Intentional, organized, in-person meetings of Region 8 Clergy and Delegates have not occurred in this last year, not for a lack of trying, but because of an abundance of caution. Still, congregational and clergy support for the churches of the Region and ministry within the Conference continues in a variety of ways including: support of dinners/fund raisers in our congregations; continued participation in and support of Conference ministries (virtual and in-person); participation in and support of DuBois Center and its new Director and summer programs; participation in and support of Uni-Pres Kindercottage and Hoyleton Youth and Family Services; mutual assistance in keeping up with the changing protocols regarding Covid-19 and, most recently, the delta variant; providing pastoral assistance in those congregations currently experiencing pastoral transition and in need of someone to officiate weddings and funerals; and sharing of ideas around vacation Bible school and Christian education curriculum and strategies.

It is our hope and prayer that the 2021-2022 programmatic year will provide more opportunities for in-person gatherings, worship, clergy and congregational support and, of course, missional work in and through our Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, St Paul UCC and Region 8 (interim) Convener