



Allow me to re-introduce myself!
 My name is Debbie Kesner and I have been working part time for the conference since 2019 in the role of Office Support Coordinator. I am now delighted to have the opportunity to fulfill the duties of the position of the Executive Administrator.

I grew up in the United Church of Christ in Grantfork, Illinois. My family owned a grain farm in rural Bond County which makes me a proud farmer's daughter. I attended schools in the Highland School district and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Upon graduation, I worked for a brokerage firm in St. Louis for almost twenty years. The area that I worked in focused on client banking services.

After my tenure at the brokerage firm, I chose to work closer to home to be more involved in my family's life and took a job with a manufacturing company in Highland. I enjoy working with numbers and finances and I consider this my superpower!

Most recently, I felt a desire to work for a company that directly impacted people's lives in a positive way, much like the ISCUC, and took a job working in the finance area for a worldwide non-profit institution.

Personally, my family will tell you that I am a pretty good baker. I enjoy baking sourdough and artisan breads as well as cookies, brownies, and other goodies. Baking brings me joy in that I can measure things and follow recipes to get the desired result - which is always tasty. I leave the cooking up to my very capable husband.

I enjoy collecting Ball and Mason jars and we go to flea markets and antique stores to find the oldest and rarest finds. I also enjoy genealogy and have researched my family history extensively. I'm part Irish, part Hungarian, and part German. Looks like our family is a melting pot!

[Prayer list for Nov 13 - 19, 2022](#)
[Church & Pastors](#)

-DuQuoin St. John's UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell (right)



-East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson (left)

[Retired Pastor](#)
Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter,
 Hamel, IL

[People with Life Concerns](#)

Keep the family of **Essel Emanuel Johnson**, Pastor of Monument of Faith, in your prayers as they mourn his death. Pastor Johnson is the **father of Bethany Johnson-Javois, the President and CEO for Deaconess Foundation**. Celebration of Life was held yesterday. Click this [link](#) for the complete obituary.

-Please pray for **Rev. Dana Schindler** as she recovers from a fall and its injuries. Rev. Schindler is the Pastor at Hamel Immanuel UCC and Edwardsville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to 4600 McKendree Apt 112, Godfrey, IL 62035.

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some memory loss. Good news...Jim reported

My husband and I also run a landscape photography business and we play off each other's strengths. He takes the photographs and I manage all the aspects of the business. We sell images to clients at art fairs and to interior designers. We've enjoyed many a sunrise and sunset together.

I look forward to serving the Illinois South Conference as the Executive Administrator. As the Irish say, of which I am one third, "may love and laughter light your day and warm your heart and home."

Blessings, Debbie Kesner
ISC Executive Administrator

that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

-Keep **Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer** in your prayers. Rev. Causer has served several churches in ISC. Cards may be sent to 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.
--Pray for the individuals and families who are grieving the injury and loss of victims of the recent school shooting in St. Louis.

Did You Know...

The Ameren Illinois Peak Time Rewards program gives eligible residential customers the opportunity to earn bill credits by reducing electricity usage during times of high electricity demand, typically summer afternoons. Learn more [here](#).



From UCC General Council - Proving Your Church's Tax-Exempt Status, and Your Church's EIN: What Local Churches Need to Know. Do you know about the United Church of Christ's group exemption for 501(c)(3) status? Do you need to prove that your Local Church is tax-exempt? Do you know the difference between "nonprofit," "tax-exempt," and "501(c)(3)?" These terms, while often used interchangeably, have distinct meanings under the law, and come with different legal obligations. This post explains how these terms apply to your Local Church, how to prove your church's tax-exempt status, and the importance of maintaining your church's federal Employer Identification Number, or EIN. Read [more](#)...



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The Mission Board of **Highland Evangelical UCC** sponsored a food drive for the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry (HACSM) in the month of October, collecting 141.9 pounds of food and \$61 in cash donations during their recent Trunk or Treat Event. Way to go, Highland EvUCC!

Columbia St. Paul UCC won a fun award recently! They entered a scarecrow into the Columbia Scarecrow Crawl and won “Best Use of Recyclable Materials” award. Their scarecrow was named “Hank, The Hydro Hero.” Dean Riebeling and the church's junior high youth brainstormed and created the idea for Hank. The youth, along with Dean and many other adult volunteers, were able to create him out of old water bottles, cooking oil drums and buckets. Not only did they use recycled materials, but they also had a QR code that linked people to One Great Hour of Sharing where the attendees could learn about the amazing mission of OGHS and donate to the cause.



Abuse Prevention Considerations: Keeping Your Ministry Safe
The UCC Insurance Board presents a webinar on **Wed, Nov 30, at 1 pm CST, featuring: Christy Schiller, Vice President of Account Services for Praesidium.** Failure to discover a sex

offender can affect those in your care, your reputation, financial stability, and trust within the community. Join us to learn about targeted solutions that will strengthen your ministry's abuse prevention efforts. Webinar is FREE but you need to register. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Eden Walker Leadership presents Langenberg Leadership Forum: Leadership for the Common Good on Tuesday, November 15 in Eden Seminary Commons. Breakfast snacks at 7:30 am and My leadership 'aha' with Thi Nguyen, PhD, at 8 am. Thi supports community leaders in different spaces from science, workforce, food and nutrition, and literacy and racial harmony. She describes herself as a pollinator and someone who helps others find joy in alchemy, or professional transformations. She has served in leadership roles at St Louis Community College, Wash U's Graduate School, and volunteers with Phi Global Farms, Collegiate School of Biomedicine, Unstoppable Extended Hands, EyeSeeMe African American bookstore, the International Institute, Metropolitan Congregations United, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She is currently leading training communities for the nonprofit, Science Communication Lab when she's not taking walks and watching sports with her family.



National Hospice and Palliative Care Month:

November and December holidays are a good time to incorporate family discussions on [Advance Directives](#) and End-of-Life wishes. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization resources section has [downloadable resources](#) related to Advance Directives, Planning Ahead, Caregiving, End of Life Care, Grief, Pain, Pediatric, Professional Resources, Serious Illness, and Spanish/English Bilingual Resources.

National Native American Heritage Month:

[National Native American Heritage Month](#) is celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. The fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving) is recognized as the National Day of Mourning for Native Americans and their allies.

DuBois Center News

DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update

Over 180 people, consisting of Lay Delegates from each church, clergy, Conference Council

Delegates, Visitors, and MarketPlace representatives, showed their support of the DuBois 6.0 capital campaign through their donations to the worship offering. Because of your generosity the total for the DuBois 6.0 campaign is over \$240,320.



Summer Jobs at DuBois...

Do you know someone who would love to work at DuBois Center next year? Jobs include counselors, lifeguards, horse program, and more. It's a great way to give back to the community and add to your resume. Talk it up now with college students and young adults.



CHHSM News Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

General Synod 34 & GS Frequency Update

June 30 - July 4, 2022 – Indianapolis

“Making All Things New” will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30 - July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis. Information will be added to the [General Synod website](#) as it becomes available. You can also sign up to receive updates. Also, see below for an update from the UCC Board regarding General Synod frequency and format.

For the past four years, there has been a renewed effort to review the form, function, and frequency of General Synod. Motivations for this review include:

- 1. Sustainable Resource Use:** As financial and staff resources at the national setting have declined over the last decade, the portion of the remaining resources devoted to General Synod has increased, particularly in relation to staff time. A smaller national staff (about 75 full-time and 30-ish part-time) has meant that up to two-thirds of staff time has to be devoted to planning and preparation in Synod years. As a result, staff cannot devote themselves to the deep engagement with the wider church as is expected. Furthermore, other settings of the UCC, including conferences, have expressed strain on financial and staff resources due to the current General Synod model. [Staff resources was our leading concern in writing the proposal, not financial resources, although those figure in, especially for Conferences.]
- 2. Environmental Stewardship:** General Synod has a significant environmental impact, especially with thousands of people traveling from around the country and around the world. At a time when the effects of climate change are growing clearer, the need to make changes to better steward earthly resources is undeniable.
- 3. Accessibility:** General Synod has been life changing for so many who have had the opportunity to attend. However, for many others who do not have the time, finances, or ability to travel, the blessings of Synod have been out of reach. Just access to General Synod is essential.

In considerations of the above motivations, **the General Synod Review Committee has recommended, and the UCC Board of Directors has affirmed, that General Synod be held every three years in a hybrid format, allowing in person and virtual participation.**

UCC General Synod 34

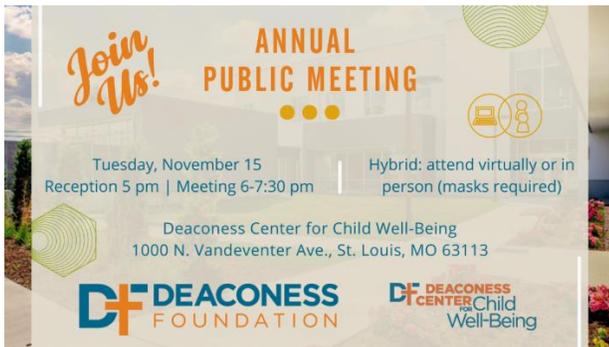


& General Synod Frequency Update

1. While we realize this potential change would come with grief from less frequent gathering, we also see the potential of this change to bring opportunities relating to the above motivations. A less frequent General Synod will free national setting resources to engage in newer and deeper ways with the other settings of the church and beyond. Also, the strain on the resources of other settings would be eased.
2. Less travel reduces the UCC carbon footprint and sets an example for more responsible stewardship of Creation.
3. A hybrid model allows for greater accessibility and a broader impact for those unable to participate in the physical gathering.

Logistics:

- The change in frequency will require a bylaws change to be voted on by General Synod in 2023.
- The suggested frequency bylaws change will include adjustments to terms for elected positions.
- Hybrid options do not require a vote and can be implemented by the planning team of the UCCB.
- The first Synod impacted by this change would be the shift from 2027 to 2028 because the planning team must book locations well in advance.



Open Invitation to Anyone in the Illinois South Conference

The **Deaconess Foundation** Annual Public Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, at Deaconess Center, 1000 N Vandeventer Ave, St. Louis, MO 63113. A reception will be at 5 pm with the meeting from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. All members of Illinois South Conference are invited to attend but must register online [here](#).

Back Bay Mission Kicks Off Celebrating Its 100 Year Anniversary with a Capital Campaign.

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. Find out more about its celebration and capital campaign by watching the video above. For volunteer opportunities, check out the [calendar](#) for 2023. The calendar for 2024 will be available Jan 1. Dates go quickly. Or if you have questions, email volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org.

After Pandemic-Induced Hiatus, Deaconess Foundation CDF Freedom Schools Return to St. Louis

After a two-year hiatus caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis welcomed back students to its Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools, held this past summer. The seven-week enrichment program took place at four locations throughout the Greater St. Louis area: Christ the King UCC in Florissant, Mo.; Peace UCC in Webster Groves, Mo.; and Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) UCC and Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, both in St. Louis. [Read more](#).



Big Thanks from Aimee Hart at Kindercottage

I want to take the time to thank all the loving and warm wishes I received at the Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting. I can see and feel the love and care that has been established for

our mission here at Kindercottage. I am excited to keep building great relationships to sustain the mission work, as we care for our blessed little ones. I look forward to meeting each of you as you plan to visit our center.

We Need Your Support

Our goal this year is to build a new playground for 3–5-year-olds. Our Playground equipment is in poor condition and has been worn over the years. Please help us reach our goals of striving to have a sound playground structure installed by the year 2023 .Contact Aimee Hart at Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org to learn how you can assist in building our new playground.

As we prepare for the Winter Weather, we are asking our loving and generous givers to contact us about purchasing coats for our little lambs. We are also including a link for those who would like to shop online for various items for this holiday season.

Link for [Target](#). Link for [Walmart](#). Cash app:\$unipreskindercottage

Applications open for new Executive Director

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has opened applications for a new Executive Director. The application deadline is Nov 25. The start date is Dec 19. The ONA Coalition is the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world. It supports not-yet-ONA congregations on their path towards an Open and Affirming covenant and supports existing ONA congregations with resources and training programs in mission, ministry and advocacy. The Executive Director implements the Coalition's strategic goals and objectives and provides direction and leadership toward the achievement of the organization's mission and vision. Click [here](#) for more information.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Region 4 - Godfrey Evangelical UCC is excited to announce its first TRIVIA NIGHT at Evangelical UCC since the quarantine! It will be held on Sat, Nov 19 at 7 pm in the gym. Doors open at 6 pm. Invite your friends, put together teams, tell everyone you know! They welcome your support. Come one, come all! The more the merrier!

Region 5 - Grantfork UCC will hold its 52nd Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 12 from 2 pm - 7 pm. It is drive through only. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, and applesauce. Fresh or fried packaged sausage for sale at the end of the drive thru. Sponsored by the Grantfork UCC Men's Fellowship. All dinners \$12.

Trivia Night and Silent Auction - Staunton St. Paul UCC will host a Trivia Night & Silent Auction on Sat, Nov 19 at the Concordia Hall in Staunton. Doors open at 6 pm and play commences at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$15 per person for teams up to 8 people. Mulligans will be available for purchase. 50/50 drawing. Raffles for a 42" inch smart TV and a Michael Kors purse and cash prizes for first and second places. Register your team by contacting the church office at 618-635-2386 or email stpauluc@madisontelco.com.

Region 7 - Addieville Zion UCC will hold its 72nd Annual WurstMarkt on Wed, Nov 9 at the Addieville Community Club from 4 pm - 7 pm. Drive-thru only. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, and cookies. Cost \$12.

Region 9 - Belleville St. Paul UCC will hold its Trivia Night on Sat, Nov 19 in its Activity Center. Doors open at 6 pm and play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. Free mulligans with purchase of a table of 8 for \$200. Host is Michael Wagner. Bring your own food

and drinks of choice. Table theme is Teams, Tunes, Tomes, Talkies & TV. Prize for best dressed table/team. Cash prizes for 1st-3rd places. Basket raffle and 50/50.

Job Opportunities

Friedens UCC in Marissa seeks part-time organist and/or pianist. Duties include playing organ and/or piano on Sundays for our 10am worship services as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Position includes 4 paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. Services normally consist of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short, sung responses, and a postlude. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer at marissafriedens@gmail.com or call the church office 618-295-2004.

St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary. Duties include answering the phone, process and distribute email and regular mail and ordering supplies as needed. Preparing the Sunday bulletin, the annual meeting reports, newsletter, coordinate the church calendar, keep Member contribution files updated in Church Windows and providing support to the Pastor and other ministries of the Church. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9-12 hours weekly and should be familiar with Word and Excel. Contact the Church office at 618-660-8894 or email stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com.

Open Positions at Troy Friedens UCC

- Nursery Attendant
- Director of Faith Formation

If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email friedens@friedensucc-troy.org.

Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC is in search for a Part-time Music Leader. This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Secretary, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Music skills include the ability to play a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals and piano. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Church services are currently 10 am - 11 am on Sundays. Special services include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter services. Contact the church secretary at 618-357-8075.

Music Ministry Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland, this position will promote leadership in developing and implementing the music ministries of the Church, and actively engage the congregation in worship through music. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music. This is a part time position, averaging 15 hours per week. Scheduling is flexible and offers competitive compensation. Candidates can apply by sending their resume to office@evucc.org. Click [here](#) for details.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call (618-654-2125) before coming to the Conference Office or make an appointment with a staff member using the emails below.

For the work of Conference teams and committees or for financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt at 618-787-2202 or program@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions or ISC program registrations, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org. To speak with the Conference Minister or search and call inquiries, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

[Illinois South Conference](#) [Back Bay Mission](#) [CHHSM](#) [Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#) [DuBois Center](#) [Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#) [Emmaus Homes](#) [Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton Youth & Family](#) [LIFE Program](#) [Unleashing Potential](#)

[Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [UCC Insurance Board](#)

[Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#) [UCC Newsletter](#)

