

ONA Ministry Team

2017-2018 Annual Meeting Report

The Open and Affirming Ministry Team within the Penn Central Conference serves to connect and support congregations that have voted to become Open and Affirming Congregations of the United Church of Christ and those congregations searching their call in this journey. The ONA Ministry Team meets every other month at the Penn Central Conference offices located in Harrisburg. During the past year, key activities have included:

- Maintained contact with churches that are Open and Affirming and those churches that are involved in the ONA Process.
- Served as a resource and offered technical assistance (Speakers, materials, support, and information) to churches going through their ONA process.
- Provided an opportunity for ONA Churches to share effective practices on ways that a church lives out its ONA Covenant. Churches serve as a resource for one another throughout the year.
- Stayed abreast of major state and federal legislation impacting diverse communities with a major focus on inclusive and exclusive legislation. Facilitated a letter and press release signed by ONA churches **Declaring Absolute Support for Active and Reserved Trans Members of Our Military**.
- Maintain connections with the National Coalition in order to share information and resources throughout our conference about actions at the UCC National level.
- Sponsored a variety of workshops at Annual Meeting to inform and offer resources to Penn Central Conference. Workshops focused on best practices, the ONA process, and developing connections between churches.
- Sponsored a Winter Gathering. This year's Winter Gathering "Queer, Bi, Pansexual Fluid: Identities Under the Bisexual Umbrella". Our speaker was Megan Yost, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Dickinson College.
- Served as a central point for Central PA PRIDE Festival and other churches participate in other local PRIDE events. Sponsored tables at the PRIDE Festival to distribute information about local ONA Churches.

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Penn Central Conference

ONA Churches (April 2018)

Canoe Camp Church of Christ, Mansfield

Dover UCC, Dover

Emmanuel, York

Faith, State College

First Reformed, Lancaster

Hayshire, York

Grace, Lancaster

Heidelberg, York

Hummelstown UCC, Hummelstown

New Covenant, Williamsport

Penbrook, Harrisburg

Salem, Columbia

Shiloh, Danville

St. Paul's, Dallastown

St. Paul's, Mechanicsburg (Re-affirmation, May 20, 2018)

St. Paul's, Selinsgrove (April 22, 2018)

Trinity Reformed, Mountville

Wisdom's Table @ St. Peter's, Lancaster