Exciting News for DuBois Center and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

The Search Committee and the Executive Committee are pleased to announce the Illinois South Conference has extended a two-year contract with Hayley Elliott for the position of Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry. After an extensive search process which included: Zoom interviews; submissions of candidates’ faith journeys and personal theology; a strategic plan of staffing, programming, finances, and partnerships for the coming year at DuBois Center; checking candidates’ professional references; and an onsite tour of DuBois, the Search Committee unanimously recommended Hayley to serve as the Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry.

Hayley Elliott was born and raised in West Virginia, where love of nature and earth were instilled in her from a young age. She spent most of her formative summers at church camp and has fond memories of learning to swim, making friends, playing games, and learning the importance of faith formation in this setting. As she grew up, she began volunteering at camp and eventually became a camp counselor. Hayley received a B.S. in Business Administration from Mars Hill University. Her undergraduate capstone project was related to the digital and social marketing of camps and how to reach new audiences and form new partnerships. After completing undergraduate studies, Hayley entered Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, where she completed an MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree. While in divinity school, Hayley furthered her commitment to youth education by working at a local elementary and middle school as the lead counselor in their afterschool and summer programs. After graduating from Vanderbilt Divinity School, Hayley and her wife, Rachel, moved to Denver, Colorado so that Rachel could complete a yearlong CPE (Clinical

Prayer list for March 7-13, 2021

Churches & Pastors
- Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle (Aaron) Torigian
- Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Tim Reed
- Retired Pastor
  - Revs. Robert Goddard and Jan Dashner, O’Fallon, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Keep Rev. Diane Grohmann in your prayers as she deals with some health issues. Rev. Grohmann is the pastor for Edwardsville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to 5438 Brick School Rd, New Athens, IL 62264.
- Please pray for Rev. P. Jerry Bennett as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Bennett serves as the pastor for Hookdale St. Peter UCC and previously was the ISC Associate Conference Minister. Cards may be sent to him at PO Box 39, Highland, IL 62249.
- Pray for Rev. Nancy (Kevin Lee) Spier-Lee as she deals with some health issues and rehabilitation. Rev. Spier-Lee was the Pastor for Zion UCC St. Joe in Waterloo and served on several ISC teams. Cards may be sent to her at 309 Kroeger Ave, Dupo, IL 62239.
- Keep all pastors in your prayers.
- Pray for the United States as we work towards equality and civility for all.
Pastoral Education) residency. During this time, Hayley worked full time as an anti-money laundering analyst while maintaining an additional role as a co-director for youth and children at Sixth Avenue UCC and sharing her gifts at LaForet Conference and Retreat Center, the Rocky Mountain Conference's camp.

Hayley is very passionate about outdoor ministry within the United Church of Christ and excited about the future of caring for God's creation and extending God's extravagant welcome at DuBois Center!

Hayley will begin her new ministry with us on Monday, April 5, 2021. In the meantime, the Outdoor Ministry Team has done a phenomenal job creating staffing-, programming-, and safety-contingency plans to hold programming this summer in some form at DuBois Center with summer staff onsite to welcome children, youth, and adults to experience what makes DuBois Center such a special and sacred space.

The Illinois South Conference sincerely thanks the Search Committee for the time and energy they spent in prayerful and Spirit-led discussions, deliberations, and decisions. Its members were:

- **Craig Bielke**, Illinois South Conference member at large and leader of Conference-wide youth retreats held at DuBois Center
- **Hank Henderson**, representative of the Personnel Committee of the Conference and member of St. John UCC, Trenton, Illinois
- **Rachel Kinzinger**, representative of the Outdoor Ministry Team of the Conference and former staff member of DuBois Center
- **Nancy Wagner**, current chairperson of the Outdoor Ministry Team of the Conference and member of St. Paul UCC, Lebanon, IL
- **Dr. Jill Baker**, ex-officio member and Moderator of the Illinois South Conference
- **Rev. Shana Johnson**, ex-officio member and Conference Minister of the Illinois South Conference

We can’t wait for you to meet Hayley soon!! Click [here](#) for a pdf of the announcement to share with your congregations.

- Pray for the **healthcare workers** and **families who are dealing with loved ones who have been diagnosed with COVID-19**.
**Boundary Awareness Training**  
For those pastors who are due for **Boundary Training** this year, ISC has scheduled one for **Monday, April 12, 2021** via zoom from **8:30 a.m. – Noon**. This training will be for **both active and retired clergy**. Contact Christy at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org) to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: $20 for retired pastors, $25 for active pastors, $25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and $30 for non-ISC active pastors.

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**DuBois Center News**

You'll want to come, learn, play, worship. Watch for updates to the camps coming this summer!

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**We’re Looking for a Few Good Horses**  
As we prepare for Summer Camp, we want to add two or three horses to our herd. We’re hoping someone out there knows of a horse or two that might be a good fit for camp that could be donated or purchased at a reasonable cost. Here's what we are looking for:

- Reliable kid-safe trail horses - walk, trot and canter with good brakes.
- Not too young and not too old - our preference is for horses between 5 and 15 years old.
- Large and sturdy - at least 15 hands tall and well built. They will often be carrying children, but they also need to be able to carry large adults.
- Healthy, easy keepers - our herd spends much of their time living naturally in our pastures and woods. No horses with special dietary or health needs.
- Good temperament - they will be working with kids much of the time and need to be patient and easy-going.
- No bad habits - no bucking, rearing or cribbing

If you know a horse that is available and might be a good camp horse, contact Scott Kuether at [sekuether21@gmail.com](mailto:sekuether21@gmail.com).

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**Hitz Home**

- March is now here and that means warmer days and time outside. Our residents are looking forward to doing activities by our flower garden and underneath the shelter house. Activity staff will also be purchasing the seeds of the plants the residents wish to grow in our large vegetable garden. On March 17, 2021 the residents will be enjoying some corned beef and cabbage during our St. Patrick’s Day Party. The residents will also be making birdhouses soon to add to the landscaping. We are looking forward to Spring and the joy that it brings.
One Great Hour of Sharing - March 14, 2021
Here’s a brief update of resources.
1. OGHS packets with sample printed materials were mailed to all congregations, and links to online OGHS resources were also sent via email.
2. Since most of our congregations continue to worship virtually, additional videos were created for use in virtual settings. This video depicts the local and global reality of the pandemic and the need for “masks”:
3. The other OGHS videos will be available here.
4. Recently, we heard from one congregation that plans to receive their OGHS offering over a 6-week period (expanding the opportunity to give beyond the Sunday, March 14 recommended offering date). We are thankful for new insights and ways to take the offering.

Job Opportunity: St. John’s Community Care is seeking an LPN or RN for the Adult Day Center in Edwardsville. The position is full-time Monday - Friday. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, contact Stacey at 618-344-5008 or email srhodes@stjohnscc.org.

Opportunities at Eden Theological Seminary

March 6 & 13 – LIFE (Lifelong Learning) & Walker Leadership Institute – Innovation & Inspiration: Strategies for Church Leaders with Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward
Examine six principles of ministry leadership taught by Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward, who has over thirty years of administrative (United Theological Seminary) and clerical (Omega Baptist Church) experience that he will share. The seminar combines Bible and business learnings with personal experience. This course will be held over two Saturdays for three hours each week, providing laughter as we plumb the depths of divine wisdom and pulling out wonderful chunks of useful knowledge along the way! In partnership with the Urban Leadership Academy. Click here for more info.

We are spiritual beings living spiritual lives. How aware we are of our spirituality and able to engage it for perspective and practice in everyday life is the focus of this LIFE Course. Because spirituality begins with our experience of God:
- We will explore how to be present and attentive to our experience of the Holy.
- We will consider how our attitudes, relationships, and mental/emotional realities shape and are changed by our experience of the Holy One.
- Using the contexts of personal experience, home life, work life, and social/community life we will seek to deepen our capacity to consciously choose to live in and out of our spirituality to enrich all aspects of our lives.
Click here for more.

March 17 & 26 – Eden Seminary Admissions
Come and See: A Virtual Event with the Admissions Office
If you are discerning what it means to be a part of the Progressive Christian Movement, there’s no time like the present to come and see EDEN Theological Seminary! Come join the Admissions and Financial Aid Team, Professors, Degree Program Chairs and others as we present an overview of Degree Programs, Admissions process, Financial Aid and Eden’s Community! Register here.
Region 2
Columbia St. Paul UCC will hold its annual Rummage Sale on Fri, March 26 & Sat, March 27, the same weekend as the Columbia’s annual City-Wide Sale. Masks will be required; hand sanitizer will be provided; and social distancing will be observed for the sale. They cannot accept donations of clothing or electronics but welcome all other donations. Saturday drop-off times begin the first of March.

Region 3
Brighton St. John’s UCC will hold Drive Thru Fish Fries on March 5, 12, 19. Meal = fish or pulled pork, two sides and a dessert for $10. (bread, condiments and plastic ware included) Or purchase a la cart from white or buffalo fish ($5), pulled pork ($5), brats ($2), hot dogs ($1); sides for $1 – potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, baked beans or mac & cheese; assorted pies and desserts $3 each; soda $1. Call ahead or drive up to place an order. 618-372-3737. Local Delivery of meals to area schools and businesses available from 11 am to 1 pm (allow one hour for large orders) Credit cards and debit cards or cash accepted. All proceeds go to support the ministries of St. John’s UCC.

Region 5
Troy Friedens UCC will host its Annual Drive-Thru Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, Mar 14 from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. The menu includes grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, & dessert. All dinners will be $10.00. If you have any questions please contact the office, 618-667-6535 or email. Friedens is located at 207 E Center, Troy, IL 62294.

Hamel Immanuel UCC will host a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 21 from 11:30 am - 4 pm. Menu includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cole slaw, and applesauce. No dessert. Cost is $10. The church is located 1-1/2 miles south of Hamel with an address of 5838 Staunton Road in Edwardsville, IL 62025 for your GPS.

Region 8
New Baden Zion UCC will hold a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Sat, March 6 from 4 pm - 7 pm (or when it runs out). Menu includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans, corn, slaw, applesauce and pie. Cost is $12.

Job Opportunity: Custodian
O’Fallon United Church of Christ is seeking applicants for a part-time custodian. The normal workweek will be 15 -20 hours doing typical cleaning, maintenance and grounds duties along with preparing for scheduled activities and meetings. The work schedule is negotiable for daytime and evening hours. Applicants can contact the committee through the Church office 618-632-3496 or by contacting Allen Garner 618-910-2913 or Ted Lewis 618-977-8184.

Job Opportunity: Music Director
St. John’s UCC of Smithton, IL is seeking a part-time Music Director for 20-25 hours per week. The Music Director will select, play and lead music for worship services. They will collaborate with the worship committee and pastor, and also establish opportunities for other music-related activities within the church. See their website for areas of responsibilities and qualifications.
Job Opportunity: Church Organist/Musician
Grantfork UCC is looking for a musician to support our inspiring music program and help it continue to thrive. We are looking for someone who is willing to play the pipe organ and/or the piano and/or the electronic keyboard for traditional worship services once or twice a month. (When services are virtual, this needs to be pre-recorded during the week. When services are in-person, this needs to be live on Sunday mornings.) An interest in directing one or more of our adult choirs - Men's Choir (gospel/Gaither), Ladies’ Choir (traditional), Women's Ensemble (contemporary), and Chancel Choir (holiday services, cantatas) - would be a plus, but is not required. Musician will work in cooperation with the current music director, Connie Plocher, to determine schedule, and with the pastor. Pay will be determined according to the number of weeks willing to serve. To express interest, please contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul at 618-675-2595 or grantforkucc@agtelco.com.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK
During the shelter in place order, all Conference staff will be working remotely, but they are available to help you. Keep these contacts handy.
For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.
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 information, registration for upcoming events and camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.
To speak with the Conference Minister, 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.

Important Links

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 New Athens Home
Pension Board-UCC St. John's Community Care St. Paul's Sr. Community
UCC Insurance Board Uplands Village UCC Campus Ministry Uni-Pres Kindercottage