

## December News



### Blessings to You this Advent Season

Here are links to this month's newsletter or you can jump right to our website to see these stories and more by clicking [here](#).

#### Quick Links:

Find what's scheduled as of Dec. 1st.

[Conference Calendar](#)

[List-view Calendar](#)

To view all of the conference news, please click: [website](#).



## General Synod

General Synod will be held June 30-July 4 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All voting delegates will be in-person. Are you willing be a conference delegate?

## Transitions

*The following transitions have been confirmed by the Committee on Ministry (East and West) at their meetings in November.*

**Tara Young Brown** has been approved for Ordination. She is a hospice chaplain. Her membership is with Community of Interfaith Celebration in Olympia.

The **Rev. Jim CastroLang** will end his ministry at Colville UCC in December. His last service with them will be December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The **Rev. Bob Feeney** has been approved to transfer to our conference as the new settled Pastor at Westminster UCC in Spokane. His installation is scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The **Rev. Carson Hawk**, who ministers to trauma survivors and other kinds of healing with the team of Magnolia UCC, has been approved for transfer to our conference.

The **Rev. Yuki Schwartz** has been approved to transfer to the Southern California Nevada Conference.

The Insurance Assistance Fund Sub-committee of the Conference Stewardship Committee is responsible for allocating assistance to clergy and local churches needing help with the costs of health insurance premiums.

If you would like help in covering the costs of your 2023 health insurance premiums, please contact Pacific Northwest Conference Stewardship Committee Member, Martha Baldwin at [mahtha@hotmail.com](mailto:mahtha@hotmail.com) or (206) 948-9799. All information is kept strictly confidential and will only be seen by our group.

Thank you for the service you have offered to the United Church of Christ and we are blessed to be able to offer this assistance.



Meet our Conference Accountant Andy Warren! Andy received an undergraduate degree from Marietta College in Ohio, and an MBA from University of Connecticut.

Prior to joining the Pacific Northwest Conference staff in November 2018, Andy served as the Chief Financial Officer for several public and private multinational companies ranging in size from \$50 million to \$300 million in the New York metro area. Responsibilities included directing Treasury, Finance, Accounting, Human Resources, and Information Systems departments for these companies.

Andy was also active in his local UCC church in New Jersey serving as Moderator, Treasurer, and a Deacon. He now serves as the Financial Secretary at Everett UCC, in addition to his duties as the Conference Accountant.

Andy has three children – Geoff, Rob and Anna. Geoff and Rob live and work on the East Coast and Anna is working towards her Master's in Public Health at the University of Washington.

Andy's Conference accounting responsibilities include making and recording deposits, paying and recording bills, processing payroll, setting up new employees, processing W-2s and 1099's, filing all payroll tax returns, preparing monthly reports to stewardship, Board of Directors and various other committees, maintaining financials in accordance with latest FASB guidelines, answering informational requests, sending updates to all conference churches, sending year-end tax statements to donors, maintaining the conference and camp donor database, and sending fundraising campaign letters as directed by Stewardship. Andy also assists conference churches with PPP Loan guidance, Employee Retention Credit guidance, and general accounting questions.

Please reach out to Andy should you need assistance in church accounting.



## UCC Webinar—The Midterms and Beyond: A Path for Climate Justice

In this webinar, we will discuss the results of the midterms with an eye to what is possible for climate justice in 2023 and beyond. A full discussion of the midterms entails more than looking at a final scorecard of congressional contests. It entails assessing the power of young voters and voters who care about the climate crisis. It entails tracking the successes of state ballot initiatives. It entails bringing a lens of justice to the issues faced today. This webinar will equip faith-rooted advocates for advancing climate justice in the coming year. The webinar will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 1 pm ET/12 pm CT/11 am MT/10 am PT/8 am HT. [Register for this webinar to learn more!](#)

[Hyperlink: [https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/8716684482996/WN\\_AB2UsaKkRtWIGJ4cfK4hUQ](https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/8716684482996/WN_AB2UsaKkRtWIGJ4cfK4hUQ)]

# **The Group Exemption, Proving Your Church's Tax-Exempt Status, and Your Church's EIN: What Local Churches Need to Know**

Do you know about the United Church of Christ's group exemption? Do you need to prove that your Local Church is tax-exempt? Do you know the difference between "nonprofit," "tax-exempt," and "501(c)(3)?" These terms, while often used interchangeably, have distinct meanings under the law, and come with different legal obligations. This post explains how these terms apply to your Local Church, how to prove your church's tax-exempt status, and the importance of maintaining your church's federal Employer Identification Number, or EIN.

Find out more here:

<https://www.ucc.org/the-group-exemption-proving-your-churchs-tax-exempt-status-and-your-churchs-ein-what-local-churches-need-to-know/>