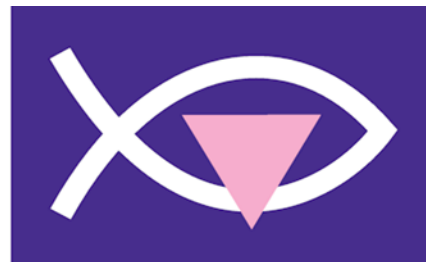


**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ONA MINISTRY TEAM
PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**



**ONA Ministry Team
2020-2021 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 or via ZOOM. During the past year, key activities have included:

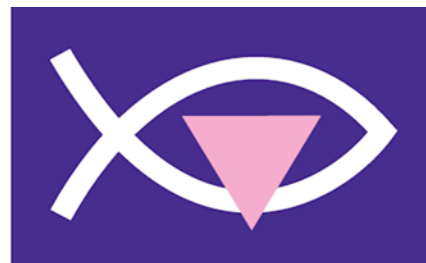
- Maintained contact with churches that are Open and Affirming and those churches that are involved in the ONA Process.
- Served as a resource and offered technical assistance (Speakers, materials, support, and information) to churches going through their ONA process.
- ONA Consultant supported several churches as they consider and move through the ONA process. On November 15, 2020, St. John's UCC, Chambersburg, Franklin County, Mercersburg Association, became our 27th. ONA church.
- 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 legislation that impacts the lives of LGBTQ+ folk.
- Maintained connections with the National Coalition in order to share information and resources throughout our conference about actions at the UCC National level.
- We did not attend the 2020 Central PA Pride Festival since it was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been notified the 2021 Festival has been cancelled for the same reason. We look forward to its return in July 2022.
- Sponsored two Spring Gatherings, via Zoom, due to Covid-19. The first gathering was held on March 17, 2021 and was presented by Pastor Arron Lauer, certified trainer for all curriculums of Our Whole Lives, "OWL" Ministry. He is the family minister at Coral Gables UCC, Coral Gables, FL and sits on the Leadership Board for the ONA Coalition. The second gathering was held on April 21st. and was presented by Andy Lang, Executive Director of the ONA Coalition. His presentation was titled, "How an ONA Covenant Would Enhance Your Church". As a thank you to these two gentlemen, we donated \$100.00 to support the Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministries (HWA) which directs the OWL ministry and to the ONA Coalition.
- We continue to solicit for a new Convener to lead our ministry. Shirley needed to step down to focus on her duties as Moderator of the Conference Board of Directors. She continues to be an active member of the ministry. Please contact Steve Roush if interested in this position.

For more information:

Acting Convener, ONA Ministry Team – Steven Roush @ scroush2@gmail.com

ONA Consultant – Steven Roush @ scroush2@gmail.com

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Penn Central Conference - ONA Churches (July 2020)

Canoe Camp Church of Christ, Mansfield

Christ, Elizabethtown

Colonial Park, Harrisburg

Dover UCC, Dover

Emmanuel, Hanover

Emmanuel, York

Faith, State College

First Reformed, Lancaster

Grace, Lancaster

Hayshire, York

Heidelberg, York

Hummelstown UCC, Hummelstown

New Covenant, Williamsport

Penbrook, Harrisburg

Salem, Columbia

Salem, Rohrerstown

Shiloh, Danville

St. John's, Boalsburg

St. John's, Chambersburg ~~NEW!~~

St. John's, Lewisburg

St. Paul's, Dallastown

St. Paul's, Mechanicsburg

St. Paul's, Selinsgrove

St. Paul's, Spring Grove

Trinity Reformed, Mountville

Trinity, Waynesboro

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