



June 27, 2023

UCC General Synod 34



& General Synod Frequency Update

Prayers for General Synod

On Thursday, voting delegates and representatives from the Illinois South Conference will travel to the 34th General

Synod of the United Church of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Those representing our Conference at General Synod will be: Our delegates:

Josiah Accola, Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, Rev. Philip Barbier, Mark Beckmeyer, Craig Bielke, Pastor Tim Powers-Reed, Eileen Hoag, Greg Lambert-Goheen, Rev. Dr. Lauren Lambert-Goheen, Amy Ratcliff, Rev. Michelle Torigian, Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, and Rev. Jeremy Wood.

Conference staff:

Debbie Kesner (Executive Administrator) and Rev. Shana Johnson (Conference Minister).

And ISC visitors and volunteers (that we know about so far):

Dr. Jill Baker, Rev. Steve Boorsma, Rev. Jennifer Sowell-Glover, Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, and Rev. Stephen Stark.

General Synod is the national meeting of the United Church of Christ. It is a remarkable event in the life of the United Church of Christ that is much more than a business meeting. General Synod is a gathering of staff members of the national setting, authorized ministers of the UCC (local church pastors, chaplains, and those serving in specialized ministries), and members of local churches of the 36 Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Here is a brief overview of what happens at General Synod.

Spectacular worship

Worship at General Synod reflects the diversity and creativity of the United Church of Christ, from

Prayer list for July 2 - 8, 2023

Church & Pastors

-Brighton St. John's UCC, Rev. John Pawloski (right)



Retired Pastors

-Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL

-Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara Van Ausdall, Mascoutah, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Please pray for a new program **Home Help and Hoops (HHH) Summer Camp**. The program has served over 100 kids.

Prayers for continued energy for support and outreach to the Collinsville community.

-Keep **Kevin (Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee) Lee** in your prayers as he deals with illness at Barnes Hospital. Rev. Spier-Lee served as pastor at Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe until she retired in 2018. Cards may be sent to 309 Kroeger Ave, Dupu, IL 62239.

-Thank you for your prayers for **Rev. Bob (Doris) Utke** After 8 days in the hospital and 3 weeks of Transitional Care, Rev. Utke is back home. Currently, Bob is getting home health care with PT's and OT's coming to his home. He thanks everyone who responded with prayer and/or cards or phone calls and is grateful for feeling much better.

commissioned music, inspiring speakers, breathtaking visual arts, and invitational participation of those who gather in person and online.

Thought-provoking resolutions of witness

At General Synod, voting delegates will deliberate and vote upon resolutions of witness that groups throughout the United Church of Christ have written. Resolutions of witness speak **to--not for--**the whole Church on various topics. These resolutions are meant to be a way to challenge and inspire people to think and act differently.

Some resolutions our delegates will agree with and support, and other resolutions they will not. Some resolutions that will come before the General Synod may inspire our Conference to think and act differently, and some may not. The resolutions of witness are not mandates from General Synod for the local churches but rather invitations from General Synod to the local churches. Our Conference and

each local church in our Conference can choose how we respond to these invitations.

Practical prudential resolutions

Prudential resolutions differ from resolutions of witnesses as they address policy, procedures, and governance issues. When considering and voting upon prudential resolutions, delegates will decide on the implications of how we do things in the United Church of Christ. For example, one prudential resolution will address the frequency of holding General Synod with the suggestion of moving it from every two years to every three years.

Business Matters

Yes, since this is a business meeting of the United Church of Christ, like at our annual meetings in the Illinois South Conference, your General Synod delegates will vote on budgets, a slate of nominees for committees of the National setting, and our national setting officers. This year, we will vote on a new General Minister and President of our denomination.

Workshops and Educational Opportunities

At General Synod, there will be plenty of workshops and educational opportunities for delegates and visitors to learn more about a particular topic or program they might consider for their local church.

Marketplace

The marketplace at General Synod is full of vendors and representatives from ministries and organizations throughout the United Church of Christ. It is a great place to learn about our health and human services, seminaries, and global ministries. It is also a great place to shop for pottery, books, inspiring t-shirts, and beautiful stoles.

Experiencing the fullness of the wider Church

The entire experience of General Synod is an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and experience the richness and fullness of the wider Church.

-Keep the **mother of Pastor Norma Patterson** in your prayers as she struggles with health issues. Pastor Norma Patterson is the Pastor and Teacher for East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and has served on several teams for ISC. Cards may be sent to Norma at 5310 DePaul Drive, PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008. -Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna improves with her battle with memory loss. Good news...Jim reported that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

We sincerely ask that you keep the delegates of the Illinois South Conference in your prayers as they attend the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ from Thursday, June 29, to Wednesday, July 5. The schedule will keep them hopping, so they need your prayers for energy and discernment.

They look forward to sharing what they learned and how it can benefit the mission and ministry of our churches in this Conference. Thank you for entrusting your delegates with this vital work of the Church.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

Happy 4th of July!!



Facing Hunger in Your Community

The Hunger Action Team of the ISC asks you to share the ways (and photos) of how you are helping to address hunger in your communities. Summer is coming soon; students who qualify for free school breakfast/ lunch will not have access to their free meals during summer break.

Please share how your church is helping combat hunger for local families in need.

Reminder: Children need the proper nutrition for their learning, development, and growth.

Contact Kathi at kathi1emery@gmail.com. Below is a church that is addressing the hunger issues in their communities and beyond.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Hunger Action Team would like to recognize **Columbia St. Paul UCC** for their Mission Trip to "Back Bay Mission" in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was such a blessing to local families in need: strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice and transforming

lives. Special thanks for volunteering with their food pantry. This

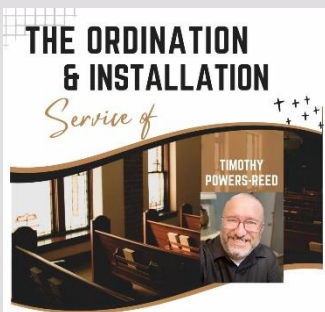
was more important than ever, while so many children and families face an increased risk of hunger. Thank you, St. Paul UCC in Columbia! Photos above left and right.



Save the Date - Youth Event

Frostbite Fun Youth Event presented by the ISC Local Church Ministries Team is scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2024 at DuBois Center. All junior high (middle school) and high school youth are invited to attend. You may attend in one of two ways: Single Day (\$50) on Saturday from 10 am - 7 pm or Overnight (\$100) on Saturday from 10 am to Sunday at 11 am.

Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your church and its youth. *If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 17 and 18, 2024.*



Trinity UCC Belleville and Illinois South Conference of UCC Invite You to the Ordination and Installation of **Tim Powers-Reed**

July 23, 2023, at 3 pm, Trinity UCC Belleville
47 N Douglas, Belleville, Illinois

Ministers attending are asked to robe and wear red or rainbow stoles and arrive by 2:30 pm to participate in the service. A meal and reception will immediately follow the service.

Rainbow Camp 2023 Registration Is Now Open!

Rainbow Camp will be held Aug. 12, 2023, at DuBois Center. We will offer an optional overnight stay on Aug. 11 for those who are interested- just look for Rainbow Camp Plus when you register. Check the flyer for all the details and register at

www.DuBoisCenter.org before July 7

for the Early Bird discount. Extra discounts for families of 5 or more. Registration closes August 2.

Rainbow Camp is for singles, couples and families in the LGBTQ Community. Straight allies always welcome, too. Come celebrate pride at DuBois Center.

Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your church. Photo above are participants in 2022 Rainbow Camp.



Save the Date Confirmation Retreat - Sept 16, 2023

The 2023 Confirmation Retreat - Walk in Faith is scheduled for September 16, 2023, at Camp Wartburg at 5705 Lrc Rd in Waterloo, Illinois, from 9 am - 4 pm. There will be Low Ropes Course with Team Building and lunch for \$30 per person. If you would like to add on High

Ropes Course, the cost is \$30 more per person. If scholarship assistance is needed, contact the ISC office at 618-654-2125. Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) to register. If you would like a flyer to share with the confirmands, click [here](#).

Volunteers needed for Welcome Team

We are looking for friendly faces to help with camp check-in on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm. Join our welcome team for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you want!

DuBois Center News

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, t-shirt distribution, and help with lice checks. We ask that volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Click [here](#) to sign up as a check-in volunteer.



Join the new monthly DuBois Center Newsletter to stay up to date on the latest DuBois Center news, events, and musings. Different than the Weekly Connection, the DuBois Center Newsletter will include a message from the Director, upcoming schedule, news about DuBois 6.0 projects, and sneak peaks for the summer camp season. [Click here to subscribe now!](#)



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services has multiple employment opportunities available. To see the list, click [here](#).



Hitz Memorial Home has multiple open CNA positions available for evening/midnight shifts. Call 618-488-2355 for more information. Or you may apply in person at 202 Belle Street, Alhambra, IL 62001.

Hitz Memorial Home has an immediate opening for a Director of Nursing. Apply in person at 201 Belle Street, Alhambra, IL 62001. Call for details. 618-488-2355.

Hitz Memorial Home has a vacancy for an: Independent Senior Living Apartment. All utilities are included. Free WiFi and cable. \$700/month. Call for details. (618) 488-2355.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Mental Health First Aid Certification

On July 15 from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Belleville Trinity UCC will host a Mental Health First Aid Certification class for the first fifteen people who register for the class. The cost of the program is \$75 per person which covers the cost of the books, supplies, and certification. Please send an email to Pastor Tim Powers-Reed at illinitchr@gmail.com to register. By June 25, payment must be completed by a check payable to Trinity UCC Belleville and mailed to 47 N Douglas Ave, Belleville IL 62220. The certification class is offered as part of Trinity's WISE covenant, and they hope that members of the Conference will take advantage of this opportunity!

Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour

Illinois South Conference pastors gather by Zoom each Wednesday at about 12:30 by Zoom. Their time together normally lasts about an hour. All pastors are invited to share and solidify relationships with their pastoral peers in our Conference. Here is the Zoom link:

Date and time: Wednesdays at 12:30 pm

Meeting ID: 837 0733 6906. Link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707336906>

Vacation Bible School Schedule

July 10-14 from 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John UCC; Cost is \$15/person; *Hero Hotline.*

July 10-14; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Hero Hotline.*

July 17-21, 9 am-11 am; Marissa Friedens UCC; *Hero Hotline.*

July 24-28 from 9 am - 11 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God.*

August 4 - 6 from 5 pm - 8 pm; Godfrey Evangelical UCC; *Pets Unleashed for fids and Unleashing the Bible for adults.*

August 6, 13, 20, 27, and September 3 at 9:15 am; Alhambra Salem UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God.*

Region 8

New Baden Zion UCC will hold a 125th Anniversary Celebration on July 15 beginning at 4 pm, with a blow-up obstacle course, and concert, all free of charge. Food trucks will be there to offer food for purchase. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Job Opportunities

Columbia St. Paul UCC is looking for a part-time custodian to work 16-hours per week. Please send resume by e-mail at office@stpaulcolumbia.org or bring resume to the church office at 127 N. St. Paul St. in Columbia.

Lebanon St. Paul UCC is searching for a person to fill a Part-time Office Manger Position. Please send a resume to: office@stpaullebanonil.org. The candidate will provide support to the pastor, members, and ministries of the church, adhering to strict confidentiality guidelines due and carry out the everyday operations. Click [here](#) for duties of the office and other important information..

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. Their music skills include the ability to play a Wicks 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.

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 Executive Director, contact **Noah McCarn** at director@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center Office , contact **Shelby Liggett** at dcinfo@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.

For **Rev. Shana Johnson**, ISC Conference Minister, contact her at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.

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](#)

