

Weekly Connection

For the Week of July 16, 2017 - July 22, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

General Synod Results of Resolutions – July, 2017 – Baltimore, MD

Click [here](#) to read mores about the resolutions.

Passed RESOLUTION OF WITNESS: A MORE JUST ECONOMY: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation

Passed RESOLUTION: Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches

Passed RESOLUTION (as amended): On Corporal Punishment of Children in Homes and Institutions

Passed RESOLUTION OF WITNESS: in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect

Passed RESOLUTION: On Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency

Passed RESOLUTION: Supporting Authorized Ministries of Underrepresented Clergy: A Call for Greater Representation & Economic Justice

Passed RESOLUTION OF WITNESS: The Earth is the Lord's--Not Ours to Wreck. Imperatives for a New Moral Era

Passed RESOLUTION: Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of @Wendys

Did NOT pass RESOLUTION OF WITNESS: The Disparity of Rights of Adoptees to Access Birth Records for Adults (Needed a 2/3 majority vote)

Passed MOTION: Adoption of the Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws concerning governance of the national setting.

Passed MOTION (as amended): On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers

Passed RESOLUTION: Bring Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the U.S. Embargo on Cuba

Did NOT pass MOTION: Resolution of Witness in Support of Legislation Authorizing Aid in Dying (needed a supermajority)

Elected Rev. Penny Lowes as Assistant Moderator of the 32nd General Synod

Elected Mr. Norman Williams as Moderator of the 32nd General Synod

Elected the slate of candidates for Nominating Committee submitted by the Business Committee

Elected the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors submitted by the Nominating Committee.

Here is ISC's own Rev. Sue Artt, now Conference Minister for the Rocky Mountain Conference and former pastor of St. Paul UCC in Nashville, in front of the General Synod Delegate floor. It should help you get a feel for being there. Next to Sue is the Assistant Moderator, Norman Williams, a Chicago banker.



Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

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[Deaconess Foundation](#)

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Pray for...

Prayer list for
July 16 - July 22, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Carlyle Immanuel UCC,
Pastor Ken (Barbara) Schafer
- Centralia St. Peter UCC,



Jill (Lana Rizzo) Baker, ISC Vice Moderator and member of Marion Zion UCC, had a huge job at the 31st General Synod in Baltimore, Maryland. She served as Stage Manager during the plenary and worship services. Her job was to show the participants where they were to enter, exit and stand during their participation and to make sure they went on as the schedule dictated. You see her here with the headset on and the huge stage in the background.

If any of you have been in charge of a church play or program, multiply that by thousands to understand the stress Jill must have encountered. Yet, she did it with a smile on her face and love in her voice. Thanks for being such an efficient stage manager so that we could all enjoy the day as it rolled right along!!

ISC Synod Delegates served well at the 31st UCC General Synod. They participated from 6:30 am - 10 pm many of the days. Please invite them to come to your church to talk about the experience and the resolutions voted upon at General Synod.



Delegates:

- Kristian Avise-Rouse, St. Paul UCC Columbia
- Breanne Beisiegel, St. Peter's UCC, Freeburg
- Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, St. John's Evangelical UCC, Collinsville
- Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
- Rev. Christy Eckert, Immanuel UCC, Hamel
- Karen Gaines, St. John UCC, Granite City
- Brad Grotefendt, Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
- Carl Kasten, St. Paul UCC, Carlinville
- Carolyn Palmer, St. Paul UCC, Staunton
- Brett Palmer, St. Paul UCC, Staunton
- Pastor Norma Patterson, Good Shepherd of Faith, E St. Louis
- Pastor John Pawloski, Congregational Church, Godfrey
- Rev. Patrick Poole, St. John UCC, Maeystown
- David Shanks, Bethel UCC, Cahokia
- Verna Steinkamp, St. Peter UCC, Centralia
- Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister, ISC

Youth & Chaperone:

- Maggie Ratcliff, Youth Delegate, St. Paul UCC, Carlinville
- Amy Ratcliff, Chaperone, St. Paul UCC, Carlinville

Visitors:

- Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator
- Craig Bielke, St. John's Evangelical UCC, Collinsville
- Donna Kasten, St. Paul UCC, Carlinville
- Elizabeth Grotefendt, Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
- Grotefendt kids, Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
- Cora Eckert, Immanuel UCC, Hamel
- Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, St. John's Evangelical UCC, Collinsville
- Rev. Meryn Lawrence, St. Paul UCC, Waterloo
- Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer, O'Fallon UCC, O'Fallon
- Tarrah Vaupel, O'Fallon UCC, O'Fallon
- Rev. Kris Avise-Rouse, St. Paul UCC, Columbia
- Nicole Avise-Rouse, St. Paul UCC, Columbia
- Casey Avise-Rouse, St. Paul UCC, Columbia

Rev. John (Michelle) Pawloski,
Student Pastor

Retired Pastor

- Rev. James and Lelynna
Langdoc, Sun City, FL

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for Priscilla (Rev. Howard) Self as she recuperates from surgery. Priscilla works part-time for DuBois Center. She is a member of St. Peter's UCC in Okawville and the ISC Church & Ministry Church Committee. Cards may be sent to her at 12922 County Hwy. 27, Nashville IL 62263.

- Keep Lelynna (Rev. James) Langdoc in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Rev. Langdoc is a former ISC Associate Conference Minister. Cards may be sent to Lelynna at 2032 Sifield Greens Way #28, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

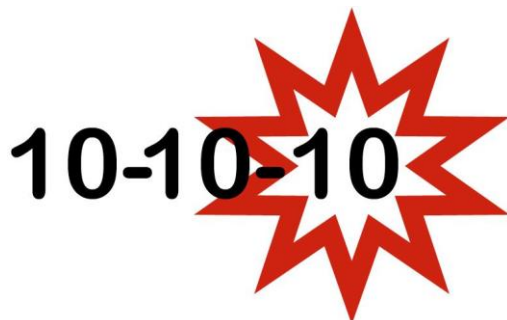
- Pray for Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders as he continues treatment for ongoing illness. Douglas is currently the Supply Pastor for Belleville Concordia UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St Louis MO 63121.

- Keep Dorothy Edwards in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Dorothy is a member of the East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and the mother of Pastor Norma Patterson.



It wasn't all work, We did enjoy getting to know each other better.

Left - The ISC Delegation on stage at General Synod. Our t-shirts read "Illinois South Conference Home of Superman AND Super people." Here they are BEING Superman!! Thanks to Karen Gaines and David Henerfauth for designing the shirts. *Right* - Group dinner on Monday night for delegates and visitors.



Years ago I read a book that has forever transformed my thinking and decision making. (That is when I put its lessons into practice.) The book was *10 Minutes-10 Months-10 Years: A Life-Transforming Idea* by Suzy Welch. The basic premise of the book is that too often we make knee jerk decisions in our personal life and in our corporate life simply because we do not stop and take the long view. The author suggests that one way to take the long view and to clarify what is important is to ask three questions:

- 1) Will this matter ten minutes from now?
- 2) Will this matter ten months from now?
- 3) Will this matter ten years from now?

When faced with a crisis, a dilemma, or a situation in which we are being asked to make a decision or take action, too often we focus on the immediate. Thus the reason for the first question-Will this matter ten minutes from now? For me, the first ten minutes often represents all the immediate fears and perceived worst-case scenarios. Will this matter ten minutes from now? Of course, because you panic about all the what's-- What am I going to do? What am I going to say? What will people think? What will they say? What will they do? What will happen next?

Yet, fast-forwarding time in your mind a bit can give you a different perspective. Will this matter ten months from now? This question helps you to imagine the after effects. After the decision is made, what will the fallout be? After an action is taken, what might be the intended and unintended consequences? After ten months, how will my life or the lives of those involved be changed?

The last question gives the clearest indication if this is something really worth your energy, worry, doubt, trouble and time. Will this matter ten years from now? If it will matter ten years from now, then perhaps a good deal of prayer, discernment, and faithful action is in order. However, if it will honestly not matter ten years from now, perhaps the best course of action is to let it go and move on. Or, at the very least, do not let it rob you of valuable time and energy in the present moment.

I believe the 10-10-10 rule was not unique to Suzy Welch. For this wisdom can be heard in the words of Jesus himself as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 25-27, 31 & 33 *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, reap, or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' But seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Our first ten minutes worries are as akin to the worries of what we will eat, drink, or wear. They only address the immediate, often shallow concerns, looking for quick fixes and easy answers. As can also be true of our ten-month concerns. Yet, ten years' concerns (if it will matter in ten years) signify the things that really matter in life-our relationships, our character, our core values, opportunities to make a difference in the world or to authentically live out the life to which we have been called as people of faith. This is kingdom building. The truth is: true kingdom-building living requires us to stop and prayerfully take the long view, seeking God's wisdom and counsel before making quick decisions that only concern and affect the immediate.

The next time you or your church is faced with a dilemma, crisis, or decision that needs to be made, I encourage you to use the 10-10-10 rule. Stop and ask the important questions; take the long view; seek the counsel of the Holy Spirit; and challenge yourselves not to be reactionary, but rather committing to doing kingdom building.

Blessing, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

Shana's worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

July 16

Preaching at St. John's UCC, Brighton

July 30

Worshiping at Good Shepherd of Faith, East St. Louis

August 6

Preaching at St. Peter's, Murphysboro for their 125th anniversary celebration

Shana's worship schedule is full through September 2017. If you would like to invite her to worship with you for October 2017 and beyond, reach out to her at 618-654-2125 (office) or 618-882-8247 (cell) or sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Your OCWM monies at work.

Copyright Advice for Internet/Web Users

Reprinted from the Insurance Board/The Hartford Financial Services from "Understanding Copyright and the Internet"

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- * On a regular basis, clear your PC's hard drive "cache" of the copies of Web pages that your browser makes as you search the Web.

Read the entire [article](#)...



It's Up to You

Reprinted from St. John's Community Care Newsletter

Some people have a tendency to be selfless. They almost always feel the need to put others' needs before their own—even when it compromises their health and well-being. Are you one of them? If you are, then you should consider how it is affecting your ability to be a good caregiver for your loved one. Read the entire [article](#).



DuBois Center News

A Ministry of Illinois South Conference
of the United Church of Christ



Fall Festival Slated for October 1

The 41st Fall Festival will be hosted on Sunday, October 1 from 11 am to 5 pm. We will be continuing most of the traditional activities and venues dependent upon having enough volunteers!

The following list reflects the specific areas where more volunteers are needed as of this date:

- Coordinator of the Kids' Korner
- Coordinator of the Quilts' Drawing (display at some churches & pre-annual meetings before FF)
- Coordinator of the "Upscale Resale Place" in Oak Lodge
- Coordinator of the Silent Auction items in Oak Lodge
- Coordinator of the Publicity and Signage
- Decorator of the grounds with fall foliage and decorations
- Tractor drivers
- Volunteers in the kitchen, Sweet Shop, Food/Soda Stands, Kids' Korner and "Upscale Resale Place" (Oak Lodge), and all the recreational opportunities
- Cashiers in Oak Lodge, Sweet Shop, Food/Soda Stands, "Upscale Resale Place", & Wagon Rides



The crafters have been contacted already as well as the musicians. Two quilts have been donated too.

The "Upscale Resale Shop" will be located closer to the fireplace in the Oak Lodge. This year, we are seeking donated items that can easily be carried around as transportation from Oak Lodge to the parking area is not possible during the Festival. We are hoping that each donated item had an original value of \$10 or more and in exceptional condition. The specific areas in this place will be as follows:

- Handbags, wallets, nice totes, luggage
- Jewelry (pins, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, watches, etc.)
- Indoor décor (paintings, candleholders, lamps, vases, big/unique baskets, etc.)
- Outdoor décor (signs, banners, planters, etc.)
- Holiday décor (wreaths, small trees, decorations in sets, etc.)
- Other unique items that are clean, in excellent shape, and would appeal to potential buyers.

All of the profits from the above venues benefit the Center's General Fund to help pay salaries and utilities. Hopefully, we can reach our \$10,000 goal or beyond.

The Sweet Shop will need a variety of snacks again to stock those tables. The proceeds from the Sweet Shop are designated for future camper scholarships (just as it has been for the last 39 years). Thanks to ALL the donors and buyers. Just think of how MANY campers have experienced Christian camping through these nearly 4 decades. Click [here](#) for a preview flyer.

If you are willing to help with any of the areas or have a question, please contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 (c) or 618-533-1658 (h) or nborgmann1658@charter.net or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Your assistance (labor, donations, etc.) will be greatly appreciated. Please be reminded that the Fall Festival not only provides

opportunities to buy food and/or crafts, but also to meet new and familiar people and enjoy the beauty of our Illinois South Conference's DuBois Center. More promotional materials coming soon.

Norma Borgmann, 2017 Fall Festival Coordinator



Really Looking Ahead to December 2

The Outdoor Ministries Team asks you to mark your calendar now for the annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner on Saturday, December 2, 2017. It is being held on the first Saturday evening due to scheduling constraints.

More details will be sent later, but save the date now before your December calendar fills up too fast. Hope to see you on December 2 at DuBois Center, when it will be cooler than the outside temperatures this week!

Norma Borgmann, OMT Chairperson



DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



WE'RE LEARNING TO GROW OUR FOOD!

By Brenda Crisp, Executive Director

Uni-Pres Kindercottage thanks Mr. Carl from Friedens United Church of Christ in Troy who came in early spring to till the Kindercottage ground and teach them how to plant a garden. They each dug a hole, did some planting, and then carried buckets of water to water the plants. It was VERY hot so the plants needed a lot to drink. They planted onions, tomatoes, lettuce and zucchini. The children can't wait until the plants grow big and tall. The students plan to eat all of the food that the garden gives them. YUM! Thank you Mr. Carl!!



Your Gift to Back Bay Mission Could Be Doubled!

A generous donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 for Back Bay Mission's client sustainability programs. That means your gift to the Mission could be worth twice as much! Back Bay Mission's client sustainability programs meet the immediate needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and help people begin their journeys out of poverty. This year, we're raising \$150,000 for three of these vital programs: Bridges Out of Poverty, our community health partner, and our veterans support fund. Until August 31, 2017, up to \$10,000 in gifts to these programs will be matched! You can learn more about these programs, and make your gift, on the Mission's [website](#).

Job Opportunity: Deaconess Foundation is searching for a Director of Advocacy. The Director of Advocacy stewards strategic communications to advance the foundation's public policy agenda for child well-being. The Director will establish and maintain relationships with targeted constituents, policymakers, researchers and media through personal contact and media platforms. S/he will support the CEO in development and implementation of the organization's leadership strategy and annual communications plans. To learn more about this opportunity including responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply, visit the Deaconess Foundation [website](#).



ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE **Is your church located in Madison County?**
Are you preparing for a church picnic or ice cream social?
Does your church have a coffee hour or fundraising dinner?

If so, please consider using St. John's Community Care napkins. It's one less item your group has to purchase and it will help us to promote our services to those attending the events. The napkins are free. Let us know a few weeks in advance of your event so we can try to accommodate your needs. Napkins are large dinner size. Requests can be for up to 500 napkins. We are happy to deliver the napkins to you or your church.

Call Missy at 618-344-5008 or email your request mathmer@stjohnscc.org.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Metro-East Food Pantry Network invites you to participate in a networking workshop on August 30, at 2 pm, at the University of Illinois Extension Office, #1 Regency Drive, Suite 200, Collinsville, IL. The agenda includes networking with area food pantry leaders and a program on volunteer management presented by Rich Skinner, VP United Way Volunteer Center. All are invited. Please RSVP Amy Funk at 618-344-4230 or amyfunk@illinois.edu. Click [here](#) for a flyer about the workshop. Click [here](#) for Metro-East Food Pantry Network's topics of interest.

Rainbow Camp Registration is now open. Rainbow Camp is Aug. 12, 2017 at DuBois Center, from 9 am - 7 pm. You can ride a horse, paddle a canoe, take a pontoon ride, make several crafts, shoot some arrows, catch a fish and a lot more, while making a bunch of new friends. The day will wrap up with a bbq dinner on the patio of Oak Lodge overlooking the lake. Rainbow Camp is for everyone in the LGBTQ community and straight allies. Register [online](#) now to get the early bird discount. See the camp [flyer](#) for more information.



Region 2

New Hanover Zoar UCC in Columbia will host its Annual BBQ on Sat, Aug 5 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Entertainment by George Portz and his Friends of Bluegrass and the "Lightning" Cloggers. Country store with homemade items. Silent auction. Pie auction. Pork steak plate \$10; Brat plate \$8.

Region 3

Eden Church in Edwardsville will host a Pastor Resource Day presented by Gift of Voice on Wed, July 19 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. This forum focuses on personal wellness, community collaboration and making a lasting difference. In addition to the terrific keynote speakers, topics include healthy leadership, suicide prevention, integrated health care, trauma - informed ministry and Christ-centered advocacy. Speakers are Nanette Larson, DMH, and Carlton Speight, SAMHSAC. Cost is \$10. Click [here](#) for registration form.

Region 8

Biddleborn Trinity UCC and Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC will host Chuck Crain from Presleys' Branson & RFD TV in a "Gospel Music!!!" concert on Sun, July 16 at 1:30 pm at Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC, 2806 Weilmuenster Rd, Lenzburg, IL. There is no cover fee. A "Love Offering" will be accepted.

VBS - July

July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:20 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!
July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; O'Fallon UCC; Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.
July 17 - 21; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm; at Centralia St. Peter UCC including 1st Christian Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Zion UCC, and St. Peter UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!

VBS - July

July 20 - 21; 6:30 pm - 9 pm; New Hanover Zoar UCC; Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus.
July 23 - 26; 5:15 pm - 8 pm; at Metropolis St. Rose Catholic Church joint VBS with Metropolis Zion UCC; Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus.
July 24 - 27; 6 pm - 8 pm; Wood River St. John UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!
July 24 - 28; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens, St. John UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!
July 24 - 28; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; Rome: Paul and the Underground Church. Lunch at 11:30 am as part of the summer lunch program for kids through St. Louis Food Bank.
July 24 - 28; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Jerseyville Peace UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!
July 30 - August 3; 6 pm - 8 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!