



# DSE Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

178 UCC churches in southeastern Pennsylvania

## Highlights from Spring Meeting 2009

The Rev. Antonio Santana, President of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba was the special guest. He preached a moving sermon and the Bethel Worship Team provided joyful music at the closing **Festival Service of the Word.**



**Global perspectives on mission** were highlighted in video presentations and quizzes with contestants and audience participation.



Participants expressed appreciation for the contemplative space of the **Taize Healing Eucharist** and the innocent voices of children reading passages.

The **Exhibit Hall** was filled with displays from our partners in ministry.



### Ensuring the Future

**Ensuring the Future** - Foundations for Vital Churches - initiative was presented by Dr. Bob Fogal, Minister of Philanthropy.

This was the last year for the two-day meeting in June at the Lancaster Host Resort. The Rev. Dr. Susan Bertollette, Chair of the Conference Meeting Task Force, stated: "After much feedback, prayer and discernment, **we are looking for new locations and new ways of gathering, celebrating and accomplishing the work of our Conference.**" *Attendees may send comments about the meeting to MargeStadnycki at [marge@psec.org](mailto:marge@psec.org).*

Visit [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org) to see a more descriptive review with pictures.

## EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org)

### Calling all Youth, Young Adults, and Youth Leaders!

The UCC needs you to respond now (survey ending soon)! If you are a youth (13-17) or young adult (18-30) or minister to one of these groups, please help us by taking this 15-20 minute Youth & Young Adult Survey: <http://www.ucc.org/youth/survey.html>

In 2008 the UCC Youth and Young Adults Ministry staff, with the support of Local Church Ministries and Justice and Witness ministries, began a needs assessment process to discern how to strengthen our support of youth and young adult ministries and ministry leaders. We invite all UCC youth, young adults and youth/young adult ministry leaders to share your experience and perspectives by taking our online survey. After all, who is in a better position to name their realities and ministry needs than youth, young adults and those who spend the most time with them?

You can view a short video reporting on the focus group process on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKadflT-a44>. You can also read a series of reflections and links to useful resources during Thom Chu's one-year consultancy to the UCC on ministries of, with, and for youth and young adults. The blog is: WHOOSH : Thom Chu's blog on the UCC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assessment. WHOOSH is a term coined by participants in the January 17, 2009 youth and young adult focus group held in Philadelphia, PA. It is that impossible-to-define-or-control energy that propels us, and gives us joy, passion, and strength.



The link to the Survey is available at [www.yaya-spirit.org](http://www.yaya-spirit.org) and on Facebook at "Youth & Young Adults: Pennsylvania SE Conference, United Church of Christ."

For more information, contact Josh Blakesley at [blakesley@psec.org](mailto:blakesley@psec.org). **May your voices be heard!**



**PRAYER PARTNERS** - Remember in your prayers St. John's UCC (Gibraltar), Birdsboro and Rev. Sterling L. Fritz as they partner in ministry and mission with Hopewell Love Inc. (a church supported community based ministry outreach in Southeastern Berks County) and with Reading-Berks Habitat for Humanity.