

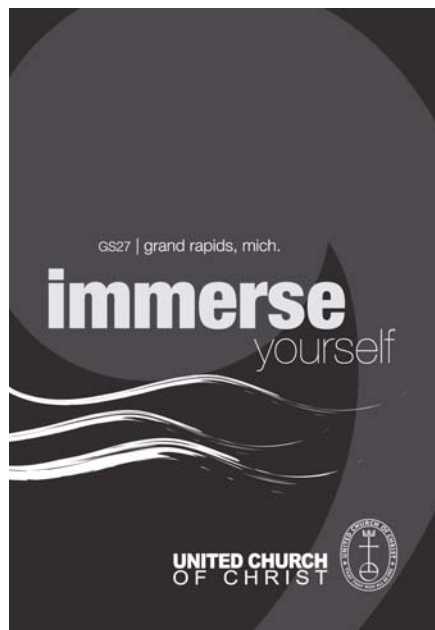


Sharing the Good News!

Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

Immerse Yourself in Service & Prayer

by Alan C. Miller, Conference Minister



The 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held June 26 – 30, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Penn Northeast Conference will have approximately 50 people in attendance between delegates, youth, visitors, PNEC representatives to national boards, and PNEC Staff.

The theme of the 2009 General Synod is “Immerse Yourself.” This will be a unique Synod in a number of ways. We will have wonderful worship services, be inspired by great preachers, browse endless

displays of resources and ministries, and of course, sit through Plenary Sessions conducting business and debating resolutions.

But this year we will also be immersing ourselves in the faith through service and prayer.

Youth and adults will be engaged in service projects visiting the elderly and homebound, planting a rain garden at the Pilgrim Manor retirement community, helping Habitat for Humanity build a new house, working at a food pantry, and offering tutoring classes for inner city children.

In addition local church members will be bringing handmade quilted fabric candle cloths to participate in the Covenant of Prayer Partnership. Each candle cloth will have a prayer inscribed on the back of the cloth. The cloths will be displayed during General Synod and then each local church that brought a cloth will take home a cloth that was made by another local church, along with a booklet listing all of the prayers on the back of the cloths. This way each Sunday local UCC congregations across the United States will be partnered with each other through prayer. Already a cloth has been made for our delegation by Alice Schnell, a member of St. Paul’s (Big Creek) UCC, Lehighton. Her prayer reads:

Bless the congregation who receives this candle cloth as a gift, and Thank you God for giving me the courage to make this Star Quilt Candle Cloth for this special occasion to be shared with another congregation. Amen.

A church that is gathering to immerse itself in service and prayer; I am proud to be a part of such a church that calls itself the United Church of Christ.

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