

Registration is still open and can be found [HERE](#). Deadline to register is June 12. Business meeting information as well as other details about the gathering will be posted [HERE](#) scan this QR code, so please check back often.



The most recent set of documents are posted to the 2023 Annual Celebration page are as follows:

- Standing Rules (revised 6/2/23)
- Resolution Form (posted 3/28/23)
- 2022 AC Minutes for Approval (posted 5/12/23)
- 2023 Consent Agenda (posted 5/12/23)
- Eco-Justice Resolution (posted 5/12/23)
- Resolution on Termination of Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott (posted 5/12/23)
- Conference Attorney's Opinions to the Resolution on Termination of Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott (posted 6/2/23)
- Nominating Report (posted 6/2/23)
- Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (posted 5/12/23)
- Balance Sheet (posted 5/12/23)
- 2023-2024 Proposed Budget (posted 5/12/23)
- 2023-2024 Interpretive Budget (posted 5/25/23)
- Proposed RMC Constitution and Bylaws (posted 5/12/23)
- Proposed Bylaws Changes Explanation (posted 5/12/23)
- UCC General Counsel's Opinions to the Revised Bylaws (posted 6/2/23)
- 2023 Secretary's Report (posted 5/28/23)

The highlighted documents have either been updated or added since the last newsletter.

Maintaining healthy boundaries is challenging at any stage in ministry--it is particularly tender and difficult attending to boundaries as we transition out of our last call and while in retirement.

Along with case studies, "A Sure Foundation," "The Ministerial Code," and Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly's new book "The Jubilee Years" will provide the content of this three-hour training. Rev. Stephen Boyd and Rev. Tara Barber from the national setting of the church (MESA) will offer this focused Boundary Awareness Training for those entering and living in retirement.

There is no charge for this training.

Successful completion of this three-hour training satisfies the Healthy Ministry Training requirement for retired clergy set forth by the Conference-wide Committee on Ministry. (Retirees who have been granted "exempt" status are not subject to this requirement.)

If you are unable to attend this training, watch the RMC newsletter, Together, for news of upcoming Healthy Ministry Relationships training opportunities offered by Rev. Dr. Tracey Dawson and Rev. Wendy Kidd.

Should you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Rev. Karen Winkel, chair of the CWCOM Supportive Oversight Subcommittee at cochairsos@rmcucc.org or call her at 970-765-7070.

To enroll in this free June online training, click [HERE](#)

GLOBAL
H.O.P.E. Humanitarian.
Opportunities.
Progress.
Empowerment.



New 2023 Immigrant Welcoming Congregations Toolkit

This month, Global H.O.P.E.'s Refugee and Migration Services, alongside the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration, released the updated [Immigrant Welcoming Congregations Toolkit: Immigrant Welcoming Congregations - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#). This resource includes a suggested action plan for immigration ministries of the UCC as well as a wide range of options for engagement. The new toolkit was introduced live during a Wednesdays with the World webinar that aired on May 17. Included was an invitation to join the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration.

During this webinar ([\(1\) Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church - YouTube](#)), churches were provided information about formally joining the network. There is a national village of Immigrant Welcoming Churches across the UCC, and we welcome you to collaborate with us.

Refugee and Migration Services and the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration will be joining together again at General Synod to offer a workshop entitled "Immigration at the Border and the UCC Response." As many changes have occurred this year in US policy regarding the reception of refugees and asylum seekers, churches will benefit from hearing updated information on the UCC's border response and how they can help. The workshop will be offered at 3 pm on Saturday, July 1, in Indianapolis.



To our knowledge, there are at least 8 ESL programs facilitated or supported by local UCC churches across the country. ESL programs not only provide important language skills; they also have immeasurable empowerment effects for women. In most countries of origin that refugees are forced to leave, women exist in a "village" that shares their workload, childcare, and social wellness with other women. Upon arriving to the United States, this vital community is often lost, which can create extreme hardship for them. Many of the churches that have built ESL programs across the life of the UCC recognize this difficulty and intentionally design their programs to allow women access to friendships, childcare, and a general sense of feeling supported and valued in their new neighborhoods. We at Team Global HOPE deeply appreciate the churches engaged in these ministries and the importance that they provide for the lives of new immigrants. If you have an ESL program you currently operate or seek to open and would like to be considered for financial support, please review Global HOPE's Migrant Community Program Seed Grant [HERE](#)

The power of coming together: Collaboration was the theme at National VOAD Conference



Disaster responders, communicators and coordinators gathered May 8-11 in St. Louis for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) conference, "Gateway to Collaboration." Attendees from religious and secular organizations from around the country, along with representatives from government agencies such as FEMA, heard the latest disaster response initiatives in the various workshops and presentations offered throughout the four-day event. What was just as important as the plethora of information, though, was for VOAD members to meet in-person once again.

"It was good having the family back together," said the Rev. Karl Jones. Jones, who serves as a Conference Disaster Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference as well as the communications coordinator for Pennsylvania VOAD, noted that the pandemic Zoom years were "doable" because of the established relationships among VOAD members. Yet, he added, as staffs shift and new volunteers join, the opportunity to meet face-to-face is not only refreshing, but also vital in the building of trust and rapport needed in the collaborative work of disaster response and rebuilding. "Especially as climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent," said Jones. "Getting to know one another, networking with others and having the chance to talk with FEMA representatives has never been so important."

The Rev. Greg Denk, a Conference Disaster Coordinator (CDC) for the Indiana Kentucky Conference, agrees. Denk, a retired pastor who says responding to disasters had always been part of his call in the parish — offering prayers for impacted communities and rallying parishioners to participate in a multitude of volunteer opportunities — now has a sole mission walking alongside communities after the news cameras have stopped filming. "The work of

rebuilding is a long process," said Denk. Take for example, the ongoing work of repairing homes after a tornado struck Mayfield, Kentucky in December 2021. Denk expects to be in Mayfield for "at least another five years." The homes, he said, are being rebuilt through a local program called "New Lease on Life," which gives locals the opportunity to finally own a home.

"Mayfield had a high number of renters before the tornado. This program is one way in which the community can come back stronger," said Denk, adding, "The work we do is all about rebuilding a better community."

Denk credits the partnerships formed in VOAD with helping him do a better job as a CDC. While only the second time attending a VOAD conference, he found it once again "eye-opening."

"I have learned that recovery begins locally and ends locally," said Denk, observing that the danger is always to bring one's own ideas — and ego — into a community, rather than listening to how that community wants to recover. "How do they want to rebuild? What is sustainable? If you listen intently to those you are helping, then you will be a lot better at what you do," said Denk. The 2024 National VOAD conference will be held in Phoenix, May 6-9. To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Global H.O.P.E. at General Synod



Global H.O.P.E. will have a strong presence at General Synod, as Josh, Irene, and a number of Conference Disaster Coordinators will be present. You may find us at the Wider Church Ministries booth in the exhibit space. The Team is also supporting three workshops on Saturday: "Sharing Global H.O.P.E." at 1:30 p.m. and "Immigration at the Border and the UCC Response" and "Living into a Sustainable World," both at 3:00 p.m. We would also like to highlight the resolution "Closing the Digital Divide," which will be the focus of an educational intensive on Friday at 12:30 p.m. and will move through the committee process on Sunday. You can read more about that resolution on ucc.org. If

you are attending General Synod, we look forward to seeing you there!

UCC Hiring Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery



Global H.O.P.E. seeks its next Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery. Qualified candidates are sought, with a rolling deadline to apply. More information and application are available online [HERE](#).



Looking for a 2023 Volunteer Work Trip? [UCC Ministry Opportunities](#) has work trips available. Let us know if there are Volunteer Work Trips in your Conference we might add to this list!



Disaster Ministries Invites all Conferences and Congregations to join the Willing to Response www.willingtorespond.org Network Today!

With the increasing number of disasters across the United States, more Conferences and Congregations are considering what to do, how best to respond and how to plan. Willing to Respond is a great way to get started and take just a few moments to join.

The reality is that disasters and emergencies can happen for many reasons- natural, climate induced, technological and other human causes including gun violence. This past year, a team of Conference Disaster Coordinators (CDC) developed a number of helpful planning tools [Resources - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#) for congregations use to be ready in case of an emergency. These plans and much more can be found in the Willing to Respond Network- <https://willingtorespond.org>

Contact your [CDC Conference Disaster Coordinators List - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#). Most conferences have an active Conference Disaster Coordinator and teams to assist you in times of disaster they are available to meet with congregations to help prepare, encourage volunteer opportunities and build our UCC readiness to respond and recover from disasters. Please connect with your Conference Disaster Coordinator soon- before disaster strikes and join the Willing to Respond Network.

About Global H.O.P.E.

Part of the [UCC's Wider Church Ministries](#), the [Global H.O.P.E.](#) team brings into close synergy [Disaster Ministries](#), [Refugee and Migration Ministries](#), [Volunteer Engagement and Sustainable Development](#).

Global H.O.P.E. distributes [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offerings, stewarding gifts to OGHS and humanitarian appeals on behalf of the wider church. H.O.P.E. makes clear the team's vision: Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.

Staff:

[Rev. Joshua Baird](#), Global H.O.P.E. Team Leader

[Rev. Irene W. Hassan](#), Minister for Refugees and Migration

Rev. Craig Hoffman, Program Assistant

(vacant) Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery

(vacant), Minister for Volunteer Engagement

Upcoming Events and Important Links

June 15-17: Annual Celebration [Learn more.](#) [Register.](#)

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found [here](#).