

The 2025 Fall Gathering of SONKA

Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association
of the
United Church of Christ
Heartland Conference

November 15, 2025

at

St. John's United Church of Christ-Dayton

Zoom link:

[ZOOM LINK - SONKA FALL GATHERING](#)

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SONKA FALL GATHERING 2025

Sat. Nov. 15 + 10am to noon

St. John's Sanctuary + 515 East Third St.+ Dayton + 45402

Agenda

9:30: REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS ON-SITE / 9:45: ZOOM LINK OPENS

WELCOME – Adam Wirrig, Todd Peterson

GATHERING SONG: “I’ll Fly Away” – Polk Berry Pickers

OPENING PRAYER– MiMi Chamberlin

BUSINESS MEETING – Todd

- "A Matter of Policy": Polk Berry Pickers
- Establish quorum and Approve agenda
- Treasurer's Report – Dan Deitz
- Approve proposed 2026 budget – Dan
- Approve reports from Ministry Teams
- Elect officers, team members, Regional Ministers
- Charch Hale Grants Presentation - Steve Schnabl

RECOGNITION and BLESSING OF OFFICERS/TEAMS FOR 2026

– Steve and Dave Long-Higgins: Love Canon Song

SONKA and HEARTLAND STEPS AHEAD – Steve, Dave, MiMi

COMMISSIONING OF REGIONAL MINISTERS – Lauren Allen

CLOSING SONG: “Sing A New World Into Being”

FINAL BLESSING AND INVITATION TO LUNCH * – MiMi

* The Troll Pub at the Wheel House (216 Wayne Ave. (937) 723-7709)



P.O. Box 49082 | Dayton, OH 45449 | 419.741.4695 | info@sonkaucc.org

Annual Report from the Association Minister

Thank you! Merci! Gracias! Danke! Grazie!

Grace always demands the answer of gratitude.

Grace and gratitude belong together like Heaven and earth.

Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo.

Gratitude follows grace like thunder follows lightning.

- Karl Barth

As I look back over the past six months, I am overcome with gratitude – for all things SONKA large and small!

First and foremost, for being entrusted and welcomed to serve our united and uniting UCC as Association Minister, I am truly thankful. It has been a wonderful welcome and affirmation of my calling to ministry, with SONKA-Heartland-UCC. I experienced this connection to our wider church family as a Synod delegate. It was a blessing to participate again and gave me wonderful perspective and connection in my new capacity. And so fun to learn that we are hosting the next one here in Ohio!

Our regional ministers are a true gift to SONKA, and I appreciate all who helped this new structure come into being – at last! I am honored to have such wonderful colleagues and partners to serve our churches and ministers.

I thank each pastor, staff, and church member who has truly walked the walk of our faith journey. From immigration justice - to racial justice - to food and housing for vulnerable neighbors - to environmental care - to interfaith cooperation - our Rubate Global Ministry efforts - and Open and Affirming LGBTQI advocacy and inclusivity, SONKA is active, involved, and a model of following Jesus' command to accompany the least, the lost and the left out.

THANK YOU!!!

Personally, I thank each member of the outgoing and incoming Governance Council – especially for all the extra work during this transition time and in welcoming a new Association Minister. And for Ministry teams – your service and patience with me is a gift to all of us. Please make time to read all the updates and reports and be amazed as I am with all the vital ministry that happens.

And to each and every Pastor and staff – those I have been able to meet and work with and those I have yet to have the pleasure of working with! – I thank you for your ministry and am inspired by you each and every day!

And last but not least, our churches who minister so faithfully and lovingly inside (and outside) the walls with compassion and care are the reason SONKA exists and I am thankful, grateful, and blessed to serve as Association Minister. I look forward to the upcoming season of our new structure and organization and what God holds in store for all of us and our communities.

In faith, hope, love and GRATITUDE.

Rev. MiMi Chamberlin, SONKA Association Minister

Moderator's Report – 2025 SONKA Fall Gathering

As I conclude my time serving as Moderator for SONKA, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in the restructuring process that our Association began over two years ago. Over this period, we have faithfully worked through a variety of questions and challenges, refining a new structure that strengthens our shared ministry.

I am grateful to report that we have made great strides in these changes and in filling the leadership roles necessary to bring this new vision to life.

At our Spring Gathering, we were delighted to welcome and introduce our new Association Minister Rev. MiMi Chamberlin, who has already been a tremendous blessing to the Conference, the Association, and the churches that make up the wider United Church of Christ.

We continue to hold her in the light of God's love as she leads us in this "new thing" that God is doing among us.

Today, we celebrate another important milestone as we install our Regional Ministers, who will help facilitate collaborative ministry and serve as vital conduits for communication between our local congregations and the wider church. Their leadership will be essential in helping us live more deeply into our covenantal relationships.

On behalf of the entire Governance Council, I want to extend our deep gratitude to Rev. David Long-Higgins, our Heartland Conference Minister, for his wisdom, time, and steadfast support throughout this process. His love, encouragement, and calm presence have sustained us in meaningful ways.

I also offer heartfelt thanks to the members of the Governance Council for their dedication, faithfulness, patience, and prayerful discernment. In particular, we lift up special thanks to Rev. Lauren Allen and Jo Anne Orihood, who have completed their terms and will be stepping down from the Council. Their insight, commitment, and loving spirits have been an invaluable blessing, and their presence will be deeply missed.

Finally, to you, the churches and pastors of SONKA, I especially want to say thank you. We could not do this important work without your support, encouragement, and partnership in ministry. It is a privilege and a joy to serve the people of the United Church of Christ alongside you. Please continue to hold the wider church in your prayers, as together we discern the next faithful steps on this shared journey.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Todd Peterson, Moderator, SONKA Association

TEAM REPORTS

Ministry Council

Ministry Council consists of our various ministry teams in SONKA. There are four teams currently, and we're planning to add more in the coming year. Our teams offer these updates on their activities the past year:

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Team is in Year Two of its "In The Deep End" program on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. over Zoom. We have also started an intergenerational Advent through Epiphany program this year, so look for that on the SONKA website. We also are working with Heartland Conference's Faith Formation Network.

We welcome those who have a love of Faith Formation to join us, as we look for new ways to incorporate Faith Formation in our churches. Please send an email if you are interested to Ruth Hopkins at ruhop@me.com.

Thanks to team members and all those who have taught one of our classes!

Team Members: Daria Schaffnit, JoAnne Orihood, Emily Phillips, Joe Kay, Ruth Hopkins (chair)

Open and Affirming Ministries

The Open and Affirming Ministries team connected churches with various Pride events and interfaith gatherings last June. We distributed Open and Affirming cards explaining the reason and purpose for ONA, along with a link to find an Open and Affirming UCC church nearby.

Working with our Faith Formation team's "In The Deep End" sessions, we offered a different film each week on Tuesdays in June and had discussions on Wednesdays.

Last August, we began an in-person gathering for LGBTQ+ people to offer community, encouragement, and whatever assistance is needed. The gatherings are facilitated by Derek Terry.

Team Members: Michelle Wilkey, Valerie Walker (chair), and Derek Terry (new member)

Global Ministries

Following our trip to Africa in 2024, Katie Peterson and Amy Weyand-Geise started serving on the board of directors of the Rubate Teacher's College. Jonathan Bradner remains in contact with the Charles Musyoka Matuku Foundation that provides scholarships for students in southern Kenya.

Transfer of approximately \$12,000 in donations to Rubate from our SONKA churches was successfully completed this year. Global Ministries hopes to have

travelers in 2027 to Kenya. Travel restrictions have been a deterrent in getting Kenyans to visit here.

Conversations with the Heartland Conference's global partners also have begun. We're working on how SONKA can be included in future ventures together.

Team Members: Katie Peterson, Jonathan Bradner, Amy Weyand-Geise, Dan Weyand-Geise (chair).

Lay School

The SONKA Lay School is up and running!

The Lay School Team is available to aid the MID Team and Licensed Ministry Team with their important work. Based on past recommendations, the following Lay School classes were established:

Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures, Pastoral Care, Introduction to Christian Scriptures, Faith Formation, Christian History, Worship and Sacraments, UCC History and Polity, Introduction to Preaching, Christian Ethics, Spirituality, Progressive Theology, Practical Ministry.

These 12 classes are offered on a rotating cycle over a three-year period. A student may take one or all classes. Anyone interested in these classes is invited to sign up.

Two classes are offered in the Fall (August-November), and two classes are offered in the Spring (March-June). Classes are held twice a month on Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings. Times and dates vary depending on instructor and calendar of events.

Currently the Lay School is completing the Fall class schedule, which offered *Christian History* taught by Dean Griffith and *Worship and Sacraments* taught by Scott Casebeer.

Spring 2026 classes offered will be *UCC History and Polity* taught by Ruth Hopkins and Bob Sandman, and *Introduction to Preaching* taught by Katie Peterson and Todd Peterson. Look for upcoming information in the *Weekly Word*.

Team Members: Mark Anthony, Scott Casebeer, Den Griffith, Ruth Hopkins, Karen Griswold (chair).

Submitted by Joe Kay, Ministry Council chair

Licensed and Commissioned Oversight Team

The SONKA Licensed and Commissioned Ministers' Oversight Team is part of our Church and Ministry governance and oversight structure, and it provides guidance, oversight and credentialing for those lay persons who are called to ministry in the church but who may not be seeking to be ordained to ministry. More of our churches now are using part-time pastors or other part-time staff and often they are calling licensed ministers as pastors. Our SONKA Association has not had any ordained ministers transfer standing into SONKA in the last two years. So often our candidates for ministry are coming from within. Currently there are sixteen licensed ministers in SONKA. Eleven serve as solo pastors and five serve as associate pastors.

Recently, the Team has been dealing with what to do with churches who ask for licensing of candidates who have not completed a course of study for preparation for ministry. We operate under the 1985 UCC Manual on Ministry rather than the current version of the Manual because we believe it is better suited to the needs of the churches in our Association. The 1985 Manual states that candidates must have completed a course of study before licensure. Our SONKA Lay School is again functioning to provide that training over a three year period. So in true UCC fashion we have licensed candidates who have not completed the program with the proviso that they complete the training program as rapidly as possible.

All licensed ministers are vetted through interviews, background checks and letters of reference and are licensed at the request of a local church. They must complete a course of study, do Boundary Training every three years and meet regularly with a UCC clergy mentor.

I am grateful for those who serve with me on the Team, for their dedication and wisdom. We ask your prayers for our continuing work and for our Licensed Ministers and the churches that they serve.

Pastor James R. Hill, Chairperson

Rev. Gene Cline, Rev. Scott Griswold, Tom Hathaway, Pastor Scott Nottingham,
Rev. Thomas Parker, Rev. MiMi Chamberlin, Ex Officio

Members in Discernment (MiD)

The Members in Discernment (MiD) Team is the team that works with those who would like to follow a preparatory process leading to ordination. Our task is to accept, guide and advise those folks within our association as they consider exploring a call to ordained ministry through a series of steps. This year no Members in Discernment (MiDs) completed the journey and were ordained, but two are close!

The team meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM, over Zoom. These persons currently serve on the MiD Team: Lisa Salata, Andrew Byrd, Sue Koehler, Zaria Davis, MiMi Chamberlin, and Teri Lynn Stackhouse (Chair.) Andrew, Sue, and Zaria all have joined within the last 12 months. Thank you!

MiDs are asked to complete tasks related to each of the eight Marks of Ministry, such as competency in preaching, teaching and leadership, a strong sense of UCC identity, involvement in the wider church, and a healthy balance of self-care while in ministry. Each MiD is assigned an advisor from the Team. The Team strives to be fair and faithful to the whole process, while also considering the individuality and unique situation of each person. There is some flexibility built into how the Marks may be presented.

Our current Members in Discernment are Scott Nottingham, Emily Phillips, Matthew Specter and Ben Williams.

The MiD Team is always open to and looking for new members. We are in need of two more members currently! Thank you for prayerfully considering serving with us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri Lynn Stackhouse, (Chair, MiD Team)

Post-Ordination Team (POT)

2025 Report from the SONKA Committee on Ministry

The Post-Ordination Team of the Committee on Ministry works exclusively with ordained ministers authorized for ministry in SONKA. The team meets with clergy seeking to transfer ministerial standing into our Association, supports authorization for chaplains in various settings, and ensures that all authorized ministers meet covenantal commitments regarding ethical standards and compliance with professional development (Boundary Training).

All authorized ministers (except those holding Exempt Standing) are required to participate in a **Boundary (Excellence in Ministry) Training** at least once per a

three-year cycle. Frequent training opportunities are available and are advertised in the Weekly Word Newsletter, most are conveniently held over Zoom. *All clergy are responsible for knowing the date of their most recent training.*

In 2025 we have worked to transform the Information Review Form process. Beginning in 2026, authorized ministers will complete a short online form to update contact and ministry setting information. As regional groupings strengthen over the next years, the Post-Ordination Team foresees opportunities to generate collaborative dialogue among authorized clergy around topics related to the practice of ministry.

The Post-Ordination Team:

Mark Anthony

Gene Cline

Marti Godby

Karen Griswold

Ruth Hopkins

David Weekley

Adam Wirrig

Paul Forrey

Registrar: James Hill

NOMINATIONS FOR 2026:

Governance Council (voting): Todd Peterson (Past Moderator), Steve Schnabl (Moderator), Katie Peterson (Vice Moderator), Hillary Fraley (Secretary), Dan Deitz (Treasurer).

Heartland Conference Board of Directors representatives: Joe Kay, (non-voting); Todd Peterson

Heartland Conference Nominations representative:
Tom Hathaway (non-voting)

Committee on Ministry liaison to Governance:
Andrew Byrd (non-voting)

Heartland DEI Committee:

Carol Peterson

TEAMS:

Ministry Council: Rusty Andrews, Mark Anthony, Jonathan Bradner, Scott Casebeer, Dean Griffith, Karen Griswold, Ruth Hopkins, Katie Peterson Madden, Jo Anne Orihood, Ed Pettit, Emily Phillips, Daria Schaffnit, Bruce Steinhard, Michelle Wilkey, Valerie Walker, Dan Weyand-Geise, Amy Weyand-Geise, Adam Wirrig
Joe Kay (Chair).

Committee on Ministry

Members in Discernment Team: Lisa Salata, Andrew Byrd, Sue Koehler, Zaria Davis, MiMi Chamberlin, and Teri Lynn Stackhouse (Chair).

Post-Ordination Team: Mark Anthony, Kathryn Anadein, Mark Anthony, Gene Cline, Marti Godby, Karen Griswold, Ruth Hopkins, David Weekley, Adam Wirrig, Paul Forrey.

Licensed and Commissioned Ministers Team: Pastor James R. Hill (Chairperson). Rev. Gene Cline, Rev Scott Griswold, Tom Hathaway, Pastor Scott Nottingham, Rev. Thomas Parker, Rev. MiMi Chamberlin, Ex Officio

Legacy Consulting Team:

Lynn Labs, Pam Linderson, Steve Schnabl, Craig Showalter, Karl Ulrich. James Oates (Chair)

Incoming Regional Ministers

Region 1: Rachel Wirrig

Region 2: TBA

Region 513: Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Region 5: Ruth Hopkins

Region 6: Mark Anthony

Region 8: Michelle Wilkey

Region 7: Steve Schnabl (temporary and voluntary)

Church and Ministry / Registrar's Report

October 29, 2024 / October 31, 2025

Members in Discernment:

Scott Nottingham

Emily Phillips

Matt Specter

Benjamin Williams

Standing Transferred to Another Association:

Barry Bordenkircher (to Northwest Ohio Association, Heartland Conference)

Keith Haithcock (to Southern California-Nevada Conference)

Deaths of Ordained Ministers:

Andrew John Bierkan (died March 7, 2025)

Joe Nathan Witt (died June 2, 2025)

David Justis (died August 2, 2025)

Norman Frank Hassertt (died August 23, 2025)

Churches Closed

Lees Creek UCC

St. Paul UCC, Ft. Thomas, KY

Newly Called within the Association:

Joanna Samuelson (David's UCC, Kettering, Interim Pastor)

Diana Vego, (Christ Church UCC, Ft. Thomas, Ky., Interim Pastor)

Roger Stine (First UCC, Lewisburg, Interim Pastor)

Scott Nottingham (Fleming Rd. UCC, Cincinnati, Pastor)

Ruth Hopkins (Lakeview UCC, Maineville, Interim Pastor)

Robin Brennelli (Nexus UCC, Hamilton, Associate Pastor)

Gary Eubank (St. John's UCC, Troy, Pastor)

Todd Peterson (Polk Grove UCC, Dayton, Pastor)

Current Licensed Ministers:

Robin Brennelli

Elizabeth Fiene

Bill Godby

James Hill

Joe Kay

Scott Nottingham

Jean Oberhelman

Valerie Walker

Jason Egbert

Robert Gambrell

Larry Ganger

Lesley Jones

Walter McMurray

James Oates

Emily Phillips

Rachel Wirrig

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Hill, Registrar

SONKA Ordination Anniversaries Recognized 11-15-2025

70 Years

Robert Croskery

60 Years

Allen Fluent

55 Years

John Barnett

Ruth Beck

Robert Beck

45 Years

James Korpik

Robert Murphy, Jr

40 years

Donald Kanet

Keith Wagner

35 Years

Donna Moore

25 Years

Janis Loomis

Daniel Young

Julia Williamson

20 Years

Susan Gabbard

Alecia Schroedel-Deubel

George Wyatt

15 Years Daria Schaffnit

5 Years Karen Griswold

**SOUTHWEST OHIO NORTHERN
KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF
THE UCC**

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget
Income				
OCWM Basic Support	\$108,447.55	\$107,490.34	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
OCWM -SONKA only	\$27,242.80	\$24,427.30	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Directed Gifts to Association	\$23,660.27	-	-	-
Program Receipts/Registrations	\$820.00	\$2,075.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Interest Income-Note Recv 200 Delaware	\$6,046.52	\$5,087.76	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Undesignated Investment Dividends	\$3,967.87	\$4,481.17	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Total Income	\$170,185.01	\$143,561.57	\$139,000.00	\$141,000.00
Expenses				
OCWM portion to Heartland Conference	\$33,026.96	\$26,872.59	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Assn Minister Salary	\$57,783.12	\$51,253.33	\$50,000.00	\$51,500.00
Assn Minister Housing	\$18,385.44	\$16,307.24	Included Above	Included Above
Assn Minister Health/Dental/Disab Ins	\$31,793.64	\$27,308.30	Included Above	Included Above
Assn Minister Retirement/Pension	\$7,616.88	\$6,538.20	Included Above	Included Above
Regional Minister Salaries	N/A	N/A	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Support Staff Salary	\$20,437.00	\$15,119.20	\$12,400.00	\$12,700.00
FICA	\$1,563.44	\$463.91	\$200.00	\$200.00
Support Staff Benefits	\$392.85	\$395.85	\$125.00	\$125.00
Workers Comp	\$216.50	\$169.58	\$200.00	\$200.00
Assn Minister Prof'l Exp, CE, & Mi Reimb	\$1,366.51	\$1,099.20	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00
Staff Prof'l Exp & Mileage Reimb	-	-	-	-
Equipment Maintenance	\$111.00	\$149.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Rent	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	-	-
Insurance (Property/Liability)	\$4,545.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,500.00
Payroll Service Fees	\$1,665.94	\$1,643.31	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Contracted Services (Prof'l Fees)	-	-	-	\$10,000.00
Software & Internet Services	\$1,896.81	\$2,213.40	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
Postage	\$25.83	\$17.09	\$100.00	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$216.33	\$194.66	\$400.00	\$400.00
Church & Ministry Expenses	\$107.50	\$43.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Association Events	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Merchant Acct & Misc Fees/Exp	\$168.64	\$879.70	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$190,769.39	\$165,167.56	\$134,825.00	\$148,625.00
Net	\$(20,584.38)	\$(21,605.99)	\$4,175.00	\$(7,625.00)

2024 Fund Balances		
	Beginning Balance 1/1/24	Ending Balance 12/31/24
Assets		
Petty Cash	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
General Checking Account	\$ 104,412.75	\$ 101,663.34
United Church Funds Investment	\$ 220,247.20	\$ 195,186.31
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 324,719.95	\$ 296,909.65
Funds		
Association Reserve Fund	\$ 66,786.22	\$ 50,179.43
Office Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 9,463.67	\$ 10,172.06
Church Development Fund	\$ 28,413.24	\$ 30,540.08
New Church Starts	\$ 1,513.11	\$ 1,626.36
Small Church Development Fund	\$ 2,316.81	\$ 2,490.24
200 Delaware Fund	\$ 2,164.24	\$ 2,326.24
Dayton Foundation-Local Churches	\$ 571.10	-
Rammler Cont. Education Fund	\$ 10,384.87	\$ 9,565.12
Members in Discernment Assistance Fund	\$ 6,688.06	\$ 7,188.69
Lay School	\$ 2,061.06	\$ 2,312.42
Lay School Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,029.76	\$ 1,106.84
PEP Pastoral Excellence Program	\$ 1,647.08	\$ 1,770.38
Conflict Management Fund	\$ 127.97	\$ 137.55
Clergy Crisis Fund	\$ 6,805.92	\$ 7,315.37
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 1,063.70	\$ (43.25)
Dayton Foundation-Ch Professional	\$ 535.55	-
General Synod Fund	\$ 57.82	\$ 62.16
Youth Events Fund	\$ 416.05	\$ 447.19
Global Partnership Fund	\$ 1,771.06	\$ 2,363.62
Rubate Clinic - Global Partners	\$ 23,809.67	\$ 10,249.01
Global Mission Trips-Rubate	\$ 554.58	\$ 596.09
Dayton Foundation-Evangelical Outreach	-	-
Upper Valley Cluster	\$ 5,674.68	\$ 6,099.45
Disaster Gifts Fund-Local/Association	\$ 33,390.75	\$ 33,312.62
Flood Relief Fund	\$ 5,696.28	\$ 6,122.66
Aggregate Directed/Pass Through Funds	\$ 25,639.94	\$ 24,148.90
Total Funds	\$ 238,583.19	\$ 210,089.23

FUND DESCRIPTIONS

ASSOCIATION RESERVE FUND (Undesignated): Accumulated assets of the Association.

OFFICE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND: For SONKA office related capital expenses..

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM FUND: For SONKA and UCC promotional and advertising projects.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND: For Church Development.

NEW CHURCH STARTS FUND: For Church Development

SMALL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND: For the development of established churches with small memberships. **200 DELAWARE FUND:** Assets from the closing of Faith UCC, Dayton OH, being used to cover any expenses for 200 Delaware until the sale of the property is finalized.

***DAYTON FOUNDATION – LOCAL CHURCHES FUND:** For grants to local churches, which are members of SONKA, for capital improvements of a permanent nature or for the maintenance of fine musical instruments.

RAMMLER CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND: Started with gifts in honor of Clayton Rammler's 50th ordination anniversary, for clergy continuing education.

MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT (Formerly "In-Care") ASSISTANCE FUND: From installation offerings and the "That Seeds May Grow" Seminary Student Aid Fund to assist SONKA Member in Discernment students.

LAY SCHOOL FUND: For the Lay School Program.

LAY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Tuition assistance for lay person students from SONKA in Lay School classes.

PEP (PASTORAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM): Facilitating Clergy Communities of Practice groups

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT FUND: For conflict training and for equipping persons to assist local churches in time of conflict.

CLERGY CRISIS FUND: For clergy or clergy family medical or other family or personal crisis needs.

***DAYTON FOUNDATION – CHURCH PROFESSIONALS FUND:** For grants for continuing education or cultural advancement of church professionals associated with any SONKA member church.

GENERAL SYNOD FUND: To assist with synod delegate travel and expenses.

YOUTH EVENTS FUND: To assist in the expenses of SONKA youth delegates to Synod, and for special youth events. **GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDS:** To support our mission partnership with the Presbyterian Teachers' College in Rubate, Kenya.

RUBATE CLINIC – GLOBAL PARTNERS FUND: To build and provide continuing support for a clinic at the Presbyterian Teachers' College in Rubate, Kenya

GLOBAL MISSION TRIPS – RUBATE PARTNERSHIP FUND: To support mission trips to the Presbyterian Teachers' College in Rubate, Kenya.

***DAYTON FOUNDATION – EVANGELICAL OUTREACH FUND:** For grants for evangelical or educational outreach or opportunity sponsored or co-sponsored by SONKA.

UPPER VALLEY CLUSTER FUND: For the mission and ministry purposes of the Upper Valley Cluster

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (LOCAL/ASSOCIATION): For disaster relief in SONKA or in other locations designated by Governance Council.

SONKA FLOOD RELIEF FUND: For flood relief in SONKA or in other locations designated by Governance Council.

***DAYTON FOUNDATION FUNDS:** Assets transferred to SONKA from the closing of Faith UCC, Dayton OH, from the Charch and Hale Memorial Fund of The Dayton Foundation. Specific fund use listed with asterisk.

SONKA Covenant Keepers:

Recognition of Churches Supporting OCWM

SONKA churches “covenant” together to support one another in various ways and to support together God’s work beyond the local church. OCWM Basic Giving is distributed among local, state, and national judicatories. The 5 for 5 churches are those which gave to OCWM Basic Support plus the four special UCC offerings taken nationwide: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund.

SONKA 5 for 5 Churches 2024:

Beaver UCC, Beavercreek
Bible Chapel UCC, Farmersville
David’s UCC, Kettering
First UCC, Springfield
Harmony Creek Church, Kettering
Journey Community Church, Cincinnati
Knob Prairie UCC, Enon
Lakeview UCC, Maineville
Lee’s Creek UCC
Lost Creek UCC, Casstown
Pleasant Hill UCC
St John UCC, Bellevue KY
St John UCC, Reading
St Johns UCC, Germantown
St John’s Westminster Union Church, Cincinnati
St Paul’s UCC, Middletown
Trinity Hill UCC
West Liberty UCC
Zion UCC of Norwood

We also recognize and thank the additional following churches for giving to OCWM during 2024:

Bethany UCC, Lebanon
Farmersville UCC
First UCC, Cincinnati
First UCC, Troy
Fleming Road UCC, Cincinnati
Green View UCC, Sidney
Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church UCC, Dayton
Immanuel UCC, Bromley KY
Immanuel UCC, St. Bernard
Mt Zion-St Paul UCC, New Richmond
Nexus UCC, Hamilton
Pilgrim UCC
Shiloh Church UCC, Dayton
St John's UCC, Dayton
St John's UCC, Troy
St Paul's UCC, Alexandria KY
St Peter & St Paul UCC, Cincinnati
Washington UCC, Cincinnati
Zion Memorial UCC

THANK YOU!

THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE'S
PORTAL TO MINISTRY RESOURCES!



SCAN ME

This information can also be found at: <https://linktr.ee/heartlanducc>

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 2, 2026

SONKA SPRING GATHERING

We will welcome

Karen Georgia A. Thompson

General Minister and President / Chief Executive Officer

United Church of Christ

(Location to be announced in early 2026)



SONKA - Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association

United Church of Christ

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<https://heartlanducc.org/sonkaucc/>