All Together!

onferences in the UCC work to support leaders, connect congregations, engage youth and young adults, and to imagine together a just world for all. And the Strengthen the Church offering makes this revitalizing work possible.

In the Penn Northeast Conference, we utilized Strengthen the Church Offering Funds to coach and teach a congregation how to manage conflict and disagreement proactively. People learned how to speak up against bullying and how to lead effectively. The congregation regained a positive approach to ministry and mission. Strengthen the Church Funds helped train coaches like the Rev. Dr. Jo Marchetto and the Rev. Heather Kurtz for this conflict intervention. Because of your gifts to Strengthen the Church, the coaches will be ready to help the next congregation struggling with conflict. Benefits upon benefit from our partnerships. The Strengthen the Church Offering helped us wonder what new ministry God calls our congregations. Nine urban churches in Allentown, PA, participated in a Feasibility Study, partly funded by Strengthen the Church.



Rev. Dr. Jo Marchetto and the Rev. Heather Kurtz

This study checked the demographics, membership, location of members, financial supports, and mutual ministry opportunities for 5 of those nine congregations. Holy Spirit-led conversations called for ideas for shared ministry, community outreach, mission, and building

repurposing recommendations. Because of your gifts to Strengthen the Church, these congregations embraced new ministries offered in new ways with new leadership and new energy. Truly a strengthening moment.

Our conferences across the United of Christ can do this faithful work because of gifts to Strengthen the Church. Last year, Penn Northeast congregations quadrupled their support for this offering. Imagine what we could all do together if we committed to Strengthen the Church!

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates *Conference Minister* Penn Northeast Conference United Church of Christ

> Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering Renew the United Church of Christ.





