

*The Messenger*

NEW COVENANT

# COMMUNITY CHURCH

A WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

*August  
2022*

## *From the President's Pen*

Greetings Folks,

You will remember that on June 16<sup>th</sup> the Committee on Ministries gave us permission to immediately form our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). Our duly-elected nominating committee, brilliantly led by Jackie Horton and wisely aided by Ken Williams, Jaci Chetelat, and Cathy King, immediately went to work and, according to our Code of Regulations, formed a seven-member PNC. During our July 24<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting we

voted unanimously to accept the submitted names of Bev Cinovec, Hal Horton, Cathy King, John Sezna, Susie Stevenor, Jim Strandberg, and Ken Williams.

Now, isn't that something to behold? We have a capable, dedicated band of angels leading us through this time of transition as we sadly say good-bye to Tom Ulrich and await the outcomes of their measured, diligent search for our next iteration of New Covenant Community Church. I know you will all support them, pray for them, and patiently wait for them to fulfill their assigned duties.

For years I have been guided by the Franciscan, Richard Rohr, with daily emails. We live in a time of seemingly unending conflict and I want to share with you over the next five months remaining of my presidency eleven "touchstones" or "ground rules" taken

*(Continued on page )*

*I know you will all  
support them,  
pray for them,  
and patiently  
wait for them  
to fulfill their  
assigned duties.*

(Continued from page 1)

from The Courage Way by Shelly Francis and the Center for Courage and Renewal, to help move groups into greater trust, belonging, and understanding.

*Give and Receive Welcome*

*Extend hospitality, and presume welcome, too.*

*This includes welcome and support for diverse perspectives, opinions, and approaches...*

*Be Present as Fully Possible*

*Bring all of yourself - your doubts, fears, and failings as well as your convictions, joys, and successes, your listening as well as your speaking -to the work....*

Think about that, folks, trust, belonging, and understanding, commodities God gives to us abundantly.

- Nancy Clem, Governing Board President





# *The Pastor's Page*

***"I believe in the holy catholic Church does not mean that we believe in the church. It means rather to believe that God is present and at work in the church, that in this assembly, the work of the Holy Spirit takes place. . . .***

**We do not believe in the Church:  
but we do believe that in this congregation  
the work of the Holy Spirit becomes an event."  
– Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline*, (New York: Harper  
Torchbooks, 1959), pages 142-143.**

Just as the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to proclaim God's word and initiate God's work, God has blessed our church with leaders who reveal that in our congregation the work of the Holy Spirit is evident. Through our Governing Board and the people in our congregation, we are embarking on a process that will lead us into a new future. Although we are anticipating a time of transition in our church, we are actively engaging the challenges we are facing. Not only has our congregation elected a Pastor Nominating Committee on July 24, but our Governing Board is fashioning a Long-Range Planning Committee that will identify the areas on which we need to focus. They are setting an example for all of us through their excitement about the role they can share in fulfilling the vision that Christ has for the church. Believing that ministry happens through lives faithfully lived in the church and in our private lives, all of us can reveal our willingness to produce good and effective programs in the life of our congregation in order to glorify God and serve our fellow human beings. It is truly a gift of grace to participate in ministry with all of you devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

*...these devoted disciples dare to share their spiritual and human resources with the church, so that we may address the issues with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and open the doors of the sanctuary to announce that all people are welcome here.*

Together God is calling us in this approaching time of transition, not just to enjoy our beautiful facilities, but to be the church. As our Governing Board examines and assesses the tasks that need to be done, they renew their commitment to continue to shape our congregation into a place that radiates the light and love of Jesus Christ. In reviewing the things that we do well and the things that require improvement, these devoted disciples dare to share their spiritual and human resources with the church, so that we may address the issues with the gospel of Jesus

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Christ, and open the doors of the sanctuary to announce that all people are welcome here. By sharing their gifts in this transitional time, these believers invest their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love in molding the church to be a fortress of faith, a lifeline of love, and a cornerstone of commitment.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit is quite active among us, and we can follow the example that is being set by our officers in participating in the life of the church, so that in all we do we can represent the way of Jesus Christ in the world and serve as a witness throughout the world.

Blessings,

tom

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Join us, Friday, August 12  
at 10:30 a.m., at the church.

Please, give any ideas  
for fall activities to  
Jackie H., Susie or Nancy W.  
Better yet,  
come to the meeting!



## NEW INITIATIVES

Next meeting will be in early September

## AAIC

August 2, Noon-1:15 is  
the next meeting at the  
Akron-Canton Regional  
Foodbank, 350 Oppor-  
tunity Pkwy. Join us at  
the foodbank or by Zoom.



## READY TO PARTY?

The Fellowship Committee  
hopes you are and are  
excited to attend Caribbean  
Nights on **Saturday,**  
**August 27, starting at 6:00**  
**p.m., at the Williams', 109**  
**S. Hametown Rd., Copley.**

Dress for the occasion in

your wild island attire! Sign the sheet on the hall table and take one of the recipe cards.

Matt Dudack, Artistic Director of the University of Akron Steel Drum Band, and his son will perform beginning at 8 pm. To cover the entertainment cost of \$200, we ask that guests contribute \$5 per person either in cash or a check made out to Nancy Williams. Put money in an envelope and place in the offering plate. Do not pay at the door the night of the party, please. The Fellowship Committee will cover the remainder of the cost.

Robert Roth will park cars that night. Just drive up to the front door to drop off your food item, and he will park your car.

*Sunday, Aug. 21 is the final day to sign-up.*



# JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

August 28, 2022

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

1250 W Exchange St.  
Akron, OH

Prepare to enjoy  
a choir which will combine the voices and talents  
of members from different churches  
Representatives from ten congregations  
will assist in leading worship.

And, members of the  
Cameroonian Presbyterian Church  
will also participate.

Be sure to mark your calendars now,  
and watch for more information  
about a worship service  
you won't want to miss.





# THE POWER OF WOMEN AND THE VOTE

Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH) is hosting a program on **The Power of Women and the Vote**  
July 31, 2022 from 3-5 pm (on-site registration at 2:45)  
At the Alpha Phi Alpha Founders Hall, 662 Wolf Ledges Pkwy, Akron  
Register in advance for this **FREE** program at <https://tinyurl.com/WomenVotePower>

Please Join **Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH)** for a collective conversation on how women today can use their power to impact voting. Sojourner Truth had the confidence and courage to speak publicly about her convictions regarding women's rights as citizens. Putting truth to power, she spoke of all women's rights and roles in the voting process. Come and discuss the current status of redistricting and voter rights, the role that black women have played in enlarging all women's voting rights, and mobilizing the faith community around the knowledge of voter suppression and voting rights. Light refreshments will be served.

## PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

Akron Aids Collaborative, Home of the  
Bayard Rustin Resource Center LGBTQ+  
Akron Area Interfaith Council  
Dominican Sisters of Peace, Our  
Lady of the Elms  
First Congregational Church of Akron  
League of Women Voters of Akron  
Project Ujima



**The Honorable Emilia Sykes**, Candidate for the US Congress. Former Minority Leader for the Ohio House of Representatives



**Towanda Mullins**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Akron Alumnae Chapter and Chair, Sojourner Truth Project-Akron



**Pastor Joy Fenton-Jones**, First Christian Church, Cuyahoga Falls

**WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE  
WISH**