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55th Annual Meeting

Proposed Agenda

Northwest Ohio Association, Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ
St. John's United Church of Christ, Genoa, Ohio

- 8:00 am Registration & Breakfast
- 9:00 am Call to Order
Welcome
Opening Worship
Rev. Daniel L. Busch, Association Minister
Rev. Don Giesmann, Pastor - St. John's UCC- Genoa
Pastor Dawn Balduf, Assistant Pastor – St. John's UCC, Genoa
Pastor Nicole Pickens, Pastor – Zion UCC-Fireside, Bellevue
Rev. Scott Cunningham, Associate Pastor – St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor
- 9:45 am Introductions
New to the Association and Members in Discernment
Special Guests
Greetings from the Ohio Conference
Institutional Representative – CROSSROAD Child and Family Services
Nominations and Election
- 10:45 am Keynote Address – Rev. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace
Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH
Professor in the Taylor Endowed Chair of Worship & Music Endowed
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 12:45 pm Forums
- 1:45 pm Forums (repeated)
- 2:45 pm Institutional Representative – Emmaus Homes
Financial Report
Recognition – Anniversaries, OCWM Awards
- 3:45 pm Closing Celebration, Announcements, Amenities, Leadership Installation
- 4:00 pm Adjournment

4/5/2018

THEME: "For Just Such a Time as This!"
"Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Esther 4:14c

Forums 12:45 pm & 1:45 pm

Worship . . . For Such a Time as This

*Rev. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace – Professor in the Taylor Endowed Chair of Worship and Music
Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH*

Come and learn about recent worship resources as well as share ideas in this interactive workshop about how God is still speaking through worship in your congregation.

Ohio Conference Visioning Team

Pastor Tom Kagy, Cathy Green, Rev. Jared Ruari – Conference Visioning Team

Hear future plans concerning the Ohio Conference structure.

Addictions

Nate Kehlmeier, Midwest Recovery Center, Director of Admission

Come and hear from Nate Kehlmeier who knows first-hand about addictions. Nate was born and raised in Genoa, OH. He is a 2000 graduate of Genoa High School. His addiction started with pain pills and quickly progressed to Heroin. He has been clean and sober since January 18, 2008. He has been working in the Addiction field since 2009 and currently works for Midwest Recovery Center in Maumee, OH. He is a member of St. John's Church in Genoa, OH and is very active in the community helping those struggling with addictions.

Back Bay Mission: Strengthening Neighborhoods, Seeking Justice, Transforming Lives.

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman – Back Bay Mission Trip Coordinator

Take an opportunity to learn about a mission of the UCC which is in its 96th year of serving the poor, disabled and aging population of Biloxi, MS. You will learn about the broad ministries of the mission as it works to provide sustainability and affordable housing along with nutrition, health and financial education for those whose lives have been impacted by disaster, poverty, disability, and aging. Volunteers come all year long from much of the US and you will learn how to become one or how to lead a group, making a true difference in people's lives. You can also get information on how to do an old fashioned shrimp boil fundraiser (along with an offer of help to do so) at your church. Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Revisiting El Salvador, our global partner

John & Joyce Gilberg – El Salvador Mission Trip Coordinators

We will be showing pictures of the progress of the new church building for the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. We will also share updated information about their schools, their clinic, their soup kitchen and Rosales Hospital, a government hospital for the poor.

Faith Formation, More than Sunday School

Students of the Lay School of Religion

Lay School members will present real life and tested program ideas for use in local congregations just like yours. These working examples takes Faith Formation to experiences outside of the normal Sunday morning routine.

Alternate Track to Ordination: Where are we?

Alternate Paths Sub-Committee of the Church and Ministry Team

Presentation on the Northwest Ohio Association, UCC crafting an alternate path to Ordination.

Violence and Threats in Schools: What's Really Going On?

Dr. Amy Klinger, The Educator's School Safety Network, www.eSchoolSafety.org

The reality of threats and violent incidents in schools is very different from public perceptions or media reports. In this session Dr. Amy Klinger, founder and Director of Programs for The Educator's School Safety Network, will explore what we know to be true about school-based incidents and threats both nationally and specifically in Ohio. The session will examine current and longitudinal data and the emerging trends and issues that are currently impacting our schools. The session will conclude with a discussion of key strategies for violence prevention and crisis response.

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

OFFICERS

Mrs. Betty Rettig Moderator
Rev. Jared Ruari Vice Moderator
Pastor Tom Kagy..... Secretary
Mr. Larry Clausing..... Treasurer
Rev. David Voll Past Moderator

STAFF

Rev. Daniel L. Busch..... Association Minister
Mrs. Joan Davidson.....Office Manager/Placement Coordinator
Mrs. Deb LongBookkeeper

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Mrs. Betty Rettig – MODERATOR

Betty Rettig has served in various capacities at St. John’s UCC near Holgate since joining in 1972 including VBS teacher, member of Worship and Music, Audit, Nominating and Stewardship and Mission Teams, Elder and member of Consistory. While serving as Consistory President, the Pastor began considering a new call and Betty became familiar with the NWOA office and the resources that they offer for a church in transition. Since then, she served on the Church and Ministry Team. Professionally, Betty is a Registered Nurse, retiring after almost 40 years. Currently she works part-time in a private counseling practice in Defiance and as the Administrative Assistant at St. John’s UCC, Holgate. Betty and her husband Bob live near Napoleon, Ohio. They have two adult daughters and four grandchildren.

Rev. Jared Ruari - VICE MODERATOR

Rev. Jared Ruari lives in Mansfield, OH with his partner The Rev. Allison Ruari and their 3 cats. Jared has served as minister to St. John's UCC in Mansfield since 2014 and is involved with the wider church as Vice Moderator of NWOA, a member of the Ohio Conference Visioning Team, and as a delegate to General Synod.

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A BRIEF HISTORY

St. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, GENOA

Roots: The "German United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Church of Genoa, Ohio" was founded by members of St. John's in Elmore among German immigrants in 1868. Services were in the German language until World War I. The last German service was held in our church as late as 1941. When St. John's joined the newly formed United Church of Christ in 1957, its name was changed to "St. John's United Church of Christ."

Facilities: In the early 1960's the congregation moved across town to the present campus. For over a year, the congregation worshiped in what is now our Fellowship Hall. The sanctuary and chapel and office area were completed and dedicated to God on September 17, 1961.

Stained-glass: One outstanding feature of the church is the stained-glass windows. The windows were created by the artist Russel S. Heizer, Westerville, Ohio and are made of "faceted glass" bound with epoxy resin. Pastor Emeritus, Paul Deppen (who served St. John's from 1968 to 1988) has written the text for an illustrated book about the windows called, "Sermons in Symbols." The twelve windows in the sanctuary were created to depict the UCC statement of faith. Windows in the chapel (which is furnished with pews, pulpit, lectern, and altar from the original building) depict the "I am" statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John and in Revelation.

Pre-School: During the week, the educational wing of the church facilities are used by St. John's Nurturing Center, a ministry of the church and an established, state licensed, year-round Center offering three programs: Preschool, toddler day care (ages 3-5), and after-school day care for children (K-5).

Elderlife: On the east end of the church campus there are three housing units which comprise the Elderlife Facilities. Established for the "well elderly" in 1986, Elderlife has forty living units.

Regular Ministries: St. John's Church has a variety of both regular and church year events and ministries. There are Sunday School classes for adults, youth, and children. There are week night Lenten classes, Summer Vacation Bible School classes for children and adults, adult choir, women's conferences, two Dart Ball Teams, youth group activities, mission trips, special dinners, and much more. Handmade prayer shawls are given to those who need encouragement because of illness or crisis. The Church is often used as a meeting place for area events and people helping.

2018 is the 150th Anniversary of the Church with many special speakers, historic videos, dinners, and historical recognitions.

Missions: St. John's actively participates in, supports, and prays for a number of missions, including The Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, The Genoa Food Pantry, The Back Bay Mission of the UCC in Biloxi, MS, Habitat for Humanity, and Jay Herman, a by faith missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ in Slovenia, Central Europe. In 2016 a special emphasis on fighting the opioid epidemic began working with member, Nate Kehlmeier an area leader, in the fight to help people overcome addiction.

Professional Staff: In 2012, St. John's called Dr. Don Giesmann as its Senior Pastor. Ryan Shields was called by the congregation in 2017 as Assistant Pastor for Youth Ministry. He served previously for 10 years as Youth Director. In 2018, Dawn Balduf was called by the congregation as Assistant Pastor for Family Ministry. Our Church Office Administrator is Mary Muntz who has served since 2005. Bill Woycitzky is Choir Director. Deb Auer is the Church Organist. Bruce Auer is the Elderlife Administrator. Bobbie Kehlmeier is the Nurturing Center (Preschool) Administrator. Lynn Warren is the Church Custodian.

Renovation: Currently, the main church building built in 1961, is undergoing renovation including a new roof, a new heating/cooling system, and other major work. In recent years a new vision statement with revitalization goals was adopted in the areas of Celebration, Caring, Community, and Commitment. The key challenge statement is: "Honoring our past while building the future as we move forward in faith!"

MODERATORS OF THE NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, October 25, 1963 ministers and delegates representing congregations seeking membership in the Northwest Ohio Association met at Trinity United Church of Christ, Tiffin, and gave birth to this covenant fellowship. First United Church of Christ, Lima was the site of the First Annual Meeting, May 6 and 7, 1964. Since then the following persons, clergy and laity, have been elected to assume the duties of moderator:

1963-64	* Rev. Paul Rohrbaugh, St. John's UCC, Genoa, MB
1964-65	* Rev. Paul Rohrbaugh, St. John's UCC, Genoa, MB
1965-66	* Mr. Charles McKenny, Pilgrim Church of the UCC, Toledo, MB
1966-67	* Rev. Robert Boardman, First Congregational UCC, Sandusky, F
1967-68	* Mr. Oscar J. Weiker, Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1968-69	* Rev. Richard P. Vitz, First UCC, Lima, ME
1969-70	Mr. R. Clark Hunter, Ripley Congregational UCC, Greenwich, F
1970-71	Rev. Larry K. May, St. Paul's UCC, Bellevue, F
1971-72	Mr. Randall Buchman, The St. John UCC, Defiance, D
1972-73	* Rev. William Tuck, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
1973-74	Mr. Jay Elshoff, First UCC, New Knoxville, ME
1974-75	* Rev. Robert Haskins, Mayflower UCC, Mansfield, TH
1975-76	Mrs. Anne Kear, Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1976-77	* Rev. Reuben Bebler, St. John's UCC, Holgate, D
1977-78	* Mr. Philip Maurer, St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, ME
1978-79	Rev. Robert Snyder, Park Congregational UCC, Toledo, MB
1979-80	* Mrs. Jean Winegardner, West Elm UCC, Lima, ME
1980-81	* Rev. Robert Peeples, First UCC, Shelby, TH
1981-82	Mr. John Schaeffer, St. John's UCC, Milan, F
1982-83	Rev. John Miller, First UCC, Galion, TH
1983-84	* Mr. William C. Bradish, Pilgrim Church of the UCC, Toledo, MB
1984-85	* Rev. Harold W. Thiedt, St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta, ME
1985-86	Mrs. Elnor Telljohann, Faith Community UCC, Toledo, MB
1986-87	Rev. Barbara Laucks, Emanuel UCC, Upper Sandusky, H
1987-88	* Mr. David Deever, St. John's UCC, Kenton, H
1988-89	Rev. Alfred W. Schroeder, The St. John UCC, Defiance, D
1989-90	Mr. James L. Henry, St. John's UCC, Mansfield, TH
1990-91	Rev. Patricia H. Lawrence, Republic UCC, Republic, H
1991-92	* Mr. William O. Fahrenbruck, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
1992-93	* Rev. Gary R. Hodges, St. John's UCC, Archbold, D
1993-94	* Ms. Coral Schmidt, Salem UCC, Toledo, MB
1994-95	Rev. Frank Isaacs, St. Paul's UCC, Bellevue, F
1995-96	Mr. Garland John Gates, First UCC, Shelby, TH
1996-97	* Rev. Howard H. Hershberger, UCC, Spencerville, ME
1997-98	* Ms. Judy Shumaker, Calvin UCC, Toledo, MB
1998-99	Rev. Barry Bordenkircher, Community UCC, Fort Seneca, H
1999-2000	* Mr. Ted Lovejoy, St. John's UCC, Archbold, D
2000-01	Rev. Sam Buehrer, First UCC, Galion, TH
2001-02	Mrs. Donna L. Overholt, Trinity UCC, Tiffin, H
2002-03	Rev. Rob Patton, St. Stephen's UCC, Sandusky, F
2003-05	Mr. Dale Schmidt, St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, Auglaize Valley Region
2005-07	* Rev. Dr. William Chidester, Sylvania UCC, Sylvania, Lakeshore Region
2007-09	Mrs. Mary Powell, St. John's UCC, Tiffin, Sandusky Valley Region
2009-11	Rev. David Plant, The St. John UCC, Defiance, Auglaize Valley Region
2011-13	Mrs. Susan Bishop, Zion (Fireside) UCC, Bellevue, Lakeshore Region
2013-15	Rev. Robin LaBolt – Sycamore UCC, Sycamore, Sandusky Valley Region
2015-17	Rev. David Voll – St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor, Lakeshore Region
2017-19	Mrs. Betty Rettig – St. John's UCC, Holgate, Auglaize Valley Region

Key - The initials designate the Program Districts: MB - Maumee Bay; D - Defiance; H - Heidelberg; ME - Miami Erie; F - Firelands; TH - Templd Hills * Deceased

RULES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association

The rules and operating procedures for this Annual Meeting are intended to increase the meeting's effectiveness and simplicity, and to decrease confusion and uncertainty.

The meeting itself is the total responsibility of all the delegates. Delegates (and visitors with voice) should speak only on the subject at hand, remaining aware that there are others who may wish to speak and limiting the number of times he/she speaks and the length of each speech.

The Annual Meeting Planners and the Association Cabinet suggest the following operating procedures:

1. All proceedings, unless otherwise provided for, are governed by Roberts Rules of Order, as Amended.
2. Every member in good standing of a United Church of Christ has the privilege of the floor, but only official delegates and those granted voice and vote by this Association may make motions or vote. During debate the Moderator shall attempt to alternate between "pro" and "con" speakers.
3. Every motion, except a very simple one, must be submitted in writing to the secretary at the time it is made.
4. Speakers addressing the meeting shall be limited to five minutes on a first speech and three minutes if they wish to speak a second time to the same matter of business.
5. The bar of the house shall be defined as the pews in the main sanctuary of the church. Only official delegates within the bar of the house shall be eligible to vote.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Copies of the Northwest Ohio Association Constitution and Bylaws are on the secretary's table in the sanctuary. You may desire to refer to this document during the business session.

HOW TO REPORT ON AN ANNUAL MEETING

Delegates to the 55th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Association are representatives of a local church. Delegates are often requested to make a verbal report to the official board or during a Sunday morning worship service. Other delegates are asked to make a written report for their parish newsletter. Regardless - the question remains - how can I make a responsible and effective report? The following guidelines are prepared to help you make your report back home.

1. Basic Resources and Tools for Reporting
 - A. The Program Book - The agenda is a good summary of the meeting. Make notes in your book throughout the meeting.
 - B. Your Personality - When you write or tell the story, be personal - blend the factual report with feelings and humor.
2. Your Report - Telling the Story
 - A. Outline the story you wish to tell. It might fall into several categories:
 - a) Factual Report of:
 - * The Theme – *“For Just Such a Time as This!”*
 - * Reports of officers, staff and teams/committees
 - * Key actions taken
 - * Speakers
 - * Elections
 - * Association Mission Spending Plan (Budget)
 - b) Your Impressions and Feelings about:
 - * Overall impressions of meeting
 - * Inspiration
 - * Challenge
 - * Disappointment
 - * Thrills
 - c) Application of the Meeting to Your Church:
 - * Anyone from your church on the program or elected
 - * Actions that touch your church
 - * Budget implications for your church
 - * New ideas or programs to share
 - d) Invitation and Challenge:
 - * For others to review the program book
 - * For others to be a delegate next year
 - * For others to become involved.
 - B. Write your story out. Be brief - you can tell a lot in five minutes. Have fun!

“For Just Such a Time as This!”
Opening Worship
Word and Holy Communion

GATHERING MUSIC

***GATHERING TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

“For Just Such a Time Like This...”

It is a new day, a gift from God to be shared with God’s family everywhere.

“For Just Such a Time Like This...”

We gather as God’s family renewing friendships and developing new friendships.

“For Just Such a Time Like This...”

We reaffirm being a united people and uniting people of diverse faith.

Our witness reflects God’s transformational love in our lives and our faith communities.

“For Just Such a Time as This” when it seems as if relationships with family, friends, and nations are falling apart, words of faith and acts of love change us and bring hope affirming that we all are children of God.

“For Just Such a Time as This” God’s grace and love welcomes all, loves all, and seeks justice for all.

To God be honor and praise.

***HYMN**

“God You Spin the Whirling Planets”

24

***PRAYER OF PREPARATION** *(unison)* *(from “Book of Worship United Church of Christ”)*

O Holy Spirit, Breath of God, blow in our lives this day. Clear out the cobwebs of closed minds and outworn ideas. Fill us with the freshness of Your living love. Cleanse and renew us that we might go from this place ready to be Your people in the world. We ask this in the name of the one who came to reconcile the world to You, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY

“Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Esther 4:14c

“IMAGINE” *(Dialogue written by Rev. John Gantt, Interim Ohio Conference Minister)*

PRAYERS TO THE LIVING GOD

Response: “The Lord’s Prayer”

Rev. Becky Sunday, Soloist

THE SHARING OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Offering is for Grace Community Center, Toledo, Ohio

OFFERTORY: Choral Anthem

***DEDICATORY PRAYER** *(unison)* *(source: Thom Shuman)*

As we offer our treasure and hearts to You, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of Your gifts and presence in their lives. Bless the ministries of Grace Community Center. Through Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

"As We Gather at Your Table"

#695

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsively)* (UCC Worship Ways, Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine)

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of You is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

Raise our consciousness of You, O God.

We forget that we are a reflection of Your image. We act as though You are a Sunday-only event.

Increase our mindfulness of You, O God.

Help us to a greater common awareness of Your deep mystery and infinite presence.

Rouse our awareness of You, O God.

Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.

Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with Your amazing grace.

Forgive us, O God. We ask in Jesus' precious name.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Holy, Forgiving God, we are Your sheep. You keep us awake and aware. You can increase our God-consciousness every day of our lives. Bless You and praise You for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask. Help us to enter by the door when we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. We hear Your voice of pardon. Through Christ's grace we are forgiven.

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS AND SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)* (715)

**Now let us from this table rise, renewed in body, mind, and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again, his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then give us grace, Compassion God, to choose again the pilgrim way;
and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

*HYMN

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

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*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

MUSIC OF PRAISE

CLOSING WORSHIP -- Installation of NWOA Officers and Teams

INSTALLATION OF NWOA OFFICERS AND TEAMS

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth
To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.
Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts. It is one body, even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

These persons have been called by God, nominated and elected by Northwest Ohio Association, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministries of the Church of Jesus Christ through Northwest Ohio Association, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Response: I am.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

Members of this "community of communities" of faith, you have heard the promise of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Eternal God, You have called these persons to serve You in Northwest Ohio Association and in the world, which You have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send Your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that Your Church may prosper in the mission You place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of Your name.

AMEN.

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Northwest Ohio Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are installed in your respective positions.

Thanks be to God.