

SECTION A

AGENDA AND MEETING INFORMATION

- 1 PROPOSED AGENDA
- 2 OPENING WORSHIP
- 3 CLOSING WORSHIP
- 4 DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS, STAFF, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
- 5 TABLE OF CONTENTS
- 6 CHURCH HISTORY
- 7 MODERATORS OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION
- 8 RULES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES
- 9 HOW TO REPORT ON AN ANNUAL MEETING

61st Annual Meeting

April 27, 2024

Proposed Agenda

Northwest Ohio Association

Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

St. Stephen United Church of Christ, Sandusky, Ohio

THEME: "Power of Love"

Mark 12:28b-31

- 8:00 am Registration & Breakfast
- 9:00 am Call to Order – Declaration of Quorum (Sanctuary)
Welcome
Opening Worship with Renewal of Baptism - Rev. Daniel L. Busch, Association Minister
Rev. Jerald Fenske, St. Stephen UCC, Sandusky Pastor
(Special offering will be connected for Back Bay Mission Emergency Shelter Project)
- 10:00 am Adoption of Agenda
Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
Introductions
Special Guests
New to the Association & Members in Discernment
- Heartland Conference
Greetings from Rev. Char Burch, Sabbatical Supply Conference Minister
Presentation: Ms. Jill Frey – Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries (video)
Greetings from Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President
- Constitution and By-law Update/Revisions Vote
Nominations and Election
Financial Reports – 2024 Final Budget & 2025 Preliminary Budget
Recognition – Anniversaries, OCWM Awards
Receiving of reports - Teams, Committees, and Association Minister
- 11:00 am Keynote Address – Rev. James Pennington, Back Bay Mission
- 11:50 am Break for Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 12:45 pm Break-out rooms
and Rev. James Pennington – Back Bay Mission
- 1:45 pm Dr. Kate Davis – (Defiance College) Celebrating Women in Christian History
Pastor Jay Scott – Growth by Mission
Rev. Dr. Fred Coulter – Prayer and Meditation
Rev. Darla Metz – Aging: Everyone’s Doing It
Ms. Nicki Lawrence – LGBTQ+ Ministries
- 2:30 pm Closing Celebration, Announcements, Amenities, Leadership Installation
Adjournment

“Power of Love.”
Opening Worship – April 27, 2024
Word and Renewal of Baptism

GATHERING MUSIC

***GATHERING THE FAITH COMMUNITY TOGETHER** *(responsively)*

Come from the east and west, from the north and south, and gather before God and with one another as the beloved community of Christ to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

We gather together sharing faith, fellowship, and fun.

God’s love permeates our world and our lives, and we are people of the resurrection.

God loves us so much that we are transformed and renewed to share amazing grace to live life with abundance and unlimited possibilities.

The power of love heals broken relationships and enables peace and justice to overcome evil’s power.

Neighbors are no longer strangers, and all are affirmed as God’s beloved family.

The power of love calls us to care for one another and the world with compassion and extravagant welcome so that together we “all may be one.”

God’s abundant gifts of love are shared generously by both word and deed to reconcile the world through Christ and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

(prayer) **Loving God, the more love we share the more we have. Enable us to be united in ways of trust, faith, hope, and unconditional love. Forgive our fault-finding in others and in ourselves. Grant us a vision of love that does missions and ministries as Jesus taught and lived. It is through Your love that we are more than we ever imagined we could be. Bless our gathering together and bless the missions and ministries we do as Christ’s disciples. This we pray in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of our lives. Amen.**

HANDBELL MUSIC PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY – Mark 12:28b-31

(The Scribes asked,) “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus Answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

REFLECTION – “Power of Love.”

PRAYERS TO THE LIVING GOD

HANDBELL MUSIC PRESENTATION

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM AND PRAYER OF REFLECTION *(unison)* *(Traditional Sources)*

Lord Jesus, for you I live, for you I suffer, for you I die! Lord Jesus, Yours will I be in life and death! Grant me, O Lord, eternal salvation!

Almighty God, who in baptism received us Your servants into the church, forgave our sins, and promised us eternal life, increase in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen us for our ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Renew Your Church”

#463

***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

Ms. Peggy George Moderator
Pastor Jay Scott Vice Moderator
Rev. Darla Metz Secretary
Mrs. Dian Ewald Treasurer
Mr. Doug Ricci Past Moderator

STAFF

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

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Ms. Peggy George - MODERATOR

Peggy is a member of Bloomville UCC. Peggy retired in 2020 from Heidelberg University after working 40 years for the Dean of Students. She moved from Bloomville to Otterbein St. Mary's Senior Living Community in July 2021. Her husband of 43 years passed away in 2018. She has three children – Eric lives in St. Mary's; Libby lives in Mokena IL; Jenney lives in Kenosha WI. Seven grandchildren complete the family. She shares her home with her cat, Cali. If you love the water, come visit and sit with her on her patio to enjoy the lake views. Peggy completed her undergraduate studies at Davis College with an Executive Secretarial degree, and at Heidelberg University with a BA in psychology and English literature. She has also completed classes in Old and New Testament studies in the Lay School of the Northwest Ohio Association. She has been involved with the Northwest Ohio Association for the last several years. Peggy volunteers as a shuttle driver on Otterbein St. Mary's campus and currently serves as Secretary on their Resident Council.

Pastor Jay Scott - VICE MODERATOR

Pastor Jay Scott is the licensed pastor at Emanuel UCC at Upper Sandusky, (aka "The Mud Church!") where he has served since August 2014. His upbringing is in the United Methodist Church, and he pastored a Methodist church prior to Emanuel. Jay has a professional background in broadcasting, marketing/public relations, and American Red Cross management and disaster relief. Jay is also a farmer, and lives on the family farm with his wife, Kathy, who is secretary at two Lutheran churches. They have two daughters, and three granddaughters.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION A - ORANGE PAGES

Basic Meeting Information

SECTION B - BLUE PAGES

Officer and Staff Reports

SECTION C - PINK PAGES

Financial Reports

OCWM in NWOA

SECTION D – IVORY PAGES

No Ordinations in 2024

SECTION E – GOLDENROD PAGES

NWOA Organizational Chart

NWOA Role and Mission

NWOA Vision

Team Reports

SECTION F – VIOLET PAGES

Directory

SECTION G- WHITE PAGES

Heartland Conference

Outdoor Ministries

Disaster Ministries

SECTION H– GREEN PAGES

Recognized Mission Partners

SECTION I – YELLOW PAGES

Nominations

BRIEF HISTORY

ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SANDUSKY

A daughter congregation of Emmanuel U.C.C., St. Stephen Church was founded on January 1, 1882, known as the German Evangelical Protestant St. Stephen Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio. St. Stephen became part of the Evangelical and Reformed Church when it merged with the German Reformed Church in the United States. During 1951 St. Stephen Strawberry Festival and Sauerkraut Suppers were started as a fundraiser and continue today. On June 27, 1957, St. Stephen became a member of the United Church of Christ. In 1964 a groundbreaking ceremony was held on 19 acres at the church's present site. The first service was held on Christmas Eve 1964. Kiddie College was added in the early 70's. The church has faithfully kept a picture of all who served as pastors. It can be seen on the west wall of the social hall. Historical objects can be seen in the hallway by the main office. Our current pastor Rev. Jerald Fenske joined us on April 25, 2010. He has revived a men's breakfast group, monthly Bible study and Generations, a social group. St. Stephen recently celebrated its 140 anniversary and invited Emmanuel U.C.C. as their special guests.

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
2023-24	Rev. James Brehler – St. John UCC, Defiance, Auglaize Valley Region
2024-25	Ms. Peggy George – Bloomville UCC, Bloomville, Sandusky Valley 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

Sixty-first 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 61st 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 – “Power of Love”
 - * 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!