

**The Annual Report of the Associations General Minister
Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations • October 2018**

It has been an exciting nine months. What a warm welcome you continue to extend to me! I am grateful.

This has been a year of transitions and the next several years will continue to be so as the OH Conference UCC commits to a vision of shared ministry in order to be faithful and responsible in mission and stewardship.

Early 2018, as I immersed myself in the ministry of the Association, I was delighted to hold regional gatherings to connect and meet our active clergy. Soon my Sundays were also filled with meeting new congregations and worshiping with them. I continue to appreciate preaching in different churches, presiding at Installation and Ordination services, making further connections. Arrangements to meet and connect with retired clergy are underway.

Currently the Association boasts the following key areas of ministry:

- Committee on Ministry
- Search and Call
- Congregational Vitality
- Prophetic Witness
- Faith Formation, Spiritual Development, Youth and Mission
- NEOSOM – School of Ministry
- Administrative and Financial Ministry

Our Search and Call process has been led by Rev. Dr. Gary Halstead, as well as our Church Vitality program. Our Coaching Program has been coordinated by Rev. Bob Richardson. Our Pastoral Excellence program has been managed by Rev. Mark Fry, and our Finances have had a Consultant in Don Hill. Our NorthEast Ohio School of Ministry has been directed by Rev. Gene McAfee, and our office, administrative and financial areas have been expertly handled by Cheryl McGraw and Mabelle Miller. I am grateful to each one for their gift, skills, passion and commitment to their calling and to the Association.

During the summer months, envisioning the joining of our two Associations, we embarked on the journey of choosing a new name and discerning a new vision for this new chapter in our lives.

NAME

LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION, OH NorthEast, Ohio Conference United Church of Christ

PURPOSE

To be a resource and support for the health and wellbeing our congregations, that we may grow into communities of healing and grace, embodying Christ in the world.

CALLING

REFRESH, RENEW, RESTORE

Refreshing our souls, hearts and lives

Renewing our congregations and church communities

Restoring the world to what God intended it to be

www.livingwaterone.org

During the year, we have worked on streamlining our Search and Call process, as well as our coaching ministry. We have reflected to intentionally staff toward our vision and calling. Hence the birth of a new staff position named *Association Minister of Faith in Action*. The position's purpose is to move us to embody/be Christ in our communities, enhancing our common efforts to be agents of healing and reconciliation in the world.

During our Annual Meeting I will share our vision and plans for the year to come.

My deepest thanks for the opportunity to serve the EOAWRA Association of our 150 congregations!

Faithfully, Nayiri Karjian