how to have conversations that directly relate to the wounds of war. During our time together we can explore pertinent topics such as: Identifying potential conflicts between civilian and military cultures; Deployment; Moral injury; PTSD; Suicide Prevention; Hearing the narratives.

PRESENTER: Rev. Jennifer Crenshaw has met Fellow level with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, and is currently the Vice President of the Tennessee Association of Pastoral Psychotherapists. She has worked with veterans from every era co-facilitating PTSD groups and counseling those with Military Sexual Trauma as well as palliative end of life care. Jennifer is a member of Brookmeade Congregational Church, Nashville TN.

A Brief Summary of Gender - (Track 1) - Choir Room

In a service to others, we should try to understand each other as much as we can while admitting that sometimes we don’t. The way that we classify our own gender identities, or choose not to do so, should be a constant dialogue with any ‘others’ that we may not understand. Questions and respect are integral, as is the knowledge that self-expression is constant and should never be suppressed by self or others.

PRESENTER: Mr. Gavin Warren is a Vanderbilt Divinity graduate seeking ordination in the UCC. He currently serves as the Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference, and worships at Holy Trinity Community Church in Nashville, TN.

Church Marketing Best Practices - (Track 2) - Sanctuary

This workshop will cover how to improve your church’s visibility in your community. It will discuss how to lay a strategic foundation and define your congregation’s personality. We’ll discuss how to be persuasive without being manipulative by building and launching a good church marketing plan with goals, strategies and action steps. We’ll also provide best practices for using social media and your church’s website.

PRESENTER: Don Harris is our Conference Communications Director. He has been designing websites since 1995, and working with churches around the country for the last decade to help improve their online presence.
What Holds us Together as the Southeast Conference? - (Track 3) - Community House
Churches and Ministers in the Southeast Conference are diverse in their geography, history, theology, and focus for mission. You are invited to join in a conversation about what is it that holds us together. What are the values that we have in common and how do we live out those values as the Southeast Conference?

PRESENTER: Rev. Char Burch has been serving as the Transitional Conference Minister for the Southeast Conference since January 2019. She has specialized in interim/transitional ministry for 37 years and is a member of Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN.

Healthy Ministry Begins with Self-Care - (Track 3) - Room 2
In this workshop, we will consider the priority of self-care in ministry, assess our efforts at self-care, and examine possibilities for change and support.

PRESENTER: Rev. Marie Fortune is the Founder of FaithTrust Institute and author of the first curriculum for clergy on healthy boundaries. She also has written IS NOTHING SACRED?, KEEPING THE FAITH, and SEXUAL VIOLENCE: THE SIN REVISITED. She is semi-retired and living at Uplands Village.

Restoring Dignity at Home and Abroad - (Track 3) - Room 1
Global Ministries is the combined overseas ministries of both the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ denominations. We walk with people, organizations, and churches all over the world to share God’s love by restoring dignity. But what is dignity and how do we restore it? In this workshop we will discuss global missions, the church, and how to restore dignity at home and abroad.

PRESENTER: Ms. Cara McKinney has been serving as a Global Mission intern since 2016 with Melei Xojabal, a children’s advocacy partner in Chiapas, Mexico. Chiapas is located in the Southern Mexican state, bordering Guatemala, with a large indigenous community. She is a member of the Disciples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cleveland, OH.

How We Are Bringing A Community Solar Array to Pleasant Hill - (Track 4) - Heritage Hall
The workshop will share the process of how the project developed at Pleasant Hill, TN. It began with an idea which was shared with meetings arranged to spread the word, and then a committee evolved to develop and carry out necessary tasks. The presentation will include the current status of the project.

PRESENTER: Ms. Gail Ford is a member of Pleasant Hill Community Church where she is the Core Minister for Congregational Care. She initiated the solar project within at Pleasant Hill and is chair of the Solar Committee. Her major qualification for doing this is her interest and willingness to engage in making this happen.

SATURDAY, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Stewardship and Ministry... and Why your OCWM Support Matters - (Track 1) - Room 2
There are three foci to this workshop: To broaden the vision of Our Churches Wider Missions, and to provide insight as to how our contributions support these causes; To provide support and education on how to start planned giving programs; To establish plans that can transform your ministry or projects that can fortify your endowments in the future.

PRESENTER: Ms. Carrole Moss is the Generosity Coordinator for the Southeast Conference. She is a minister at Victory for the World Church, in Stone Mountain, GA
Doing Justice ‐ Loving Mercy ‐ Walking Humbly: Engaging Your Church in Social Justice ‐ (Track 1) ‐ Community House

There are very few UCC churches that do not take the call to ministries of social justice seriously. Although our spirits are willing, bodies and minds sometimes need some help. In this workshop, we will 1st talk in general terms about a spiritual basis for doing this work. We will then have an informal panel discussion to hear how other churches are doing this important work.

PRESENTER: Rev. Alan Ballentine is involved in community and social justice ministries in the Huntsville, AL area. He is active and provides pulpit supply for the United Church of Huntsville. He is also a Software Change/Configuration Manager for a small aerospace and defense contractor in Huntsville.

Resurrection, Faith, Ministry: The Unlikely Story of an LGBT Youth Program in the Deep South ‐ (Track 1) ‐ Room 1

This workshop will explain how a small, new church overcame a tremendous setback to their primary community ministry, a weekly support group for LGBTQ teens and, in regrouping, created a far more impactful organization. Presenters will share 1) a resurrection story about overcoming a threat to the youth group through its rebirth as a 501c3 with powerful curriculum and leadership, 2) a faith story about strengthening and trusting community connections to take the ministry to new heights, and 3) a ministerial story about listening to and serving “the least of these” (our lgbtq kids) without using Christian language they associate with prejudice and harm. The presenters will invite discussion from participants about successes and challenges of a nontraditional model for youth ministry in which the church ministers to youth in the community context, not within the ministries of the church.

PRESENTERS: Rev. Ellen Sims, Pastor of Open Table UCC in Mobile, AL; Justin Litaker and Corey Harvard, Executive Directors of Prism United and active members of Open Table UCC.

Shattering the Mental Health Stigmas ‐ (Track 1) ‐ Heritage Hall

This workshop will be a conversation around confronting the stigmas in our church and community. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NACM) one in every five Americans experienced a mental disorder in any given year, and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives. Our purpose is to raise awareness and offer fundamental tools to deal with this growing issue in our homes, churches and communities.

PRESENTER: Dr. Bryan Jones is a professional counselor, an ordained minister, clinical chaplain and clinical pastoral education supervisor. Dr. Jones is the Executive Director of the Joshua Generation Care and Consultant Services, LLC. Dr. Jones has been featured as special guest on several shows discussing mental health, spiritual health and wellness. Dr. Jones is the host of the radio show. “Therapeutic Conversations” which airs every Saturday on 108 praise radio in Atlanta.

Conversation with the General Minister and President of the UCC - (Track 2) - Sanctuary

This is an opportunity to have dialogue with the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer: ask questions about the national setting of the UCC and the focus of the mission of the United Church of Christ.

PRESENTER: Rev. John Dorhauer has been the General Minister and President of the UCC since 2015. He has served as a local church pastor in Missouri, as an Associate Conference Minister in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and then Conference Minister of the Southwest Conference of the UCC prior to his election as General Minister and President.

Where Do I Start in Retirement? ‐ (Track 3) ‐ Room 4

The workshop will present various items and concerns to consider as you approach retirement. There will also be an opportunity to learn about Uplands Village which is a Life Plan Community related to the United Church of Christ.

PRESENTER: Ms. Sheri Collins, Director of Marketing for Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, TN.

Grow Your Own Church Green Team ‐ (Track 4) ‐ Choir Room

The workshop will include: 1) What our belief and faith tells us about protecting our earth; 2) How to get started with a Green team; 3) What kinds of things you need to think about going forward in your Green Team.

PRESENTER: Ms. Sue Peeples is the Co-Minister of the Justice and Mission Core Ministry at Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Leader of the church’s Green Team; and Lifetime conservationist and recycler.
Conversation about the Southeast Conference 2019-2020 Budget - (Track 1) - Workroom
This workshop will provide the opportunity to ask questions about the 2019-2020 Budget, including the understandings that informed the decisions made in proposing the income and expenses items.

PRESENTERS: Mr. Heith Battles, Conference Treasurer and Ms. Juanita Simmons, Conference Stewardship and Finance Committee Chairperson.

SATURDAY, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Shattering the Mental Health Stigmas - (Track 1) - Heritage Hall
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United in Song - (Track 2) - Sanctuary
What better way to celebrate unity than to sing together? We’ll participate in a fun, upbeat rehearsal and then sing for the Saturday afternoon worship service. All skill levels encouraged! Songs will be at least somewhat familiar.

PRESENTER: Rev. Glenna Shepherd is Pastor at Pleasant Hill Community Church. She has taught classes in worship, the arts, music, and preaching for three decades and has designed worship for a number of conferences. She is a contributor to the resources of Worship Design Studio. With a masters degree in music and having served in several congregations as Minister of Music, she brings a love of poetry, music, and drama to the creation of worship experiences that connect on multiple levels.

Supporting Members in Discernment - (Track 3) - Room 2
Does your church have a member who is considering a call to ministry? Do you have a Member in Discernment at your church already? If you have ever wondered how your church can support them in their journey, this is an opportunity to learn more from those who have moved through the process or supported Members in the process.

PRESENTER: Rev. Heather Fosburgh serves as the Associate Conference Minister for the Southeast Conference. She is a member of Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta.
Taking it Back to Church: A Mini Boundary Awareness Training for Laity - (Track 3) - Choir Room

The workshop is designed: To increase awareness of the need for healthy and appropriate boundaries in the clergy/congregant relationship; To provide clergy and spiritual leaders with guidelines and suggestions for developing appropriate boundaries and necessary self-care strategies; To illustrate the impact of appropriate verses inappropriate boundaries in promoting effective ministry.

PRESENTERS: Ms. Carrole Moss serves as a Boundary Awareness Trainer and is the Generosity Coordinator for the Conference. She serves Victory for the World church in Stone Mountain, GA as an associate minister. Carrole served on the Conference Commission on Ministry for 12 years in various positions. Rev. Marsha Brown is the pastor of Phoenix Christian Church (UCC) in Wildersville, TN; a member of the Conference Commission on Ministry; and has completed FaithTrust Boundary Awareness leadership training. She was among the first ministers ordained through Pathways, a program of the United Church of Christ.

Sanctuary of the Heart: Developing New Ways to Accompany our Immigrant Neighbors - (Track 3) - Workroom

In this workshop, we will focus on emerging forms of mission and advocacy for immigrants, particularly in the "Bible belt" where many of our churches are located. What can we do as UCC congregations? How can we re-frame the conversation about undocumented immigrants in each of our cities? Come and learn about the new ways that some congregations are forming relationships with immigrant communities. You will also receive an educational plan for an adult Sunday school program (aimed at changing the hearts of more conservative congregations) to use in your home communities.

PRESENTER: Ms. Tonya Barneste, serves as Minister for Youth and Children at Church of the Savior UCC, Knoxville and is a Member in Discernment in the Southeast Conference. She has been part of faith based pilgrimages to the border in Tucson Arizona, the southern border of Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala and is passionate about all facets of immigration, asylum, and refuge in Knoxville. She will graduate from Lexington Theological Seminary with a Masters of Theological Studies in June.

Faith to Fight: Faith and Environmental Justice - (Track 4) - Room 1

This workshop is designed to be a discussion on Environmental Justice, Equity, and Race. We will discuss the history of the UCC in the Environmental Justice Movement and we will be challenged on what we can do as a faith community to combat environmental injustices in the communities that we serve in.

PRESENTER: Rev. Michael Malcolm is the Environmental Justice Representative for the Southeast Conference of the UCC; Pastor of Rush Memorial UCC in Atlanta; Executive Director of The People’s Justice Council, and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light.
**SUNDAY, 9:00 am -10:30 am**

**A Brief Summary of Gender - (Track 1) - Workroom**

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**How Does the UCC Work? – Polity 101 - (Track 3) - Room 2**

Local Churches, the Conference, General Synod, Ministers, lay members - ever wonder how all these groups interact and inter-face in the UCC? This workshop will be a crash course on how the different parts of the United Church of Christ relate and fit with one another. What roles each play and how their work is connected and supported by the other. The workshop will also highlight ways you can learn more and delve deeper into our polity or structure.

PRESENTER: Rev. Heather Fosburgh serves as the Associate Conference Minister for the Southeast Conference. She is a member of Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta.

**Restoring Dignity at Home and Abroad - (Track 3) - Room 4**

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**Greening Your Church: Getting Started – (Track 4) - Room 1**

Going green is popular, but adopting a green mindset is not always easy. Committed Earth stewardship involves multiple phases including thinking green and acting green. In this class we’ll provide suggestions for how to make your church more environmentally friendly.

Presenter: Don Harris (our Conference Communications Director) has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oklahoma, is a registered architect, and a LEED Accredited Professional.
Plan to join us in the beautiful NC mountains for the...

**UCC Southern Region**

**Women’s Retreat October 18 - 20, 2019**

Come and experience Spiritual Renewal through Worship, Bible Study, Music, Workshops, Service Projects, Sightseeing, Sisterhood, Good Food, Love, Peace, and Joy

**Theme**

**Strong Sisters’ Stories**

**Supporting Scripture**

25Strength and dignity are her clothing and she laughs at the time to come. 26She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Proverbs 31:25 & 26  (NRSV)

**Location**

Blowing Rock Conference Center 1818 Goforth Rd., Blowing Rock, NC 28605

**Don’t miss this exciting event!**
MODERATOR’S REPORT

This past year has been another year of transition for the conference with the unanticipated departure of the Interim Conference Minister on August 17, 2018; and the arrival of our Transitional Conference Minister on January 1, 2019. Many have expressed the feeling of being “tired of transition.” Believe me, I am also. However, as part of my report I thought I needed to share with you some thoughts on our Southeast Conference’s prolonged transition.

The conference was in transition prior to the retirement of Rev. Tim Down as Conference Minister in 2013. Some of that went unnoticed because of his steady leadership. While it is not unexpected to have a longer transition when a long-tenured Pastor or Conference Minister leaves a position; our SEC transition was complicated by a restructuring of the Board that also saw a great deal of the historical knowledge of the conference depart from Conference leadership simultaneously.

This was further complicated by the ceding of Association work such as that of the Commission on Ministry to be done solely at the Conference level. With the change of Conference leadership, and loss of connectivity to each other which had been provided through the Associations and their meetings, this also has added to our time of SEC transition.

As with most church organizations, our conference has had to deal with limited financial resources as have local churches. This has meant a smaller financial infusion to the Conference through contributions to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM). Therefore, the Conference has had to make critical and necessary financial decisions to keep viable; but it contributed to prolonging our time of transition. One critical decision was moving from a physical conference office to a virtual one. It was an essential decision, but having no physical office contributed to a feeling of unsettledness. At that same time, I was new as the Moderator of the Board and the Designated Conference Minister was at the end of her designated term and chose not to extend her tenure with us.

In my research, the budget submitted in my first year as Moderator was the first time, I’m aware of, in which a balanced budget was submitted to the Annual Meeting for approval. This of course, created financial stress to our conference operations and have required the financial team to make very difficult decisions to keep us viable.

I share the above not as a compliant but because I believe the Conference needs to be aware of the behind the scene matters that have made our transition longer than any of us had hoped.

I’m thankful for the continued ministry of our staff, Rev.-Heather Fosburgh as the Associate Conference Minister, Minister Carrole Moss as the Generosity Coordinator and Don Harris our wonderful Communications Director. They continue to bring excellence and giftedness to our conference at a pivotal transitional time. I believe they are the right people for our Conference moving forward.

I’m very excited about the work of our Transitional Conference Minister, Rev. Char Burch. Her strategy and ministry plans are already bearing fruits, helping our churches feel better connected with the Conference. I look forward to working with her this next year to hopefully further us toward the future God has for the Southeast Conference.

I want to thank the Conference Ministers Rev, John Vertigan of the Florida Conference, Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and Rev. Dr. Donald Longbottom of the South-Central Conference for providing the SEC/UCC with Conference Ministry assistance from late August through the end of 2018.

I also want to thank my Board partners for their commitment and dedication to serve our conference in a time of transition. Please know that we serve because we love the Southeast Conference and we want to see a better future for the Conference, our local churches, our ministers, and our denomination.

Blessings, in Christ’s Service.

Pastor J R Finney II
Conference Moderator and Board Chair
Grace and Peace to you all! Our Annual Meeting theme this year, “That We May All Be One,” calls us to reflect on how we might do this, given our large geography, different histories, different foci for ministry and mission. However, our theme does not call us all to be the same, rather it encourages us to reflect on what it is that we commonly value as a Conference. We have many amazing local churches, pastors, and specialized ministers in the Southeast Conference who impact communities and individuals! The love of God is lived out in so many ways within the Conference!

During this past year, there was a transition in the position of Conference Minister and I began January 1, 2019 as the Transitional Conference Minister. My position, which is half-time, is focused on a vision created by the Board of Directors in which I have been asked to concentrate on “connecting and re-connecting the Conference by actively listening to cultivate a shared mission and ministry,… using a supportive process of engaging, assessing, planning, implementing and re-assessing our dreams for the future.”

I must admit that I have discovered this vision to be rather large, which is true of all visions. However, below is a summary of some ways that I and others have begun to address this vision.

**Connections** - I average 3 out of 4 Sundays a month visiting local churches (thank you for your gracious welcoming spirit). Both Heather Fosburgh (our Associate Conference Minister) and Carrole Moss (our Generosity Coordinator) are also busy visiting local congregations. We have begun an occasional “Coffee with Char” virtual conversation (via the Zoom web-based program) with authorized ministers, where we spend an hour talking about various issues. As Staff we have tried to utilize facebook more often as a way to celebrate and share information about churches. I particularly seek to post something about each of the churches that I visit. In addition, we continue to seek to connect with clergy and other gatherings. With the expertise and commitment of our Communications Director, Don Harris, we seek to share current, valuable information through the *Conference Connection* e-newsletter and website. Meanwhile, each of our local churches has been assigned to a member of the Conference Board of Directors who seeks to make an occasional contact. We definitely are working on connections!

**Involvement** - The feeling of connectedness is also related to the feeling of being a valued part of something greater and knowing what that is. As I had shared in a previous article in the *Conference Connection* and our Moderator, J.R. Finney, has shared in his Moderator’s Annual Report, there have been a lot of transitions within the Southeast Conference, particularly in the past 6 years. This can lead to a sense of loss that nothing seems the same and result in questioning “to what do people belong”? To me, it feels like we are building something new, as God calls us into the unknown future. The reality is that this is something we need to do together! The Board of Directors, the Commission on Ministry, the staff members, and various individuals are working hard. I am grateful! But we also need each of you! There is a Nominations Form on the website that can be used to express your interest in various kinds of involvement. Complete the form and send it in. We are stronger when we work together!

**Finances** - There have been many discussions in the recent past focused on discerning the future of the Conference. Part of the conversation has been driven by our limited finances. Of course, local churches are the front line of ministries of love and witness in our communities and therefore need to be financially able to thrive themselves. Thank you to the many churches who also see the value of our connectedness through the Southeast Conference and the United Church of Christ and therefore make financial contributions to Our Churches Wider Mission as part of their mission. For churches who do not give, I would strongly urge that you take up a special offering and give something to indicate your commitment to our connections. Our Generosity Coordinator, Carrole Moss, is available to come to your church and explain the difference that giving to Our Churches Wider Mission makes.
We are in the midst of also launching a new emphasis of support through “Friends of the Conference.” This is an invitation for individuals to directly support the ministry of the Conference. There are many people in our Conference who have a commitment to the importance of our mission and ministry together – and we are grateful! If you are interested in more information about “Friends of the Conference,” please check the Conference website.

As indicated above, we have some amazing churches in the Southeast Conference! Thank you for your faithfulness! Although I am not yet sure where God may be leading us as a Conference, I do know that we are stronger when we work together. I am grateful for the ministries and support of our staff - Heather, Carrole and Don. I am also grateful for the Board of Directors and others who are giving their time and commitment to furthering the mission and ministry of the Conference. I welcome your comments and insights as we move forward. I also covet your prayers for our churches, pastors, and specialized ministers!

Blessings,

Rev. Char Burch
Transitional Conference Minister

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.
An Online Program in Progressive Theology

2019 Summer and Fall Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Begins July 31, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice (4-wks)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Begins August 28, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Art of Worship (6-wks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Making Sense of Theology (6-wks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Testament Hermeneutics (6-wks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecological Theology (6-wks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervised Ministry Practicum II (9-wks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCC History and Polity (12-wks)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Begins October 9, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith Formation and Spiritual Practices for Children, Youth and Adults (6-wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the Bible as a Progressive Christian (6-wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Art of Preaching (6-wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicing our Faith in the Public Square (6-wks)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

CEUs are available for all our courses.

www.pathwaystheological.org
Minutes from 52nd Annual Meeting

Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ
June 8, 2018
Annual Business Meeting
Pastor J R Finney II, Moderator Presiding

Part I

Welcome: Conference Minister Marie Bacchiocchi and Moderator J.R. Finney
Welcome by Piedmont College Chaplain,
Recognition of speakers
Declaration of Quorum: Gavin Warren
22 churches; quorum 19; 32 delegates; 39 clergy; 20 visitors

State of the Conference: Marie Bacchiocchi
2018 Discernment Process - 3 options for the conference to think about
- Figure out how to fund current structure
- Figure out a whole new way to be a conference
- Do we need to dissolve the SEC

Early responses show love of the SEC and hope that we can continue. We can be a beacon of hope to other conferences.

Our Staff:
New Associate Conference Minister hired: Rev. Heather Fosburgh
Carrole Moss: Hired as Generosity Coordinator
Don Harris: continues as our Communications Director

Introduction of the SEC Bylaw Changes
Change of the fiscal year from year end December 31 to September 30
- Finances can be approved more responsibly at Annual Meeting
- Why October 1 to September 30? If you pass the budget in June, it gives you time to address issues as budget is being put into place

Change the number of Members-at-large on board (Tabled)

Treasurer’s Report
- Two budgets proposed pending possibly by-law change of fiscal year
- UCC Bylaws: Marie Bacchiocchi
  - The UCC has proposed bylaw changes at general synod. These need to be approved before 2019 Synod. Look over them before tomorrow so that you can vote.

Introducing Forgiving Heart Church, and Pastor Reverend Emily Bel by Moderator: J.R. Finney
Celebrating our Generosity: Carol Moss
- 5 for 5 churches: 17
- We also celebrate those contributing to OWCM: 42
Announcements:
  Michael Malcolm: Environmental Justice efforts
  Clarice Mitchell: October 1-3 UCC community at Glowing Retreat Servant’s Retreat
  Valerie Coe-Lowder: Pathways: Path for preparation for ordination
  Tom Mitchell: Encouragement to give quarterly for OCWM

Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes: J.R. Finney
  Motion to approve minutes: Judy Sullivan Church of the Savior
  Second: Clarice Mitchell Pleasant Hill UCC
  Motion Passes Unanimously

Approve Report
  Vanessa Robb Moves, James Banks Bentley seconds- Motion Passes Unanimously

Vote on the Change of the Fiscal Year - Motion to approve proposed bylaw
  Valerie Coe Lowder, Brookemeade; Nancy Elsenheimer Community of Grace
  Motion Passes Unanimously

Vote on Change of Members-at-Large
  Moved by Dion Garcia Kirkwood UCC; Second: Hannah Mays UC Cookeville
  Michael Peter ATL: moves that this be given back to the board for a year.
  Russ Mullins Pleasant Hill: Second
  Motion passes unanimously; rending the previous motion moot

Presentation of the 2018 Board Nominations: Slate of officers:
  J R Finney II, nominated for Moderator for two years
  Rebecca Seldomridge, nominated for Vice Moderator for 2 years
  Heith Battles continues as Treasurer until 2019
  Gavin Warren, continues as Secretary until 2019
  Jenny Ferrell, Member at Large for till 2020
  Sean Kirkpatrick, nominated for two years
  Hannah Mays, nominated for two years
  Penny Hensley Phoenix TN, nominated for two years
  Vanessa Robbs, continues until 2019
  Tony England, continues until 2019
  Shannon Michael Pater will complete current term as Chair, COM
  James Bowman Harris continues as Nominating Chair until 2019
  Scott Williamson, to serve as Personnel chair for 2 years
  Juanita Simmons, continues until 2019

New Synod Delegates: J R Finney II, Cindy Bartow, Kriss Choi
Move Reports: James Bowman Harris, Cookeville; Second Jeff Sargent, Kirkwood
  Passed Unanimously
Southeast Conference United Church of Christ
Annual Business Meeting Part III
June 9, 2018

Confirmation of appointment of Glenna Shepherd as Parliamentarian: J. R. Finney

Clergy Anniversaries: Marie Bacchiocchi and J.R. Finney
Certificates given for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65 years

Vote on the 2018-2019 Budget: J.R. Finney and Heith Battles:
Proposed amendment to budget:
Moved: Shannon Michael Prater; Second: Hannah Mays UC Cookeville
Unanimously passed

Vote to approve the actual budget:
Moved: Nancy Elsenheimer Community of Grace; Second: John Dale Church of the Savior
Passed unanimously

Proposed move of fiscal year
Moved: Shannon Michael Prater; Second: Ciel Sheehan Church of the Savior Knoxville
Passed unanimously

Move to 12-month budget
Moved: Shannon Michael Pater Second: Dale Wilson
Motion Pass unanimously

Installation of the 2018 slate of officers: J.R. Finney and James Bowman Harris

Vote on Welcoming New Congregations: J.R. Finney
Forgiving Heart
Moved: Scott Williamson; Second: James Bowman Harris
Passed Unanimously

Vote on the UCC bylaws changes: J.R. Finney and Marie Bacchiocchi
Moved: Jeff Sargent Kirkwood; Second: Kriss Choi
Motion to split out the Partnership with UC Canada with other issues.
Moved: Rebecca Seldomridge Pleasant Hill UCC
Both Motions and second were withdraw

Can we affirm after this that we affirm the United Church of Canada partnership.
Motion by Jeff Sargent: was rejected overwhelmingly with no yes and 6 abstentions.

Motion we send resolution affirming UCCanada, with Language change to accept ministers
Moved: Jenny Farrell; Second Rebecca Seldomridge
Motion passes unanimously

State of the Conference Part II: Marie Bacchiocchi.
God is with us. I know we should not close because you keep showing up. That means that this conference is not done. We may struggle but lets keep bringing new fruition of how to be God’s affirming people in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.
Two more pieces of business:
Next annual meeting May 31 and June 1 of next year at Pleasant Hill, TN
General Minister Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

Move to adjourn the Annual Meeting Conference
Second: All - Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,
Gavin Warren, Secretary
ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER’S REPORT

Peace to you all! It has been a year of transition within the Southeast Conference this last year. I am grateful to have been able to serve the Southeast Conference this last year. This Conference is a special group of churches and members and Authorized Ministers and it is a highlight of my job to get to know you and your churches better this last year.

I work largely with the Commission on Ministry and with the day to day operations of the Conference Office (the virtual one). This includes working with the Conference Accountant, the Committees of the Conference, and interfacing with some of the support offices of the National Setting including the MESA Team and the Center for Analytics and Research, and Data. This shifted a bit in September when I began working with the Consulting Conference Ministers for the four months we did not have a Conference Minister. I am grateful for the support from Rev. Ginny Brown Daniels, Rev. John Vertigan, and Rev. Don Longbottom. Their help during the transition was invaluable. I am also grateful for the Board of Directors and the support they gave the Conference Office during that time. I met with them a number of times and offered my support and received theirs as the Board discerned what the next steps for the Conference were.

One of the highlights of this last year has been the opportunity to travel and be out in the Conference more. Trips included visiting our Mississippi Churches, Montgomery for the Association Meeting, South Carolina to meet with search Committees and for Ordinations, Tennessee worship with our churches and meet with the Board of Directors, and to South Alabama to worship there too as well as visiting almost all of our Atlanta churches (with Rev. Char Burch visiting the rest). These trips are always great blessings to see the work God is doing in our local Congregations and in our communities. I also had the opportunity in December to travel to the UCC National Conference called Authorized Ministry in the 21st Century. It is a gathering of Conference staff that happens opposite General Synod years to discuss the changes that are happening in ministry and how the United Church of Christ is adapting and supporting these changes. It is valuable knowledge to bring back for our Commission on Ministry as well as a chance for the Southeast Conference to have a voice in these discussions.

In January, Rev. Char Burch joined the staff and it has been a blessing to work with her and learn from her. With Rev. Burch coming onboard my role shifted a little as I took on the primary role for Search and Call. Both Rev. Burch and I work with churches in transitions, but I am often the first contact. I have been blessed to work with five different churches as they begin or have completed their processes of finding the next minister to lead their congregation. This has also been a huge opportunity to be able to hear from the local congregations about what they need, what they are hopeful for, and what they dream about, and how the Spirit is leading them. There are great things happening in our Conference and I am excited to see where God is leading us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Heather Fosburgh
Associate Conference Minister
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

This year we have transferred in the following Authorized Ministers:

- Matt Laney from the Hartford Association, Connecticut Conference
- Susan Webeler from United Northern Association, Michigan Conference
- Lawrence Wood from Grand West Association, Michigan Conference
- Salome As-Salaam from the Florida Conference

This year we transferred out the following Authorized Ministers:

- Allen Mulanax to the Western Association of the Southern Conference
- Marie Bacchiocchi to the Central Atlantic Conference
- Lillian Lammers to the Missouri Mid-South Conference

The following people were Ordained:

- Mi Young Choi on November 5th, 2018
- Mercy Packer-Monroe on December 2nd, 2018

Approved Endorsements for Chaplaincy:

- Maureen Shelton—ACPE
- Sonya Gravely—ACPE

Spirit of the Cross, Huntsville, AL, approved for Ecclesiastical Council on October 27th at the AL-TN-MS Association meeting.

Conducted one Fitness Review in Fall 2018 and requirement for completion still in process.

Scholarship approved and granted to Haley Lerner, MID.

15 people who have expressed interest in either becoming a Member in Discernment or moving their credentials to the UCC through Privilege of Call.

In 2017, COM approved a Healthy Boundaries Training Requirement for all Active Authorized Ministers every four years. This is now being implemented and all ministers have been notified of this requirement. Also, a review form for authorized ministers was issued with due date of Feb. 2019.

Decision was made to move Authorized Clergy Retreat away from Annual Meeting time.

Decision was made to continue discussion regarding the change in the Manual on Ministry about Licensure. Currently we license people through April 2020 while in discussion on proposed change.

In December 2018, Chair Shannon Michael gave his resignation and Vice Chair Ann Michele took the responsibility for Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

COM Chair- Ann Michele Rogers-Brigham
COM Vice-Chair-Vacant
Support and Nurture Chair –Clarice Mitchell
Preparation for Authorized Ministry Chair- Rodney Franklin
Ministerial Oversite, Transfers, and Standing Chair- Susannah Davis
At-Large- Ginny Ferrell
At-Large- Marsha Brown
At-Large- Rochelle Lofstrand
ACM and Registrar—Heather Fosburgh
GENEROSITY COORDINATOR’S REPORT

First and foremost, what an awesome, humbling experience it is as I serve as your Generosity Coordinator. It is a labor of love, commitment and dedication. I am so grateful to all of you and look forward to visiting you in your home churches.

There year started off slow, but gained momentum later in the year. Our calendar year end total was $194,483.00. Let’s continue with our contributions to make this the best year ever.

Of the 54 churches represented in this conference, 33 contributed to OCWM.

The top five contributing churches are:

- Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, GA
- Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston, SC
- Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, GA
- Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN
- Pleasant Hill Community UCC, Pleasant Hill, TN

Congratulations to all those churches and individuals who contributed in 2018. If your contributions arrived after our January deadline, they will be included in your 2019 giving/contributions.

Because we believe in Transforming Churches and Transforming Lives, seven Southeast Conference churches received TCTL grants in 2018. Those churches are:

- Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, GA
- Victory for the world UCC, Stone Mountain, GA
- Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta, GA
- Open Table-A community of faith, Mobile, AL
- United Church of Cookeville UCC, Cookeville, TN
- Covenant Community UCC, Center Point, AL
- Garden of Grace, Columbia, SC

Your OCWM dollars at work!

Let us continue in 2019 to inform your leaders about OCWM. Work toward giving goals, work with your church leadership to set attainable goals. Set goals, establish a progression and give regularly.

“God has given EACH OF YOU a gift from God’s great variety of spiritual gifts. USE THEM well to serve one another”. 1 Peter 4: 10

A huge not of thanks to all of our congregations as you continue to support this journey. Together we stand, divided we fall. Without your continued support we would not be able to stand strong in the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this most important role. I am available should you need me....Please feel free to reach out to me.

Continued blessings, as we JOURNEY TOGETHER,

Min. Carrole Moss
Generosity Coordinator, SECUCC
Thank you to our Churches that Contributed to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) in the Calendar Year 2018

$10,000 - $37,000
Central Congregational - Atlanta GA
Circular Congregational – Charleston, SC
Kirkwood UCC – Atlanta, GA
Church of the Savior – Knoxville, TN
Pleasant Hill Community – Pleasant Hill, TN
Pilgrim Congregational – Chattanooga, TN
First Congregational – Montgomery, AL

$5,000 - $10,000
First Congregational – Atlanta, GA
Virginia-Highland – Atlanta, GA
Beloved Community – Birmingham, AL
Holy Trinity Community – Nashville, TN
Covenant Community – Birmingham, AL
United Church of Huntsville – Huntsville, AL

$2,100 - $5,000
First United Church - Belvidere, TN
Victory for the World - Stone Mountain, GA
Peace Congregational – Clemson, SC
Garden of Grace – Columbia, SC

Open Table – Mobile, AL
Midway Congregational – Midway, GA
Phoenix Christian – Wildersville, TN

$1,000 - $2,000
Howard Congregational – Nashville, TN
Open Community – Duluth, GA
Fairfield Glade Community – Fairfield Glade, TN
Safe Harbor Family Church – Clinton, MS
Pilgrim Church – Birmingham, AL
Bethany Congregational UCC, Thomasville, GA

$100 - $999
Brookmeade Congregational – Nashville, TN
Spirit of the Cross – Huntsville, AL
Jones Chapel Congregational – Woodbury, GA
Forgiving Heart – Columbus, GA
Methodist-Congregational Federated – Demorest, GA
Evergreen Congregational – Beachton, GA
Sandy Creek – Lafayette, AL

Of our 54 churches, 20 churches contributed $0 to OCWM for 2018. We recognize that some contributions for 2018 may have arrived after the January 2019 deadline. However following accounting guidelines, they cannot be included in the 2018 calendar total.

Congratulations to Our Top 5 Per Capita Giving Churches
Peace Congregational - Clemson, SC
Kirkwood UCC – Atlanta, GA
Pilgrim Congregational – Chattanooga, TN
Central Congregational – Atlanta, GA
Open Table UCC – Mobile, AL

Congratulations to our 2018 “5 for 5” Churches
A 5 for 5 Church is one who contributes to OCWM Basic Support and all the 4 UCC Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund – Veterans of the Cross). Thank you!

Covenant Community Church - Birmingham, AL
Evergreen Congregational Church - Beachton, GA
First Congregational Montgomery – Montgomery, AL
First United Church of Christ – Belvidere, TN
Kirkwood United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA
Midway Congregational Church – Midway, GA

Open Community Church – Duluth, GA
Open Table UCC – Mobile, AL
Peace Congregational Church – Clemson, SC
Phoenix Christian Church – Wildersville, TN
Pilgrim Congregational Church - Chattanooga, TN
The United Church of Huntsville – Huntsville, AL
### United Church of Christ Southeast Conference

**January – September 2018 Revenue vs. Expense Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCWM</td>
<td>105,713.49</td>
<td>170,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCWM Pass through</td>
<td>-10,571.34</td>
<td>-17,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Conference</td>
<td>1,665.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Conferences/Seminars/Training</td>
<td>590.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>13,482.00</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>500.85</td>
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<td>Release of Donor Restricted – Capital C</td>
<td>20,226.57</td>
<td>49,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>132,470.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>230,062.50</strong></td>
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|                                |          |          |
| **2018 Jan. – Sept. Operating Expenses Review** |          |          |
| Administrative Expenses        | 170,895.30 |          |
| **Total Operating Expenses**   | **170,895.30** | **228,966.00** |
| **TOTAL NET INCOME – Operating** | **-38,424.84** |          |
United Church of Christ Southeast Conference  
October 2018 – April 2019 Revenue vs. Expense Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 2018 – April 2019 Income Review</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCWM</td>
<td>154,530.84</td>
<td>132,708.32</td>
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<td>-13,270.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Conference</td>
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<td>Conferences/Seminars/Training</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>571.24</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>163,208.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,375.00</strong></td>
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Oct. 2018 – April 2019 Expenses Review

| Administrative Expenses             | 116,611.18   |
| Total Operating Expenses            | 116,693.91   | 178,143.00   |
| **TOTAL NET INCOME – Operating**    | 46,515.04    |
### Proposed 2020 Fiscal Year Budget

**INCOME**

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<tr>
<th>Account #</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>OCWM Basic Support</td>
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<td>3000-02</td>
<td>OCWM 10% Pass-through</td>
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<td>3002</td>
<td>Contributions (2019 Friends of the Conference)</td>
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<td>3007</td>
<td>Seminars/Trainings</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Release of Donor Rest. Capital C</td>
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<td>3023</td>
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<td><strong>Total Rev.</strong></td>
<td><strong>$330,250.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$325,250.00</strong></td>
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**TOTAL INCOME**

**$307,500.00**

**$303,000.00**
## EXPENSES

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>6001</td>
<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
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<td>6001-01</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>6048</td>
<td>Social Security Offset</td>
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<td>Housing Allowance</td>
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<td>6010</td>
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<td>6011</td>
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<td>6012</td>
<td>National Meetings/ Committees</td>
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<td>SEC Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>6015</td>
<td>Conference Minister Travel/Meal</td>
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<td>6016</td>
<td>Staff Travel/Meals</td>
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<td>6017</td>
<td>ACM Travel/Meals</td>
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<td>6036</td>
<td>General Synod</td>
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<td>6038</td>
<td>Interest Expenses/Service Fees</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 305,388.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 303,018.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,112.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ (18.00)</strong></td>
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</table>
PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. (PATHWAYS) is an online theological institute rooted in progressive Christian theology. With an aim of building leadership for the present and future church, PATHWAYS provides a range of online courses that blend critical scholarship with practical application. PATHWAYS offers completely online courses scheduled throughout the year. There is no specific physical location for these courses as they are online. While PATHWAYS Theological Education is headquartered in Atlanta, GA, both faculty and students reside throughout the United States; in the near future, hopefully, students will come from around the globe.

Organization

PATHWAYS is a Georgia Nonprofit corporation. In March 2019, PATHWAYS received its IRS 501c3 tax exempt status. Through the year, as we have been building the PATHWAYS organization, we welcomed a new Board of Directors with wonderfully diverse gifts that broadened our geographical spread. They began working together on October 1, 2018. On that same day, the new Acting Executive Director, Rochelle Lofstrand, began providing leadership to the education program and staff. Other part-time paid staff have made immense contributions to the program, including the interim Administrator, Valerie Coe Lowder, course facilitators and course writers. An IT consultant works with PATHWAYS on the website.

During the Fall, we accomplished the planning and visioning that were necessary before we could hire a marketing consultant. Work on the marketing plan began in 2018 and will be implemented in 2019. We are still heavily in the midst of a transition; recruitment and marketing are key. Ms. Carrole Moss gets the word out about PATHWAYS each time she visits one of the Southeast Conference UCC churches. We are also recruiting participants nationally. As such, PATHWAYS will have increased visibility throughout all of 2019.

Programs

The heart of PATHWAYS Theological Education began as ministry preparation. The three-level five-year part-time program was originally designed for those seeking an alternate path for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. These courses contain a wide range of topics including Biblical hermeneutics, pastoral care, homiletics, church administration, and courses in contemporary theology and worship. Included in this sequence is an 18-month supervised ministry internship. UCC History and Polity is now offered three times a year with participants from all over the U.S.

The Marks of Faith and Effective Authorized Ministers are the standards for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Each course addresses specific Marks as course competencies. Each course has learning objectives aligned with the Marks addressed in that specific course. These learning objectives provide the basis for the course focus and evaluation. Course outcomes result in materials suitable for inclusion in UCC portfolios.

In 2018, there were 100 course seats taken. There were 21 courses offered. Several people signed up for more than one course.

- The number of individuals from the Southeast Conference UCC: 11
- The number of individuals from 24 other UCC conferences: 70
- The number of individuals from Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, UMC and no-denomination: 8

Since its beginnings in 2011, PATHWAYS has had 6 people complete all three levels of the program. 3 graduates were ordained as UCC ministers. From 2011 to 2017, 9 people completed Level 1, 8 people completed Level 2, and 5 people completed Level 3. The sixth Level 3 participant completed the program in 2018. Another participant will finish Level 1 in 2019. There are two Level 2 graduates who did not go on to complete Level 3. In the PATHWAYS program, finishing Levels 1 & 2 is considered a solid foundation for Licensed Ministers.
PATHWAYS’ present focus is to bring specific courses with CEUs to clergy and other professionals, and to bring basic foundational theological education to anyone who wants it. In May 2018, PATHWAYS offered a course entitled, “Professional Boundaries and Ministerial Self-Care”. The response was wildly positive; so much so that it was offered again in October.

One person wrote:

Just this, the value of your program is extraordinary, and should not remain a well-kept secret! Pathways provides a wonderful means of gaining components of education that are much needed in the multi-path process etc. Many thanks and may you each be blessed in full measures of peace, and Joy!

And others said:

It was a good experience for me personally. Also, I was forced to be a self-starter, and self-activated and driven to make the effort to fulfill the requirement. I also felt a sense of responsibility to complete the course having started it. I point this out, as I firmly believe a pastor, an authorized minister, must have these elements to be successful!

The course exceeded my expectations. It was rigorous, thought-provoking, and timely.

Another new PATHWAYS offering in 2018 is the Certificate of Foundational Theology, an 8-course education for everyone in theology, ethics, worship, diversity, faith practices and religious pluralism.

Progressive Christian theology courses are not easy to find. PATHWAYS is working to become easy to find; yet challenging to the mind and heart and soul in the ways of radical hospitality, responsiveness to the people on the margins and relevance to the social justice challenges of today.

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is striving to serve people both urban and rural who are seeking affordable, flexible, effective and practical theological education for themselves and their communities.

We are very grateful to the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Southeast Conference UCC Capital Campaign Endowment Grants (Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives) and the Central Congregational UCC 2018 Endowment Grant. We are also very grateful for the support of the Southeast Conference UCC where this program was housed for six plus years and for the ongoing support PATHWAYS still receives from the conference. Without these grants and the support of the Southeast Conference UCC, our work would not be possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ginnie Ferrell President, Board of Directors
PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.
NINTH ANNUAL RETIRED UCC SERVANTS’ RETREAT

An Event for intellectual stimulation; spiritual enlightenment and reflection; and renewing friendships and/or making new friends for Retired UCC Clergy, Missionaries, Volunteer Ministry Workers and Spouses of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church of Christ. Co-sponsored with Blowing Rock Conference Center.

Theme
GROWING WITH THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Monday - Wednesday, October 7-9, 2019
Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, North Carolina

COSTS FOR THE EVENT ARE AS FOLLOWS

One night $50; two nights $75; three nights $100; four nights $125 (1 or 2 in each room. All rooms have two full-size beds))

Total cost for 5 meals and facility fee ($7.00 per event per person) from Monday dinner-Wednesday breakfast: $59.25 per person.

Two night stay for one plus meals: $75 + $59.25 = $134.25
Two night stay for two plus meals $75 + (2 x $59.25) = $193.50
Three night stay for one plus meals $100 + $59.25 = $159.25
Three night stay for two plus meals: $100 + (2 x $59.25) = $218.50

If there are a minimum of 20 people interested in lunch on Monday, we will serve a lunch for $10.25. Starting Tuesday of the retreat there will be a sign-up sheet for those wanting a sack lunch for Wednesday. The cost is $8.

If there are 25 persons arriving Sunday night who are interested in a light breakfast, BRCC will also serve a continental breakfast on Monday at 8 am for $5.

Please register by contacting Ms. Amy Stamey, reservations manager at Blowing Rock Conference Center, at 828-295-7813 or amy@brccenter.org.

Emails are welcome and she will send out a confirmation.

Information she needs:

- Day of arrival and approximate time of arrival for 1 or 2 people (If you are leaving before Wednesday please let her know)
- Would you like a continental breakfast on Monday morning?
- Would you like lunch on Monday?
- Do you require a ground floor room or do you have a room preference?

Coordinator for Retreat: Rev. Larry Bolick
Lawrence.bolick1@outlook.com or 828-612-8146 (mobile)