

STRATEGIC PLANNING

400 MISSION STATEMENT

Called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve in the world, we, Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ, covenant to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by:

- embodying Christ's love in and through our life and ministry
- enabling Christ's ministry in and through local congregations
- extending Christ's mission in and through the larger Church.

401 STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT (2013)

The Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors shall serve as the reviewing and evaluating body of the Board. It shall review the implementation of Board actions and actions adopted in Annual or Special Meetings. It shall oversee the development of short and long range plans by the Conference and its staff and Commissions. It shall accept such responsibilities as the Board may assign.

402 NEW CHURCH STARTS (Deleted 2013)

403 CONFERENCE STRUCTURE (Deleted 2013)

404 INTEGRATION OF UCC PRIORITIES AND EMPHASES (1/10/91)

Penn Central Conference will give its fullest appropriate attention to the priorities and emphases of the United Church of Christ.

405 MINISTRY TEAMS (2013)

Central Pennsylvania Open and Affirming [CPONA] *CPONA is a group of interested individuals and congregational reps who promote and encourage civil discussion about the Open and Affirming process and its related issues.*

Christian Education *The Christian Education Ministry Team provides programs, resources, evaluates curricula, and promotes the educational ministry of our local congregations.*

Church Development *The Church Development Ministry Team initiates and monitors church planting, including church multiplication and adoption.*

Congregational Vitality *The Congregational Vitality Ministry Team initiates and monitors a number of programs to assist our local congregations, such as the Road to Vitality, the Pathways Seminar and various other events and programs.*

Disaster Response and Readiness *The Disaster Response and Readiness Ministry Team plans and executes Conference-wide Mission Trips, to places such as Florida, New Orleans, and Nashville. They also provide training in Disaster Readiness, working cooperatively with local and regional government entities, and encourage each congregation to have a Readiness Plan.*

OCWM *The OCWM Ministry Team is new and is beginning to define their work. Its purpose is to promote Our Church's Wider Mission in our congregations, and to monitor giving so that we may respond appropriately.*

Peace and Justice *The Peace and Justice Ministry Team addresses current issues of peace and justice issues as they arise. They have worked most recently on issues of immigration, and human trafficking, and often provide us with resolutions to consider at Conference Annual Meeting and in our congregations.*

Worship and Music *The Worship and Music Ministry Team prepares and provides worship, liturgy, and music for Conference Annual Meeting, and often for other events such as Midwinter Convocation. They also help put on our Growing Stronger Churches Event, with tracks for liturgists and musicians.*

Youth Ministry *Plans youth retreats and event trips such as the National Youth Event. Works to develop leadership in youth.*

Partnership Teams

Dakota Association *The Dakota Partnership Ministry Team keeps us in relationship with the American Indian Churches of the Dakota Association, located primarily in South Dakota. We have assisted them through mission trips, providing resources, and seeking to understand each other's cultures.*

Namibia Synod UCCSA *The Namibia Partnership Ministry Team promotes relationships between churches in Penn Central Conference and the 14 churches of the Namibia Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, including visits, exchanges and mutual mission projects.*

UEK: Berlin/Brandenburg and Rhineland *The UEK Partnership Ministry Team helps us relate to Reformed Church partners in the Rhineland Regional Church and the Berlin/Brandenburg Regional Church, through such means as colloquies, visits between leaders, and common theological discussions.*