

July 8, 2023

General Synod 34

Greeting to you my siblings in Christ! The past several weeks have been packed with loads of work, fun, and excitement for me. On June 23rd I left Denver to go and spend some time with my family in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Maryland. After spending time with family, I made my way to Indianapolis to attend the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ. During my time with family, it was very meaningful, because we had not met as a family in three years, due to the pandemic, as we rekindled the spirit of family it brought on a whole new meaning of what it meant to be family. We reminisced of the old and welcomed the newness into the family. That same spirit was felt when I arrived in Indianapolis, to the Synod, meeting so



many of our siblings in Christ that I had not seen in several years, seeing so many of my old friends and colleagues and welcoming, new colleague in the ministry. This year's Synod was extra special for me, because I had the opportunity to sit with the brilliant minds that represented the delegation of the Rocky Mountain Conference, Angie Law, Karen Winkel, Ken Ingram, Vicki Globic, Kelli Parrish Lucas, Jan Zans, Marcus Frye, Dee Lundberg, and Ellie Smith. Also knowing our ACM Erin was there to support us with any decisions we need to make about the process of Synod. Because this was the first time I sat as a conference minister, I was at awe of the wealth of knowledge our delegation and ACM brought to the table. I was especially impressed with our Youth Delegate Ellie, as she voiced her conviction on a resolution that was brought before the floor. Also, our Young Adult delegate Marcus impressed me with his understand of the church and his commitment to Christ. I was also enthralled with the resolutions that was brought from our conference and the hard work that was put in by Deb Conrad, Jackie Hibbard, Nicole Lamarche, Kathy Stutzman and Kelly Parrish Lucas as they worked to make an impact in our world through the resolutions they presented at general synod. As our delegation sat and discern the process, I can say without a doubt The Rocky Mountain Conference can be pleased with the work that was done by our representatives. Now that Synod is over the work of our Conference and the local church continues as we attempt to make an impact in this world. The 34th Synod slogan was "Making all things New", It is my hopes and desire that the Rocky Mountain Conference can live into this theme as we work together to live out our purpose as a church. Let us begin to mend together the cloth that has be set at our table, Let us untangle that what has be tangled and begin to heal and bring hope in our understanding of the church. Let us reimagine and revision our purpose as "The Church" and commit to the work that God has called us to.

Blessing and Peace Doug







From the National Setting

Karen Georgia Thompson becomes first woman to lead UCC in historic vote



The General Synod of the United Church of Christ made history Monday, July 3, when it elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President.

Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

"Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together," she said after the vote. "It won't be the last first." She thanked Delk and Brown Zikmund, stating that they "kicked in the doors," paving the way for her election.

"As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many," Thompson said. "... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come."

Her election took place at the UCC's 34th General Synod in Indianapolis, with 626 delegates voting for her election, 43 against and seven abstaining. She will start her new role Aug. 1, taking over from the Rev. John Dorhauer, who has served for the past eight years.

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found here.