



## *Sharing the Good News!*

Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

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### IMMERSING THEMSELVES IN ...

**FAITH, SERVICE, FRIENDSHIP, JUSTICE, COMPASSION, WORSHIP AND  
ADVENTURE**

### **PNEC YOUTH @GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

In last month's *Sharing the Good News* I wrote of the importance of ministry to and with youth and young adults. This month I would like to highlight one of the ministries in which the youth of PNEC will be participating in for 7 days in June.... the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 12 senior high youth and 4 adults from PNEC will leave for Grand Rapids, Michigan to participate in a weeklong "pilot" program of Youth at General Synod. This pilot program is a new adventure and leap of faith in that there has not been a program of this type offered before for youth at General Synod. envisioned Because of budget and logistical considerations which force many youth to choose between a service project or mission trip and attending General Synod and other UCC gatherings this General synod program **includes** service/mission experiences.

While in Grand Rapids, the youth will go into the community to offer their time, talents and service where it is needed! Youth will not be asked to choose what they "want" to do because service is not about us: it is about following the example of Jesus by sharing ourselves and our gifts with others. Often discipleship requires us to make a sacrifice and do something we would not normally choose to do.

In preparation for their trip, the youth will be gathering for pre-Synod activities. They will gather to study and reflect on scriptures relevant to faith and caring for others. They will be writing daily reflections which they will be using during their time in Grand Rapids. Another pre-trip activity consists of youth studying the words *service, mission, volunteer, charity and ministry* and discussing how those words fit with the work which they will do in the community of Grand Rapids.

While at General Synod, in addition to the service projects, our youth will be attend worship, plenary sessions, concerts, the Multi Cultural Festival for Children and Families and the River City Saturday event, festivities and workshops. Of course there will be socializing, games and arts, movies, T-shirt designing and food!!!

We in PNEC are blessed to have the following adults giving of themselves to accompany our youth to General Synod: Ruthann McCay, Bill McCay, and Mary Heller of Jordan UCC, Allentown and Pastor Sharon Temple of Jerusalem UCC, Trachsville. While at General Synod Ruthann McCay will be our PNEC representative/coordinator.

Please offer prayers for our youth and adults as they travel to, serve at and attend General Synod and then return to us...enriched and exhausted but immersed in and empowered by the Holy Spirit and ready to share what they have experienced!

Grace and Peace,  
*Nancy E. Azar*, Associate Conference Minister

### **TO CONTACT US OR TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS**

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