

SYNERGY

The Newsletter of the *Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations*

Synergy: "The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects."

Volume 5 Issue 2

March 2011

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JOINT PERSONNEL COMMITTEE APPOINTED

As the Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association move into a new relationship with shared staff, a combined personnel committee has been appointed by the two association councils. The persons serving on this committee are Charles Brown, Jackie Cassara and Michelle Hintz from WRA, and David Carnell, Steve Gehlert and Maureen Webber from EOA. This committee had its first meeting on



February 16 to begin their task of fleshing out a job description for the position of General Minister for the two associations. They met with members of the Strategic Planning Task Force as they began, and will also be including input from conversations in each association as they move forward. It is hoped that a more formal job description can be generated by this spring, when a joint search committee will begin its work.

MINISTERS SUPERVISING STAFF: Practical and most informative, this workshop is co-sponsored by the WRA/EOA Church & Ministry Departments - April 7, 2011: **"A Workshop for Ministers Supervising Staff!"** with Susan Beaumont, Alban Institute Consultant, to be held at Bath UCC in Akron. Go to the front page of your Association website for all the detailed information and registration form. Everyone who registers gets a copy of the book: "When Moses Meets Aaron: Staffing and Supervision in Congregations." If you have any questions, email Rev. Jim Cunningham at j.h.cunningham@me.com

HOW TO DEVELOP TIPPERS INTO TITHERS

"Just in time training for these difficult economic times"



A workshop for church teams of a pastor and at least three members of finance and stewardship Saturday, April 16, 2011 - 9 am to noon Ohio Conference Office Board Room, 6161 Busch Blvd., Columbus, OH 43229. Led by Paul Nickerson, Associate Conference Minister, Evangelism, Vitality and New Church Starts in Massachusetts Conference.

This workshop will help church teams learn:

- Principles of giving
- Re-thinking motives for giving
- Re-thinking the stewardship letter
- Helping people grow in their giving

Cost: \$150 per church team (unlimited number), which includes all materials and a copy of "How To Increase Giving in Your Church." Sponsored by the Ohio Conference and the Church Development Team. Go to www.macucc.org/evangelism to download flyer and mail-in form.

WRA CHURCH IN THE WORLD is changing its format from meeting once a month to meeting four times a year with theme oriented meetings: Justice LED, Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, and then a Justice party in December. The first event is March 24th from 6:30-7:30pm at Lakewood Congregational and from 7:30-9:00pm is the program on justice LED.



Date	2011 YOUTH CALENDAR
March 18 – 19	Ohio Conference EDUCATORS GATHERING/PARTNERS IN EDUCATION - Temples Hills - focus on the emerging church movement - see related article!
March 24	EOA Department of Church and Education
March 26	Ohio Conference Sr. High Fall Youth Event Planning - 11:00am to 5:00pm - St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta
March 31 – April 2	National JUSTICE LED TRAINING - to be presenters at training around both associations in Leaders Engaging and Developing Justice. More to follow.
April 9	EOA/WRA Faith Practices Workshop - St. John's UCC, Dover 9:00am—12:15pm
April 14	EOA/WRA Youth Leaders' Gathering - 10:00am to Noon with lunch together out in a great restaurant - Richfield United Church of Christ
May 7	EOA/WRA Spring Gathering – Trinity United Church of Christ, Canton
June 8 – 9	Ohio Conference JUSTICE LED TRAINING – Heidelberg University, Tiffin
June 10 – 11	Ohio Conference Annual Gathering
June 28 – July 7	EOA/WRA OPEN TO OHIO CONFERENCE Youth@Synod — it's getting close and it's time to let me know of interest. See related article.
July 30 – Aug. 6	EOA/WRA OPEN TO OHIO CONFERENCE Kentucky Happening - Work and Mission Immersion!
November 18 – 20	Ohio Conference Sr. High Fall Youth Event - Pilgrim Hills – Theme: "Let Justice Roll" Scripture: Amos 5: 24 "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." Using Justice LED resources. Invited musician – Bryan Sirchio

For more information on any of the above, contact Margaret at mmills@wraucc.org or millsm92445@gmail.com

YOUTH@SYNOD Again there will be a program for youth at the 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Tampa, FL. EOA/WRA will be taking a group of youth and young adults to Synod and to the youth@synod program. While the official youth@synod event is for Sr. High youth, EOA/WRA will be offering the opportunity for young adults to join the program by traveling together, staying together, and sharing the synod experience together. We'll be leaving the Cleveland area EARLY on Tuesday, June 28th and returning LATE on Thursday, July 7th. It's now time to let me know if you have an interest!! Please contact Margaret for a packet of information at mmills@wraucc.org or millsm92445@gmail.com or 440-487-2549. The cost will be around \$600.00.



YOUTH LEADER'S AND EDUCATOR'S EVENT: Thursday, April 14th at Richfield United Church of Christ. We'll gather from 10:00am-Noon for a time of catching up with colleagues, sharing resources, and conversation. We'll wrap up around noon and go to lunch for those who would like to. If you're planning on attending please email Brandy Bring at brandy@firstchurchoberlin.org.

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP! 2011 Camp Registration is available now online at www.ocucc.org. Go to the Camp page and look to the right of the page for details.

Ohio Conference PARTNERS IN EDUCATION & EDUCATORS/YOUTH MINISTERS GATHERING

“**THE EMERGING CHURCH AND THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH**”: **March 18 – 19, 2011 at Templed Hills Camp.** Our time together will begin after supper at 7:00 p.m. -- although if you want to come and just relax before supper, we can order pizza or go into Bellville for supper. We'll share stories, relax, worship, eat snacks, and share in a time of getting to know one another in a retreat atmosphere. There will be copies of the book, “*Toward a Hopeful Future: Why the Emergent Church is Good News for Mainline Congregations*” by Phil Snider and Emily Bowen; Pilgrim Press, available on Friday evening to begin our conversation.

On Saturday morning we will gather to share thoughts with folks on **the emerging church and the traditional church and how we fit as educators and youth ministers.** Our discussion leaders will include Rev. Brenda Grauer, chair of WRA's Let's Talk Faith group and one who has studied various aspects of the emerging church. And Rev. Mark Suriano, pastor at Old South Church in Kirtland, who completed a sabbatical on influences of the emerging church movement. After lunch, we'll continue learning about Faith Practices resources and will have an introductory workshop for those new to the resource.

And of course a time to hike, chat, visit, rest, nap, read....you get the idea. We'll conclude with a brief worship and be on the road by 3:00 p.m. This will be a very informal gathering for support, learning, and relaxation. The cost is \$60 (with the possibility of a refund as we will be getting a grant from the national church).

Registration will be informal as well -- just contact Margaret Mills at mmills@wraucc.org or millsm92445@gmail.com or 440-487-2549 to register. You can bring your check with you.



VITAL SIGNS



EOA Vital Signs

As of December 31, 2010:

Total actual income for operations:
\$641,518.50

Total actual expense from operations:
\$662,787.64

Difference (\$21,269.14)

WRA Vital Signs

As of December 31, 2010:

Total actual income for operations:
\$846,450.59

Total actual expense from operations:
\$875,379.69

Difference (\$28,929.10)

*We wish to thank you for your continued giving to **Our Churches Wider Mission!***

Churches in Transition:

(* reflects an active National Search)



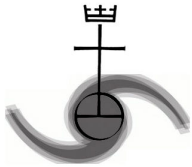
Eastern Ohio Association

- St. Peter's UCC (Applecreek)
- Atwater Congregational UCC (Atwater)
- * Bethel UCC (Beloit)
- * St. John UCC (Bolivar) *Part Time*
- Trinity UCC (Canal Fulton)
- *Grace UCC (Canton) *Part Time*
- St. Paul's UCC (East Canton)
- * Zion UCC (Hannibal)/Immanuel UCC (Clarington)
- Richville UCC (Navarre)

- Zion UCC (New Bedford)
- St. Paul (Port Washington)
- Edinburg UCC (Ravenna)
- * Stow Community Church (Stow)
- Suffield UCC (Suffield)
- Congregational UCC (Windham) *Part-Time*

Western Reserve Association

- * Bainbridge Community UCC (Bainbridge)
- *First Congregational UCC (Berea)
- *Burton Congregational UCC (Burton)
- * Archwood UCC (Cleveland)
- Pilgrim Christian Church (Chardon)
- First Congregational (Lorain)
- Community UCC (Shaker Hts.)
- Dover Congregational UCC (Westlake)
- Fellowship UCC (Wickliffe)



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Visit us online!

Eastern Ohio Association - www.eoaucc.org

Western Reserve Association - www.wraucc.org

Ohio Conference - www.ocucc.org

FAREWELL TO MARGARET BORRELLI (*WRA, Gerry's House Director*)

With sad hearts, the members of the WRA Resource Ministry Team gathered to bid farewell to Margaret Borrelli. Margaret ended her 10 years of service to WRA as our Gerry's House: WRA Resource Center Director and was honored at a luncheon. Now the reason we all look so happy in the picture is that — Margaret's really not going anywhere. She has resigned as the Director of Gerry's House to take on expanded hours at Church of the Redeemer in Westlake. And she will continue as the Ohio Conference Convener of the Partners in Education. So while she will not be regularly at Gerry's House, we know faith formation and educational ministry are her passions and will continue as we move forward.

Margaret's gifts are many. She loves resources - as did Gerry Haff, in whose honor and memory Gerry's House is named. She is a gifted writer. She is experienced in educational ministry and in connecting people with needs in that area. We will miss those gifts.

The search is on, however, to call the next director as soon as possible. The Resource Ministry Team will interview 3 candidates on March 3 and will share the news in the next Synergy. In the meantime, Gerry's House is staffed by the Resource Ministry Team and Margaret Mills. For your resource needs, please contact mmills@wraucc.org and your requests will be forwarded to the appropriate person(s).

We all wish Margaret Borrelli God's richest blessings as she moves forward in local church education and faith formation ministry.