

Dear Friends,
 You have probably heard me say that one of the most moving liturgies in the United Church of Christ Book of Worship is the liturgy of farewell. It begins with these opening words:



*Our church family is constantly changing.
 People come and go.
 Babies are born.
 Children grow up.
 People commit themselves to one another.
 Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.
 Individuals move into our community and church life.
 Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.
 It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage,
 of endings and beginnings.*

While this liturgy is most often used in our churches to mark the departure of a pastor, the truism of change describes the ebb and flow of the life of any faith community, even a Conference.

When I returned from sabbatical, I was made aware of a change that would affect the life of this Conference. Hayley Elliott, the Acting Director of DuBois Center, resigned for personal reasons in mid-June. She and the Executive Committee had agreed upon a departure date in line with her contract they were working toward. However, after several significant issues, the Executive Committee made the difficult, but necessary, decision to shorten her tenure.

Such abrupt endings are never easy as they not only

naturally disrupt a system's (whether in a church or a camp) rhythm, order, and stability, but they also do not allow for closure. While, for some, the liturgy of farewell seems to be only words on a page, I believe it can be a powerful reminder of the need for good goodbyes, hopeful endings, and

Prayer list for Aug 7-13, 2022 Church & Pastors



-Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy Eckert (right)



-Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Tim (Danielle) Harrison (left)

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN

People with Life Concerns

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some health issues.

Cards can be sent to her at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

-Pray for **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether** as he heals. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor who served on many ISC teams and committees. Cards may be sent to 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.

-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 **Peace**.

blessing-filled benedictions as the liturgy also contains the reminder of our need for offering forgiveness and grace on both sides.

In the section of liturgy, which recognizes the ending of the ministry, the person leaving offers a word of gratitude for the shared ministry and asks for forgiveness for the mistakes they made, to which the faith community responds with a word of blessing and acceptance for the apology. Likewise, the faith community asks for forgiveness for mistakes made, to which the person leaving in kind responds with a word of blessing and acceptance. This exchange aims to acknowledge that there have been mistakes, missteps, and misunderstandings. At that moment, it is simply first an acknowledgment. The hope is that, in time, healing can come.

Yet, such healing also requires all to move forward with the help of God to explore what's next as their paths diverge. I wish Hayley the best in whatever God has in mind for this next season of her life. I also want nothing but the best for what is next in the season of the life of DuBois Center. For me, seeing the countless people who share this sentiment and goal has been heartening. I am deeply grateful to the DuBois summer seasonal staff and volunteers who kept moving forward this summer, despite the many challenges that arose. They always kept the children, youth, and adults they served as a priority with deep faith and resiliency. I am also profoundly grateful to our Moderator, our Conference Council, and the Conference staff who jumped in at every moment, figuring out what might have seemed overwhelming and impossible at times.

I covet your prayers and support for the Conference Council, the Outdoor Ministry Team, and myself as we discern the next best steps to carry on the ministry, mission, and legacy of DuBois Center. I believe, however challenging this moment might be, it allows us to consider what we can learn and what we might do better. With your prayers, financial support, and willingness to share your time and gifts with the Illinois South Conference (which owns and operates DuBois Center), we can continue to build a stronger tomorrow for our beloved DuBois Center.

Grateful to be in ministry with you,
Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Did you know? - The Justice and Mission Team Answers

Ameren Electric will pay you for excess electricity you generate on sunny days -at the same rate you pay Ameren when you need to get electricity from it, like at night. This is called "net metering."

Working with People Challenged by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Marine United Church of Christ invites you to a free presentation Sun, Aug 28, at 3 pm featuring Will Cook (Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional) on the topic of how to work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Will has worked as a case manager at two CILA houses. He plans to speak for about 30 minutes and then take any questions that people might have. Marine UCC is located at 111 North Center St. in Marine. All are welcome.

Supply Pastors - At times, your pastor may need to be away from the church on a Sunday. The Committee on Ministry has approved several clergy who are willing to fill in when your pastor cannot. You may see the list on the ISC [website](#) here. These pastors will be able to serve communion at your service.

ISC also has a list of lay speakers (when a congregation needs only worship leadership) who can guide your service, but they cannot serve communion. You can find the list for lay speakers [here](#). A pulpit supply pastor or lay speaker's weekly compensation is approximately \$200, plus travel expenses (current IRS recommended mileage of \$0.625/mile) is a fairly standard amount for that service. An additional amount is to be added if the church involves more than one service.

*Please note-Lay speakers should not be used for consecutive Sundays or long-term pulpit fill. Only ordained clergy can administer the sacraments.

UCC Newsletter

Are you interested in keeping up with the United Church of Christ national setting? The link to the newsletter and how to subscribe at is this [link](#). It will be on every future newsletter at the bottom with links to other important parts of the Illinois South Conference.



Open and Affirming...Pass It On

The Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd UCC was the first church in Illinois South to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. They were pioneers in the ONA movement, being the 24th UCC church nationwide to become Open and Affirming in 1989. In the fall of 2005, Cahokia Bethel UCC became the 599th church within the UCC to declare itself an Opening and Affirming (ONA) Congregation, making it the second church in Illinois South Conference (ISC) to do so.



Church of the Good Shepherd was excited to welcome Bethel as an ONA congregation and to celebrate, Carbondale member and artist, Richard Cox, began to weave a special rainbow cross banner to give to Bethel. When the banner was complete, the back was signed by members of Good Shepherd and presented to Bethel in 2008. It hung in Bethel's sanctuary until the congregation closed in January 2022. At its final worship service, Bethel members added their signatures to the back of the banner, with the intent to give the banner to the next congregation in ISC that declared itself to be Open and Affirming. How sweet it was when that congregation was Dupo First Congregational UCC a congregation that Bethel had partnered with in many ways over the years and where some of Bethel's members had recently joined.

On Sunday, July 17, thirteen members of Cahokia Bethel UCC worshipped with Dupo First Congregational UCC and presented the rainbow cross banner to them as part of the service. Bethel's Consistory President, Christine Kramer said that all the names on the banner, "remind us of the importance of creating churches that welcome all God's people." Let's pass it on. Other ISC churches which have voted to become Open & Affirming churches are Central City Zion UCC, Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC, Marion Zion UCC, Wood River St. John UCC, Brighton St. John's UCC, and Collinsville St. John UCC.

To find out more about the Open and Affirming movement in the United Church of Christ, [click here](#).

DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update



We have received over **\$198,800** for a total donation as of this

edition. There are several projects that have been completed. But since camp is in full swing, some projects have been funded but not completed so as not to interfere with the kids at camp.

DuBois Center News

If you are looking for one of the larger projects to add your funds to as a church or organization, you may want to choose from these. Or check out the original [list](#) for some smaller projects to fit your group.

- New hay barn (estimated at \$30,000)
- Road repair (estimated at \$18,500)
- Hillside Cottage Build (estimated at \$77,000)

We thank everyone for being a part of this fantastic venture to build faith, capacity, and opportunities for the next 60 years.

Be a part of the Fall Festival: Volunteer, promote the event, sell your crafts, or just spend the day with us!

This year's Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022, from 11 am to 5 pm. This event is DuBois Center's biggest fundraiser and friend-raiser of the year. If you haven't been to a Fall Fest, come see what it is all about. At the Fall Fest, you will find crafters, live music, kid's activities, plenty of delicious food, and more. It's a family-friendly event, so all ages are welcome. Younger guests can enjoy our Kids Korner with lots of crafts and games, or any one of our numerous activities around the grounds. Ride a horse, take a cruise on the pontoon boat, or tour your camp via hay wagon.

Volunteer:

Our Fall Festival is only possible because of the efforts of countless volunteers. No matter your age or abilities, we have a volunteer opportunity for you! Volunteers promote, stitch, recruit, bake, decorate, set up, take down, drive, lead, greet, direct, park, deliver, clean, serve, and much more to help make it all happen. Don't worry about missing out on any of the activities, volunteer shifts can be as short as 30 minutes or as long as you want to help. If you're interested in volunteering, please email fallfestival@duboiscenter.org.

Promote:

If you would like to help promote the festival, watch for promotional materials! They will begin appearing in this space and on the DuBois Center website. Any help with spreading the word will be greatly appreciated.

Crafters/Makers:

We are always looking for new makers and crafters to feature at the event. If you make and sell crafts or other handmade items consider getting a table for \$20 or a booth for \$45 to sell your wares. Apply [online](#). If you have any questions or want more information, email our Fall Festival Vendor Coordinator, Susan, at fallfestival@duboiscenter.org.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



“Making All Things New” will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Here are details about GS Resolutions

- General Synod 34 will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis from June 30-July 4, 2023.
- Standing Rules have been revised. See it [here](#).
- Here is the [website](#) with GS resolution info and links.
- Resolutions can be submitted by: GS delegate or delegate-elect; local church (with concurrence of at least 5 other UCC churches), as Association, a Conference, an Affiliated Ministry, or the UCC Board.
- The Committee of Disposition will need time prior to the October 31 deadline to review resolutions.

UCC Nomination Process

ISC is invited to submit names for consideration as General Synod Moderator and Assistant Moderator for General Synod 35 in 2025, as well as individuals to serve a 6-year term, as Members At-Large to the United Church of Christ Board (UCCB), Class of 2029. Names may also be self-nominated church members. Election for selected nominees will occur during the Thirty-Fourth General Synod in Indianapolis in July of 2023.

Moderator and Assistant Moderator Overview

- Preside at all sessions of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod in 2025.
- Serve as Ex-officio members of the United Church of Christ Board for a two-year term with voice and with vote.
- The Assistant Moderator may be considered for elevation to the position of Moderator at the end of their two-year term.

At-Large Members of the UCC Board of Directors

12 At-Large members will be elected at General Synod 34 to serve a six-year term. In line with UCC Bylaws paragraph 229, the Nominating Committee will ensure that the United Church of Christ Board meets or exceeds the following diversity requirements:

- A majority shall be persons of color.
- A majority shall be persons who identify as women, both transgender and cisgender; non-binary persons; or gender non-conforming persons. The remaining members may be persons who identify as men, both transgender and cisgender.
- One-third shall be authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
- Two-thirds shall be laypersons.
- Twenty percent shall be under 30 years of age. To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age members shall include both youth of high school age and young adults. All such members shall be voting members except as legally proscribed.
- At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.
- At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or asexual. At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming.

Further, the Nominating Committee is charged with selecting from a pool of candidates with specific skill sets, professional backgrounds, and life experiences to provide a well-qualified and knowledgeable Board. With the implementation of the new governance structure, Conferences or other constituencies are no longer guaranteed a member on the UCCB. All At-large Members represent the best interests of the whole Church and do not represent any one Conference or other constituency. Currently, ISC does not have a person from ISC on the Board.

The deadline to submit a nomination form is October 13, 2022. For more information or to fill out the nomination form, click [here](#) or contact sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Kindercottage Wish List

Here is what Kindercottage needs to provide services for their children. Please donate what you can.

- Plastic disposable cups (8 Oz)
- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Garbage bags-Large
- Paper towels
- Bottled water

- Bubbles for blowing
- Sippy Cups
- Freeze pops
- Washable nontoxic paint
- Paint brushes
- Pretend foods
- Play pots and pan set
- Play cooking utensils
- Balls (soccer balls are great to kick)



Have you registered for the Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K?

The Mission Dash is a virtual event, where you can walk, run, or "spiritually sprint" a 5k at any time you are able during the month of August. The Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K will raise funds and fight the devastating effects of climate change across the globe. All proceeds will support these [projects](#). [Register online today!](#) Want to learn more? Watch the video and learn more about the event [here](#).

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Golf Classic '22

Have fun playing golf with your friends and support the Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on **Friday, September 16 at Tamarack Golf Course**, 800 Tamarack Lane in Shiloh. Many sponsorship opportunities if you can't take the day away from work. \$100 per person/\$400 per team. Register online; call 618-688-4742; or email lselden@hoyleton.org.

Eden LIFE/IFL Program & Offering

August 18-19 & August 25-26 – LIFE/IFL offering: The Eden Gleaning Project. Thursday in Indiana and Friday in St. Louis

The Eden Gleaning Project gleans thousands of pounds of produce that is distributed to food ministries in the St. Louis region. This IFL engages 2 days of synchronous learning as well as advance preparation and a final reflection: **Day 1:** Vincennes, Indiana; Thursday, 6:30 am Central – 6 pm Central. We will drive to farms in Vincennes Indiana. The program starts in Indiana at 11 am Eastern. You may meet us in Vincennes or caravan from St. Louis. We will glean potatoes and sweet corn in Vincennes Indiana, followed by a discussion on the biblical understanding of gleaning and modern-day forms of gleaning.

Day 2: St. Louis; Food Insecurity and Produce Distribution on Friday, 9 am – 1 pm Central. Meet at Eden for a discussion before taking produce to area food ministries. Class includes a discussion about food deserts and food insecurities in the St. Louis region and a time to distribute the gleaned produce to the St. Louis area food ministries.

Cost: \$100 Register [here](#).

Eden is offering UCC History and Polity as an asynchronous 8-week intensive course for the Fall 2022 semester. All the material from a full-semester course will be covered, and all coursework will be completed in an asynchronous online forum. This class is appropriate for Members In Discernment and those on an alternative path to authorized ministry. It is also open to those seeking Dual Standing or Privilege of Call in the UCC, if your Committee on Ministry requires you to take a full-semester course.

If you've been looking for a UCC History and Polity class to fit around your schedule, you've found it. Class meets Aug. 15 - Oct. 7, 2022. Contact the Eden Admissions Office to register: admissions@eden.edu, 314-918-2642.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference



Annual Meeting Offerings-Flyer DuBois 6.0

DuBois Center will turn 60 in 2022, marking the year we took ownership of the land. While the first 60 years have been great, DuBois needs some maintenance and expansion to get ready for the next 60. We are over 80% of our way to our goal of \$225,290 and need your help to get us the rest of the way to our goal. You can bring offerings collected at your worship services, bring your

personal offering, and/or purchase one of the baskets in our silent auction (available at Annual Meeting). Click [here](#) for list of what DuBois 6.0 will accomplish.

Noisy Offering

Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons...Victims of these natural disasters receive help from the UCC Disaster Ministries who work to provide initial responses and long-term follow-up by providing financial assistance & volunteer groups. See all of the ways Disaster Ministries can help your church and its congregation. Click [here](#).

Here's the plan...

- **Each ISC church asks its members to donate** small or large amounts of change during Sunday School, Sunday worship services or meetings prior to the Annual Meeting.
- **Bring a representation of the change collected** to the Annual Meeting at St John UCC, Collinsville on October 15, 2022. (You can convert some of the change to dollars or one large check by taking the change to a bank. They will count it and exchange it for paper currency.)
- **Bring some of the offering as change in a container that can make some noise** at the presentation at Annual Meeting.
- **Designate a representative from your church to present the money** during specified times at Annual Meeting.

Illinois South Conference 2022 Ministers' Retreat: "Creative Connections" November 2 and 3, 2022 -Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center, Columbia, IL



The Local Church Ministries Team is offering a time away for Illinois South ministers (both active and retired) to be welcomed into community, spiritually nourished, and boosted in creative confidence. We will engage our theme of Creative Connections by providing activities, conversations, and creative projects that will remind us that we are created in God's image and help us find the joy and courage in that once again! Whether you consider yourself "creative" or not, there will be something for you at this retreat. Use this [form](#)

to register.

Gift Bag Request - The team would like to invite YOU to support the ISC ministers by donating items to a goodie bag which will be given to attendees. Ideas and suggestions are listed on this [sheet](#). The theme for the event is "Creative Connections" where ministers will be reminded that we are created in God's image.

Boundary Training - As part of clergy's covenant and standing with the ISC, they are required to attend Boundary Training every three years. Church leaders may also register if they choose to. The final ISC Boundary Training of the year will take place on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, via Zoom from 8:30 am - Noon. This training will be for active and retired clergy as well as interested church leaders. If interested in attending, contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org. She will then provide the meeting link and ID. Fees for the training are \$20 for retired ISC pastors and \$25 for active ISC pastors and/or church leaders. Fees for non-ISC pastors (those with standing outside of ISC) are \$25 for retired pastors and \$30 for active pastors. To register/pay, send a check payable to Illinois South Conference and noted for Boundary Training to 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249 or call Christy at 618-420-2608 to make a payment by credit card.

Job Opportunities

Personal assistant - Steven Dotson, who is wheelchair bound, needs a personal assistant for jobs such as housekeeping, laundry, preparing meals, assistance with bathing and dressing, local transportation to appointments. Job requires 3.5 hours/day seven days a week. He also needs help with unpacking and shelving books which can be a separate position. He lives in Marine area. Click [here](#) for a full description and pay rate.

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.

Open Positions at **Troy Friedens UCC**

- **Cemetery Sexton**
- **Nursery Attendant**
- **Director of Faith Formation**

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

Music Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland who will be responsible for overseeing the directing, planning, and program development of the music of the Church. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster, and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music. The successful candidate will plan and lead relevant, meaningful, and engaging weekly worship music experiences. Contact 618-654-7459 or office@evucc.org for additional information.

Belleville St. Paul UCC Vacancy-Organ and Piano Position - Areas of responsibility include excellent organ and piano offerings for all services and accompaniment for weekly choir rehearsals and other musical ensembles as needed. In consultation with the senior pastor, serve as a resource for family weddings and funerals. Compensation will be appropriate to the weekly job responsibilities, background/experience, and professional preparation of the applicant. Please send resume with three references to musicsearch@stpaulucc.org.

Region 3

Granite City St. John UCC will host a barbecue on Sat, Aug 13 in the church's parking lot (2901 Nameoki Rd., Granite City) from 11 am - 5 pm or until sold out. Menu includes pork steak dinner w/ 2 sides - \$12; bratwurst dinner w/ 2 sides - \$12; or hot dog dinner w/ 1 side - \$5. Sides include Relleke corn on the cob, baked beans, and potato salad. Desserts available for an additional cost. Tickets in advance or that day. To purchase tickets in advance, contact 618-877-6060 or stjohnucc2901qc@yahoo.com.

Region 5

Highland Evangelical UCC will host a Drive-Thru-Only Sausage Dinner on Saturday, September 17 from 3 pm to 7 pm. Menu includes 1lb. of sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and apple pie. Cost is \$12 per meal. All are welcome.

Marine UCC runs a free lunch program Monday to Friday from 12 pm to 1 pm. Attendees do not need to be from the Marine area. No need to register and no pre-qualification is necessary. Anyone and everyone are invited. Thanks for helping to feed the people.

Vacation Bible Schools

Aug 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 11; 9:15 am - 10:00 am; Alhambra Salem UCC, SonHarvest County Fair

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call 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 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 program information, contact Rylee Hodges-Stone at 618-787-2202 or program@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center 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](#)

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

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

