

Check Out PCCBay and the Prayer Center on pccucc.org

Our new conference website (www.pccucc.org) has been up and running for two months. We have heard many positive comments. Two features that are interactive and you can be part of are **PCCBAY** and the **Prayer Center**.

Some of our churches have already taken advantage of **PCCBAY** which can be found in one of the blocks at the bottom of the homepage. Churches have posted items they are looking for here or are interested in giving away or selling. They are also advertising job positions other than clergy positions. If all of our congregations begin using **PCCBAY**, we will really be able to help each other.

The new **Prayer Center** is a place where you can ask for prayers and pray for others. The tab is near the right hand side of the top of the page. Let's join together in prayer as a conference.

I want to support the vital work that our churches do together in Penn Central Conference. Please accept my contribution of:
_____ \$25.00 _____ \$35.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ other

Name _____

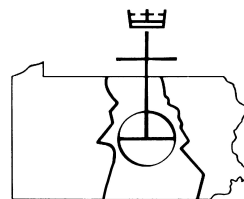
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Your local church (name, city/town) _____

Send this form with check made payable to Penn Central Conference to:
Penn Central Conference UCC
900 S. Arlington Ave, Room 227A
Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Thank you for your support.



May 2011

Penn Central Conference UCC QUARTERLY



Four times a year (March, May, September and November), we bring you the "Penn Central Conference Quarterly." We hope this helps you feel more connected to your conference. We look forward to any comments you have on the Quarterly by calling 717-652-1560 or e-mailing bwaleff@pccucc.org.



Penn Central sets out for General Synod

The UCC meets July 1-5 in Tampa, FL for General Synod 28. The theme is "Imagine What's Possible." Our delegates will consider a number of resolutions and there will be several items of business related to our internal life as a denomination. There will be an election for Executive Ministers for Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries and Associate General Minister.

Penn Central Conference delegates meet twice as a group prior to attending Synod. The delegates by association are: Central: **Rev. Julie Beall, Rebecca Namet, Rev. Paula Gustafson, Sarah Grace Beall-Ellersieck**; Gettysburg: **Rev. Ken Heasley, Nancy Wagner, Rev. Pat Leader, Walter Maust**; Harrisburg: **Rev. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Megan Waleff, Rev. Galen Russell, Bob Brandis**; Lancaster: **Rev. Jim Bright, Cathie Oliphant, Rev. Carol Bender, Steve Daniels**; Lebanon: **Rev. Jackie Lingelbach, Carole Hostetter, Frank Deaner**; Mercersburg: **Rev. Jim Hughes, Alyssa Boyer, Daniel Bock**; Northern: **Rev. Patty Dodds, Jo LaRocque, Brent Frank**; York: **Rev. Michael Loser, Lee Ann Strine, Larry Bean**. Our at-large delegate is **Rev. Sarah Rentzel-Jones**.

Others attending as non-voting members are conference staff, Marja Coons-Torn, Char Burch, Laurene Bowers and Brenda Waleff and our conference moderator, Debbie Tregoe. Many visitors are coming individually as well. For more information on General Synod, go to www.ucc.org/synod.

NPR's Michele Norris to speak at annual meeting



Michele Norris, one of the hosts of NPR's afternoon broadcast, "All Things Considered" will be a special guest at Penn Central Conference's 2011 Annual Meeting, June 10-12.

Michele's voice informs, engages and enlightens listeners. She's interviewed world leaders, Nobel laureates, Oscar winners, American Presidents, military leaders and newsmakers.

In 2010, Michele wrote her first book, *The Grace of Silence: A Memoir*. This book caught the eye of our conference's Sacred Conversations on Race Ministry Team. On her website, Michele says that she set out to write a book exploring America's hidden conversation about race but changed course when she started listening intently to the hidden conversations in her own family. She turned her formidable interviewing and investigative skills on her own background to unearth long hidden family secrets that raise questions about her racial legacy and shed new light on America's complicated racial history.

During annual meeting, Michele will do a book signing at 4pm Saturday followed by a talk and question and answer time in De-genstein Theatre at 7:45pm. On Sunday morning during plenary, she will join in a fireside chat with Waltrina Middleton, the UCC's Minister for Youth Advocacy and the youth attending.

Before joining NPR in 2002, Michele spent almost ten years as a reporter for ABC News in the Washington Bureau. She has also worked as a staff writer for the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times.

In 2009, she was named "Journalist of the Year" by the National Association of Black Journalists and earned both an Emmy Award and Peabody Award for her contribution to ABC News' coverage of 9/11. Norris is also a frequent guest on Meet the Press and The Chris Matthews Show on NBC.

She lives in Washington D.C. with her husband,, their two young children and an adult step-son.

To attend Michele Norris' talk, you must be registered for annual meeting.

Race Cards

Michele Norris calls *The Grace of Silence* her accidental memoir. As she began to learn things about her own family stories, she found she had more questions than answers. Her journey led her to think in new ways about race, and the need for all of us to talk openly about race in our own contexts and in American society.

As part of her journey since writing *The Grace of Silence*, Michele has developed a project called Race Cards. It is similar in feel to the Six Word Biography project that was done in by Smith Magazine in 2008. The idea is to write one sentence, with carefully chosen words, that expresses your own experience and belief around race. That sentence can then be used to begin a discussion with other people.

Here are a couple of examples:

Our children mystified by racist behavior.

-Christian Hart, Seattle, WA

Our untold stories keep us separate.

-Jeanne Connelly, Saint Paul, MN

Sadly, people still think it matters.

-Nina, Salt Lake City, UT

So, are you ready to try? We have actual Race Card post-cards that you can have until our supply runs out. We also have a short set of guidelines for discussion. You are then invited to bring your completed cards to Conference Annual Meeting. We're going to post them there so that we can read each other's thoughts. You can sign it or not, just as you please. If you'd like to see many more examples, go to www.michele-norris.com. At the end of Annual Meeting, we'll present our cards to Michele who is collecting them for her website and---who knows?---perhaps for another book..

Don't forget, copies of *The Grace of Silence* are available through the Conference office and at Conference Annual Meeting.