

# **SECTION A**

## **AGENDA AND MEETING INFORMATION**

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# 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

April 29, 2023

## Proposed Agenda



Northwest Ohio Association,

Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta, Ohio

THEME: "MISSIONS: MAKING ALL THINGS NEW" – Isaiah 43: 18-19 (NSRV)

- 8:00 am      Registration & Breakfast
- 9:00 am      Call to Order – Declaration of Quorum (Sanctuary)  
Welcome  
Opening Worship with communion - Rev. Daniel L. Busch, Association Minister  
Rev. Mark Bishop, Rev. Jim Brehler, Rev. Mike Ebersole  
(Today's special offering is for Grace Community Center, Toledo)
- 10:00 am      Adoption of Agenda  
Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Introductions  
Special Guests  
New to the Association & Members in Discernment  
Newly Ordained – Rev. Michael Ebersole
- Heartland Conference  
Greetings from Rev. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister  
Presentation: Ms. Jill Frey – Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries
- Nominations and Election  
Financial Reports – 2023 Final Budget & 2024 Preliminary Budget  
Recognition – Anniversaries, OCWM Awards  
Receiving of reports - Teams, Committees, and Association Minister
- Institutional Representative – Uplands Village
- 11:00 am      Keynote Address – Rev. George Graham, CHHSM
- 11:50 am      Break
- 12:00 am      Lunch in the Fellowship Hall  
St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta "Take Out Tuesday" Meal - Program
- 1:00 pm      Mission Happenings (Sanctuary)  
Grace Community Center, Toledo – Ms. Elaine Page  
El Salvador Mission – John & Joyce Gilberg  
Emanuel UCC (Mud Church), Upper Sandusky  
"Growing the Church through Missions" Pastor Jay Scott  
Back Bay Mission-Biloxi, MS – Rev. Jeanette Tangeman;  
Mr. Lynn & Mrs. Mary Ann Ewing  
Heartland Conference Disaster Ministry- Mr. Kevin Gehres
- 2:30 pm      Closing Celebration, Announcements, Amenities, Leadership Installation  
Adjournment

***"Missions: Making All Things New"***  
**Opening Worship – April 29, 2023**  
**Word and Sacrament**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**\*CONNECTING WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

*(Reflections on UCC Statement of Faith & Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*We gather before God who is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all creation.*

**God "calls the worlds into being" and calls us to be caretakers of God's world filled with gifts and graces both human and divine.**

*Missions is sharing our blessings to be blessings to others.*

**With God's guidance, we are called "to be servants in the service of the whole human family."**

*We are constantly struggling with "ways of life and death."*

**In Jesus Christ, sin and death are conquered and we are reconciled to God and the creation with abundant life and living.**

*God declares, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

**The love of God "bestows upon us the Holy Spirit" that renews us and unites us in covenant as a world community of faith.**

*Our mission is to "proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil."*

**"Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God."**

*(prayer)* **Thank You, God, for the unlimited gifts of new beginnings and abundant blessings. Watch over us and embrace us with your love that fills us with amazing grace and hope. Fill our minds to solve the mysteries of life. When we speak guide us to use words of love and compassion. Open our hearts to the inspiration of your love as a means to reconcile the world. This we pray through your transforming power. Amen.**

**HANDBELL MUSIC PRESENTATION**

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY – Isaiah 43:18-19**

*(God declares) "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

**REFLECTION – "Making All Things New."**

**PRAYERS TO THE LIVING GOD**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*"Go Ye into All the World"*

**ACT OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

*(UCC Book of Worship, p. 531)*

**Almighty God, too often we forget your promise. We live in ways that bring glory only to ourselves. We bask in the false assumption that we are in control of our lives. Sometimes we want to tamper with the lives of those around us for our own ends. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to serve you more faithfully each day. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(unison)*

**Creator God, we give you thanks for the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers. Redeemer God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death, and resurrection. Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine Life. May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you to work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *"We All Are One in Mission"*

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**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSIC OF PRAISE**

## CLOSING WORSHIP -- Installation of NWOA Officers and Teams

### INSTALLATION OF NWOA OFFICERS AND TEAMS

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth*

**To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### INTRODUCTION

*Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.*

**There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

*Christ is like a single body, which has many parts. It is one body, even though it is made up of different parts.*

**If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

### PRESENTATION

*These persons have been called by God, nominated and elected by Northwest Ohio Association, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.*

### COVENANT

*Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministries of the Church of Jesus Christ through Northwest Ohio Association, whether gathered or scattered.*

*Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?*

**Response: I am.**

*Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?*

**Response: I do, relying on God's grace.**

*Members of this "community of communities" of faith, you have heard the promise of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?*

**We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

### PRAYER

*Eternal God, You have called these persons to serve You in Northwest Ohio Association and in the world, which You have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send Your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that Your Church may prosper in the mission You place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of Your name. **AMEN.***

### DECLARATION

*In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are installed in your respective positions.*

**Thanks be to God. To God be the glory. Amen.**

## DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

### OFFICERS

Mr. Doug Ricci ..... Moderator  
Rev. James Brehler ..... Vice Moderator  
Pastor Jay Scott ..... Secretary  
Mrs. Dian Ewald ..... Treasurer  
Pastor Tom Kagy ..... Past Moderator

### STAFF

Rev. Daniel L. Busch..... Association Minister  
Mrs. Joan Davidson.....Office Manager/Placement Coordinator  
Mrs. Deb Long .....Bookkeeper

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### Mr. Doug Ricci - MODERATOR

Mr. Doug Ricci - Married to Becky for 49 years on June 1st, with two grown children, Lia and Cara, and one grandson, Milo. Member of St. Paul UCC in Oak Harbor serving on the church council for six years. Doug was a member of NWOA's Stewardship and Caring Team and also the Church and Ministry Team. He was a linking person to the Cabinet for eight years. Doug is a six-year US Navy veteran and is retired from Davis-Besse Nuclear Generating Station.

### Rev. James Brehler - VICE MODERATOR

Rev. James Brehler is the Pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in Defiance. Jim was active in multiple roles in the former WRA/EOA, including Vice-moderator, while serving First Congregational United Church of Christ in Jefferson, Ohio for five years before being called to St. John UCC in Defiance in 2015. Jim also has more than 26 years of experience working in the defense and automotive industries and served as a lay person on various committees in the Michigan Conference during that time. Jim served on the NWOA Church and Ministry Committee for six years and was Chair of the Discernment Working Group for two of those years. He has also served as Vice-moderator of the NWOA for the last two years. In addition to his church-related duties, Jim served seven years on the United Way of Defiance County Board having also served as President for three years, is serving as Membership Chair of the Defiance Lions Club, and is an On-Call Chaplain for Mercy Hospital-Defiance. He facilitates the Defiance Area Anti-racism Network, serves on the Anti-racism Committee at Defiance College, and participates in the Heartland Conference Anti-racism Network. He is serving as the Vice-president of the Defiance Equality Foundation for Inclusion (DEFI), a soon to be stand-alone non-profit supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and Allies in Defiance County. He has been married to his wife Laurel for 37 years and recently became a grandpa!

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## **BRIEF HISTORY**

### **ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, WAPAKONETA**

From the construction of a log church in the Village of Wapakoneta in 1848 to the present, St. Paul UCC has been dedicated to the service of God and mankind. The members at the beginning were mostly German immigrants, who were farmers that lived within 6 miles or so of the village. With a shortage of ministers, the congregation shared pastors with area Lutheran churches. In 1850, this dedicated group of Christians organized, forming the Evangelische Lutherische Germainia St. Paulus Kirche Zu Wapaukonetta. All services were in German until the late 1910s when English services were started. All German services ended in 1931.

The ministers of St Paul UCC have been dedicated to serving God even if it meant losing their lives. Until 1917, all of the ministers were German immigrants that had to leave the known and venture into the unknown. When they arrived, they were often penniless and at times so deeply in debt they had to beg for money so they could travel or buy food. It was their dedication that helped St. Paul UCC grow in membership. Reverend Heinisch worked hard to heal the church after the church split in early 1868. Reverend Rentzsch led the church during the construction of the current sanctuary in 1870.

Members of the congregation have served the country loyally. During the Civil War, Christian Schnell, a member of the church until the 1868 split, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service during the siege of Vicksburg in 1863. His brother, Johann, was killed in battle in Pennsylvania. The Congregation suffered the loss of one member during WWI, three members in WWII, and one during the Vietnam War. Several women of the church have proudly served in the military.

St. Paul UCC has always been especially proud of one of its members, Neil Armstrong. During Neil's high school days, the Armstrong family attended St. Paul UCC. To support Neil's mission to the moon in 1969, the Church had a continuous prayer vigil from launch off the earth until his splash down.

Covid-19 brought misery to the world, but out of the misery came some good. With the suspending of in-person services, St. Paul UCC responded quickly, and found ways to immediately switch to online recorded services, without having a single Sunday without a worship service provided. Once it was realized that the need to deliver the Word of God virtually to the people would likely be a long term mission, it became even more important to set up more efficient and permanent equipment. Several members, who had the knowledge, wired the Church, installed cameras, and placed TV screens for when services were expected to return to in-person worship while still dealing with Covid-19 concerns. Now all services and other events can be streamed live, with a first class virtual experience. All virtual services and events can be viewed at our newly constructed website [www.stpaulucc.com](http://www.stpaulucc.com).

Today, the 360 plus members of the Congregation serve the community through an active food ministry. Hot meals are distributed through Take out Tuesdays and the Summer Lunch Program which is partially funded by the State of Ohio. A monthly food distribution is conducted through the West Ohio Food Bank. FEAST, a youth program, is held on Wednesdays through the school year to provide food and fellowship for the youth of the area with transportation provided.

Nationally, the Church has gone on mission trips to El Salvador and Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, to help those in need. Disaster relief buckets are also assembled by the Church for those suffering from disasters.

Presently, the Church is being led by Reverend Mark Bishop, Interim Pastor, and Anthony Brookhart, Pastoral Intern.

## MODERATORS OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, October 25, 1963 ministers and delegates representing congregations seeking membership in the Northwest Ohio Association met at Trinity United Church of Christ, Tiffin, and gave birth to this covenant fellowship. First United Church of Christ, Lima was the site of the First Annual Meeting, May 6 and 7, 1964. Since then the following persons, clergy and laity, have been elected to assume the duties of moderator:

1963-64	* Rev. Paul Rohrbaugh, St. John's UCC, Genoa, MB
1964-65	* Rev. Paul Rohrbaugh, St. John's UCC, Genoa, MB
1965-66	* Mr. Charles McKenny, Pilgrim Church of the UCC, Toledo, MB
1966-67	* Rev. Robert Boardman, First Congregational UCC, Sandusky, F
1967-68	* Mr. Oscar J. Weiker, Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1968-69	* Rev. Richard P. Vitz, First UCC, Lima, ME
1969-70	Mr. R. Clark Hunter, Ripley Congregational UCC, Greenwich, F
1970-71	Rev. Larry K. May, St. Paul's UCC, Bellevue, F
1971-72	* Mr. Randall Buchman, The St. John UCC, Defiance, D
1972-73	* Rev. William Tuck, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
1973-74	Mr. Jay Elshoff, First UCC, New Knoxville, ME
1974-75	* Rev. Robert Haskins, Mayflower UCC, Mansfield, TH
1975-76	Rev. Anne Kear, Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1976-77	* Rev. Reuben Bebler, St. John's UCC, Holgate, D
1977-78	* Mr. Philip Maurer, St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, ME
1978-79	Rev. Robert Snyder, Park Congregational UCC, Toledo, MB
1979-80	* Mrs. Jean Winegardner, West Elm UCC, Lima, ME
1980-81	* Rev. Robert Peeples, First UCC, Shelby, TH
1981-82	* Mr. John Schaeffer, St. John's UCC, Milan, F
1982-83	* Rev. John Miller, First UCC, Galion, TH
1983-84	* Mr. William C. Bradish, Pilgrim Church of the UCC, Toledo, MB
1984-85	* Rev. Harold W. Thiedt, St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta, ME
1985-86	Mrs. Elnor Telljohann, Faith Community UCC, Toledo, MB
1986-87	Rev. Barbara Laucks, Emanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1987-88	* Mr. David Deever, St. John's UCC, Kenton, H
1988-89	Rev. Alfred W. Schroeder, The St. John UCC, Defiance, D
1989-90	Mr. James L. Henry, St. John's UCC, Mansfield, TH
1990-91	Rev. Patricia H. Lawrence, Republic UCC, Republic, H
1991-92	* Mr. William O. Fahrenbruck, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
1992-93	* Rev. Gary R. Hodges, St. John's UCC, Archbold, D
1993-94	* Ms. Coral Schmidt, Salem UCC, Toledo, MB
1994-95	Rev. Frank Isaacs, St. Paul's UCC, Bellevue, F
1995-96	Mr. Garland John Gates, First UCC, Shelby, TH
1996-97	* Rev. Howard H. Hershberger, UCC, Spencerville, ME
1997-98	* Ms. Judy Shumaker, Calvin UCC, Toledo, MB
1998-99	Rev. Barry Bordenkircher, Community UCC, Fort Seneca, H
1999-2000	* Mr. Ted Lovejoy, St. John's UCC, Archbold, D
2000-01	Rev. Sam Buehrer, First UCC, Galion, TH
2001-02	* Mrs. Donna L. Overholt, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
2002-03	Rev. Rob Patton, St. Stephen's UCC, Sandusky, F
2003-05	Mr. Dale Schmidt, St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, Auglaize Valley Region
2005-07	* Rev. Dr. William Chidester, Sylvania UCC, Sylvania, Lakeshore Region
2007-09	Mrs. Mary Powell, St. John's UCC, Tiffin, Sandusky Valley Region
2009-11	Rev. David Plant, The St. John UCC, Defiance, Auglaize Valley Region
2011-13	Mrs. Susan Bishop, Zion (Fireside) UCC, Bellevue, Lakeshore Region
2013-15	Rev. Robin LaBolt – Sycamore UCC, Sycamore, Sandusky Valley Region
2015-17	Rev. David Voll – St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor, Lakeshore Region
2017-19	Mrs. Betty Rettig – St. John's UCC, Holgate, Auglaize Valley Region
2019-21	Pastor Tom Kagy – Bloomville UCC, Bloomville, Sandusky Valley Region
2021-23	Mr. Doug Ricci – St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor, Lakeshore Region

Key - The initials designate the Program Districts: MB - Maumee Bay; D - Defiance; H - Heidelberg; ME - Miami Erie;  
F - Firelands; TH - Templed Hills

\* Deceased



## **RULES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### *Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association*

The rules and operating procedures for this Annual Meeting are intended to increase the meeting's effectiveness and simplicity, and to decrease confusion and uncertainty.

The meeting itself is the total responsibility of all the delegates. Delegates (and visitors with voice) should speak only on the subject at hand, remaining aware that there are others who may wish to speak and limiting the number of times he/she speaks and the length of each speech.

The Annual Meeting Planners and the Association Cabinet suggest the following operating procedures:

1. All proceedings, unless otherwise provided for, are governed by Roberts Rules of Order, as Amended.
2. Every member in good standing of a United Church of Christ has the privilege of the floor, but only official delegates and those granted voice and vote by this Association may make motions or vote. During debate the Moderator shall attempt to alternate between "pro" and "con" speakers.
3. Every motion, except a very simple one, must be submitted in writing to the secretary for in-person attendees or through the chat feature of Zoom for those virtual attendees, at the time it is made.
4. Speakers addressing the meeting shall be limited to three minutes on a first speech and two minutes if they wish to speak a second time to the same matter of business.
5. The bar of the house shall be defined as the pews in the main sanctuary of the church for in-person attendees and the Zoom Meeting Room for virtual attendees. Only official delegates within the bar of the house shall be eligible to vote.

## **DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE**

### **NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

Copies of the Northwest Ohio Association Constitution and Bylaws  
are available by request at the Association office  
or by

[CLICKING HERE](#)

## HOW TO REPORT ON AN ANNUAL MEETING

Delegates to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association are representatives of a local church. Delegates are often requested to make a verbal report to the official board or during a Sunday morning worship service. Other delegates are asked to make a written report for their parish newsletter. Regardless - the question remains - how can I make a responsible and effective report? The following guidelines are prepared to help you make your report back home.

1. Basic Resources and Tools for Reporting
  - A. The Program Book - The agenda is a good summary of the meeting. Make notes in your book throughout the meeting.
  - B. Your Personality - When you write or tell the story, be personal - blend the factual report with feelings and humor.
2. Your Report - Telling the Story
  - A. Outline the story you wish to tell. It might fall into several categories:
    - a) Factual Report of:
      - \* The Theme – “Missions: Making All Things New”
      - \* Reports of officers, staff and teams/committees
      - \* Key actions taken
      - \* Speakers
      - \* Elections
      - \* Association Mission Spending Plan (Budget)
    - b) Your Impressions and Feelings about:
      - \* Overall impressions of meeting
      - \* Inspiration
      - \* Challenge
      - \* Disappointment
      - \* Thrills
    - c) Application of the Meeting to Your Church:
      - \* Anyone from your church on the program or elected
      - \* Actions that touch your church
      - \* Budget implications for your church
      - \* New ideas or programs to share
    - d) Invitation and Challenge:
      - \* For others to review the program book
      - \* For others to be a delegate next year
      - \* For others to become involved.
  - B. Write your story out. Be brief - you can tell a lot in five minutes. Have fun!