Earth: Beloved Community

Alliance of Baptists 2018 Annual Gathering
April 26–29, 2018
Dayton, Ohio

ALLIANCEOFBAPTISTS.ORG
#alliancegathering2018
On behalf of Harmony Creek Church (a United Church of Christ and Alliance of Baptists Community), it is a delight to welcome you to the 2018 Annual Gathering. We are thrilled you have come to the Dayton area and are honored to be your host. For weeks now many people in our church have been busy planning and preparing for your visit. Harmony Creek is known for extending an extravagant welcome to all who pass through our doors. We hope all from our wider Alliance of Baptists family feel deeply welcomed and extraordinarily blessed for having come among us.

In 1996, a handful of wounded and exiled Baptist Christians who were seeking to start a new church wandered into our first Annual Gathering in Charlotte, N.C. We were blown away by your loving and caring embrace, by your courage and by your vibrant witness to the Good News of Jesus. Upon returning to Dayton, we decided we wanted to be a part of this Alliance, and you accepted us and gave balm to our wounds. And then, when the United Church of Christ invited us in, we said, “But we are Baptists, are you okay with that?” Without hesitation they said, “Of course! Let’s work together.” And with those extravagant welcomes, a new church was born in 1997 that was both Alliance of Baptists and United Church of Christ. You took a risk to support us, and in so doing you planted seeds that have brought us to this time and place. I can’t help but express my deepest gratitude for all the companionship and grace you have given over the years.

Our new church start was an important part of the impetus that led to a multi-year dialogue with the United Church of Christ, which eventually included the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the establishment of an official ecumenical agreement in 2003 called a “Partnership in Mission and Ministry.” Our partnership continues to flourish and grow. The Alliance of Baptists is now one of four denominational bodies who share in the Insurance Board (insuranceboard.org), offering our churches a great resource for property and liability insurance. We also have been welcomed to participate fully in United Church Funds (ucfunds.org), which is savvy and skilled at offering socially conscious investing, allowing us to put our money where our values lie. We also have partnered in mission with the United Church of Christ in our Summer Communities of Service program (www.ucc.org/volunteer_scos). There remain so many more possibilities for partnership with our ecumenical friends.

Many Harmony Creekers, whether they have been around since our founding or are new to our community, will ask: “Mike, what’s up with this Baptist thing?” They are concerned because their image of Baptists stands in stark contrast to who they know our church to be. But I am always eager to share that the Alliance of Baptists is comprised of justice-seeking, life-loving, Spirit-led, “liberal Baptists” (It’s not an oxymoron!) who practice an extravagant welcome grounded in the Good News and Way of Jesus. I am filled with joy that many Harmony Creekers will be introduced to you at this Annual Gathering, many for the first time. By your presence, I hope our church will better understand who the Alliance of Baptists is and have an expanded awareness of the foundational role you played in the shaping our church.

So let this Annual Gathering dance begin! There is so much we share and so much love and support to go around to encourage us on our faith journey. Together we are creating sacred space and forging meaningful relationships that offer us a theological home, that inspire us to pursue God’s justice in the world, and where partnerships in mission and ministry are transforming our life and work together.

With peace and joy!

Michael D. Castle
Senior Pastor, Harmony Creek Church
President, Alliance of Baptists

WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHAIRS!

For more than 30 years now Christ’s call has led the Alliance of Baptists to pursue justice together with and for those who are oppressed. But what we find is that one injustice is connected to every other injustice. This weekend we will strive to see those connections more clearly so we might work together towards God’s dream of Earth as Beloved Community. We are so glad you are here for this remarkable and timely gathering.
Thursday, April 26

11 a.m. Registration (Church Office)

1-6 p.m. Welcome, Theme Provocation, and “Faith and Climate–a Conversation” (Sanctuary)

6:30 p.m. Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

7:30-9 p.m. Baptist Beer Garden (Courtyard)

Friday, April 27

8 a.m. Registration (Church Office)

9-10:30 a.m. Bible Study and Program led by Ched Myers (Sanctuary)

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Interdisciplinary Panel (Sanctuary)

12:30 p.m. Lunch with Communities (Fellowship Hall, Meeting Rooms)

2 p.m. Annual Meeting, Part I (Fellowship Hall)

3:30 p.m. Workshop Session I (Meeting Rooms)

5:30 p.m. Worship led by Mariama White-Hammond (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 28

9-10:30 a.m. Program led by Ched Myers (Sanctuary)

11 a.m. Workshop Session II (Meeting Rooms)

12:30 p.m. Lunch with Communities (Fellowship Hall, Meeting Rooms)

2 p.m. Annual Meeting, Part II (Fellowship Hall)

4-5 p.m. Ecumenical Inter-Baptist Panel (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 p.m. Worship led by Deborah DeMars Conrad (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 29

9:15 a.m. Bible Study by Ched Myers (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 a.m. Worship with Ched Myers (Sanctuary)
CHED MYERS
A fifth-generation Californian, Ched is an activist theologian who has worked in social change and radical discipleship movements for more than 40 years. With a degree in New Testament studies, he is a popular educator who animates scripture and issues of faith-based peace and justice. He has authored more than 100 articles and more than a half-dozen books, including Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark’s Story of Jesus; The Biblical Vision of Sabbath Economics; Ambassadors of Reconciliation: A N.T. Theology and Diverse Christian Practices of Restorative Justice and Peacemaking (with Elaine Enns); Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice (with Matthew Colwell); and most recently Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice.

Ched has worked with a variety of social justice organizations, including the Pacific Issues Network and the American Friends Service Committee. He is a co-founder of the Word and World School, the Sabbath Economics Collaborative, and the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. He and his partner Elaine Enns, a restorative justice practitioner, live in the Ventura River watershed in southern California and work with Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries (www.bcm-net.org).

Ched holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley (1978) and a Master of Arts degree in New Testament studies from the Graduate Theological Union (1984). He serves as adjunct faculty at St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon, SK, and is part of the faculty of the Proctor Institute.

MARIAMA WHITE-HAMMOND
Mariama White–Hammond was born in Boston, Mass., in 1979. The child of two preacher-doctors, Mariama grew up with an understanding that God calls us all to serve our fellow man. Her activism began in high school and continued at Stanford University, where she majored in international relations and was involved in campus politics and the arts.

In September 2001 Mariama became the executive director of Project HIP-HOP (Highways Into the Past–History, Organizing and Power), an organization she had been involved in since high school. At PHH, she used the arts as a tool to raise awareness about social issues and to help young people find their voice and share their ideas with the world. In June 2014 she stepped down as executive director to focus on her work in the church. In 2006 Mariama accepted her call to ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 2016 she was ordained. She serves on the ministerial staff at Bethel AME Church, where she is the minister for ecological justice and the interim youth pastor. In 2017 she earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology.

Mariama challenges the Christian church to embrace a more radical understanding of the life and
Deborah DeMars Conrad, EdD, is a pastor of 30 years who finds her life’s calling in congregational renewal and social transformation. A native of South Carolina, with previous lives in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Texas, California and Kentucky, she is senior minister of Woodside Church, an interracial, welcoming and affirming congregation in Flint, Mich. – where democracy is regularly under siege and poisoned water gives citizens something else to be mad about. Deborah believes faith is deeply political, and she has spent a career advocating for her LGBTQ community and educating church folks about the multifaceted racial and economic injustice that is the American way.

Deb holds degrees in journalism, visual arts and leadership. She prepared for ministry in the Washington Theological Consortium, where she studied preaching at Howard University Divinity School under Evans Crawford. She has served in a variety of ministry settings, including parish renewal and church planting, university and hospital chaplaincy and denominational leadership. She also has directed a community center, founded a center for poverty education (urbanspirit.org), and taught preaching at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Since 2007 Deborah has coordinated a summer mission intern program for the Disciples of Christ. She also is a contributor to Trouble the Water, the Alliance’ congregational resource for racial justice.

In recent years, Deborah has embraced a vegan life, believing that care for creation mandates reconsideration of animal exploitation and consumption. She is a photographer, with work in galleries in Indiana and Kentucky, and links to her photography, as well as her sermons and essays, are online at mendtheworld.me. Deb and her partner Hannah, an attorney with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), are a bi-state family that commutes between Flint and Louisville.
ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: “OUR EARTH OBJECTS”

“OUR EARTH OBJECTS” is a unique art exhibit at the Harmony Creek Church Art Gallery. Vibrant with color and energy, it is tailor-made to address the environmental themes of the Annual Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists: “Earth: Beloved Community.”

“Our eARTh Objects” was created by Erin Umbaugh, a member of Harmony Creek Church. She hopes people will feel the happiness, excitement and fun of this colorful exhibit while also contemplating the meanings within the meanings. She wants people to thoroughly enjoy how the colors mix, such that they say, “Wow!” and then soon after say, “Oh, I saw a person there, not a tree at first. How cool!” Playfulness also is found within the title itself: “Our eARTh Objects.” What is our earth objecting to? Which objects do we claim as “Ours” to take care of? Earth? Trees? Nature? Trash? Manufactured items found thrown away? How does ART fit into the middle of all of this? So, while at the Annual Gathering, take a moment in the art gallery, look around, see, feel, contemplate and enjoy all the colors!

All the art is available for purchase, and 90 percent of the proceeds will go to support the artist and 10 percent will go to improve our Art Gallery space. Please stop at the Annual Gathering Bookstore for details.

TRENT SIMS, ORGANIST

Trent Sims is the co-worship director of Harmony Creek Church, where he serves as organist and director of choral music. For more than 25 years, Trent has had a successful career as a theater organist, performing on Wurlitzer pipe organ installations in several musical themed restaurants in the Cincinnati and Indianapolis areas. He also was guest artist-in-residence at Dayton’s Victoria Theater, where he played pre-show organ programs for the Theater for the Young at Heart and Hot Times/Cool Films summer film series.

Trent’s concert engagements, performed on both classical and theater organs, have taken him to venues across the United States, England and Germany. Trent has several theater organ recordings to his credit; his latest, Albee in the Ballroom, was the inaugural recording of the recently restored Cincinnati Albee Theater Wurlitzer pipe organ. This historic instrument is now located in the Ballroom of Cincinnati’s iconic Music Hall. In addition to maintaining an active concert schedule, Trent holds a private pilot’s license and has an interest in classic cars.

THE ROYAL DRUMMERS OF BURUNDI

The Drummers of Burundi, as they are commonly known, is a percussion ensemble originally from Burundi. They currently reside in Dayton, Ohio. Their performances are a part of ceremonies such as births, funerals and coronations of mwami (kings). Drums (called karyenda) are sacred in Burundi, and represent the mwami, fertility and regeneration. The Royal Drummers use drums made from hollowed tree trunks covered with animal skins. In addition to the central drum, called Inkiranya, there are Amashako drums, which provide a continuous beat, and Ibishikiso drums, which follow the rhythm established by the Inkiranya.

The performance of the Royal Drummers has been the same for centuries, and their techniques and traditions are passed down from father to son. The members of the ensemble take turns playing the Inkiranya, dancing, resting and playing the other drums, rotating throughout the show without interruptions.

Beginning in the 1960s, the Drummers have toured the world. They have recorded at least three albums – Batimbo (Musiques Et Chants) in 1991, The Drummers of Burundi (1992, recorded 1987), Real World (retitled Live at Real World in 1993) and The Master Drummers of Burundi (1981 lp, 1994 cd). They have also appeared on Joni Mitchell’s The Hissing of Summer Lawns (1975) and the Def Leppard single “Rocket.”

CHRISTIAN MCIVOR

Christian McIvor is a singer/songwriter/guitarist/trumpeter from Greensboro, N.C. He is currently an assistant minister at College Park Baptist Church, an Alliance congregational partner. His musical duties include directing the children’s music and instrumental music ministries, and assisting with worship for contemporary and traditional/
blended services. He also assists with general ministry, primarily in the areas of children’s and young adult ministry. He is a Master of Divinity degree candidate at Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

Christian is a member of Market Street Brass, a brass quintet that regularly performs throughout the eastern United States. He also holds the positions of lead trumpet with the Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra and appears frequently as a soloist and as a section player with big bands, horn sections, symphonies and chamber orchestras across the Southeast. In his free time, Christian likes to spend time with his beautiful wife Chrissy and their daughter Juliette, their two dogs Basie and Sonny, and their cat Elwood. He is a diehard Boston sports fan and enjoys the outdoors, running, biking and hiking.

**WORLD HOUSE CHOIR**

Under the direction of Catherine Roma, the World House Choir’s mission is “To perform music that motivates and inspires our communities toward justice, diversity and equality as we strive for peace and create our web of mutuality.” The choir is associated with “Arts for Peace and Justice,” a non-profit association in Yellow Springs, Ohio, created to promote and unite progressive arts movements for peace, justice and social change with an emphasis on the choral arts and people’s music. Since its inception in 2012, the choir has intentionally worked in collaboration with the Coretta Scott King Center at Antioch College. The name “World House Choir” is rooted in Martin Luther King Jr.’s metaphor that we must create a “world house” in which we all live together in peace and justice. The name refers to the choice each person must make – to live in community or chaos, particularly in a nation where racial stereotypes remain strong and multiculturalism is a work-in-progress. For more information: worldhousechoir.org.

**DAVID LEE GARRISON**

David Lee Garrison is a regular attender at Harmony Creek Church. He was born in Bremerton, Wa. He earned his PhD from Johns Hopkins University, taught Spanish and Portuguese at Wright State University from 1979 to 2009, and is now retired. He has published translations of Spanish poets from Lope de Vega to Gloria Fuertes, including collections of Nobel Laureate Vicente Aleixandre (with Willis Barnstone), José Bergamin and Pedro Salinas. Garrison’s poems have appeared widely in journals such as Connecticut Review, Poem and Rattle, and also in several anthologies. Two poems from his book, Sweeping the Cemetery, were read by Garrison Keillor on The Writer’s Almanac, and one was included in Keillor’s Good Poems, American Places. The title poem from his book, Playing Bach in the D. C. Metro, was featured by Ted Kooser on his website, American Life in Poetry. His newest collection of poems was just released, Carpeing the Diem: Poems About High School.

Garrison has stated about his work, “My main goal is to communicate, so I create poems that are not hard to understand with a first reading. My poems emerge mainly from memories, as I fashion bits and pieces of my past into fictionalized configurations in a search for something more meaningful, more transcendent than my personal experience.” David Lee Garrison lives in Dayton, Ohio, with his wife, Suzanne Kelly-Garrison, a writer and professor of law at Wright State University.

**GUY E. JONES**

Jones, a Hunkpapa Lakota and full-blood member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, carries in his heart a strength that comes from living in today’s diverse society and the spiritual wisdom of his Lakota upbringing. He has unselfishly devoted his life to the sharing of this knowledge in the interest of promoting healing and respect for American Indians. He speaks honestly on such topics as life on the reservation, the shattering effects of governmental policies, environmental issues, the challenges of drug and alcohol abuse and the survival of his culture.

Jones is a direct descent of Chief Gall, famous for commanding the Hunkpapa Lakota at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Jones, a leader in his own right, is making a name for himself through activism, education and service. Among his many accomplishments, Jones co-founded the Miami Valley Council for Native Americans in 1989, where he serves as its executive director. He co-authored the book Lessons from Turtle Island with Sally Moomaw and developed several outreach programs to assist families and individuals in crisis situations. The Ohio Free Press presented Guy with the Selma Walker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Human Rights Activism, and San Antonio recognizes Nov. 1 as “Guy Jones Day” to commemorate his work on race relations between Kelly Air Force Base and the city.
WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD EITHER FRIDAY AT 3:30 P.M. OR SATURDAY AT 11 A.M.

ARE WE HERE YET? RE-PLACING CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE
Herbster Community Room, Friday

We will look at how to move from abstract to terrestrial maps of our world, and how our churches can re-inhabit our bioregions as demonstration projects that embody good news.

CHED MYERS
Ched is an activist theologian who has worked in social change and radical discipleship movements for more than 40 years. With a degree in New Testament Studies, he is an educator who animates scripture and issues of faith-based peace and justice. He has authored more than 100 articles and more than a half-dozen books. He and his partner Elaine Enns, a restorative justice practitioner, live in the Ventura River watershed in southern California and work with Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries (www bcm-net.org).

BECOMING A TEACHING CONGREGATION
Room 34, Friday & Saturday

Explore how your congregation can be a “teaching congregation” for individuals exploring pastoral ministry. Internship and residency programs will be discussed, but a focus will be on creative, low-cost ideas related to congregational mentoring, ordination process, etc. We will share ideas and discuss ways the Alliance’s CAIRN initiative can support this process.

ERIC CAIN
Eric Cain is program director with the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection at Furman University in Greenville, SC. He has served in Alliance-affiliated congregations and is currently a member of First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC.

MICHAEL GREGG
Michael Gregg is senior pastor of Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. He is a board-certified life and personal coach through the Center for Credentialing and Education and was trained through the Center for Congregational Health at Wake Forest University. Michael has been married to Amanda since 2003 and has two articulate and energetic daughters.

CONGREGATIONS: CLUB OR COMMUNITY
Room 36, Saturday

In this workshop Ken Meyers will identify marks of a congregation caught in the move from modernity to postmodernity. How does the “inherited” or traditional church make that move? New church starts are one response and Adam Gray will speak out of his current experience.

ADAM GRAY
Adam Gray is the lead pastor of Redeeming Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. His vision is for a church that is deeply committed to loving its neighbors as itself. He dreams of a church where everyone knows they are welcomed, affirmed and loved. Adam is a graduate of the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga., and has been married to Lauren since 2007. They have a son, Elias.
KEN MEYERS
Ken Meyers joyfully serves as faith formation specialist for the Alliance of Baptists. Previously he served for 36 years in four congregations. Ken earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., with two study leaves at Regent’s Park College of Oxford University and a foray with Lutheran priests in El Salvador. Ask him about his three-year-old granddaughter, Abigail!

CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY PARTNER: PHILIPINE KIDULAH

Join Paula Clayton Dempsey and Philippine Kidulah, a founder and executive director of Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika, for a conversation about Philippine’s work to promote the advancement of climate change justice, sustainability, peace and dialogue in Kenya and the U.S. Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika is a ministry partner of the Alliance of Baptists.

PAULA CLAYTON DEMPSEY
Paula Clayton Dempsey serves as director of partnership relations for the Alliance of Baptists. To that position she brought more than 25 years of ministry experience as a pastor, campus minister, hospice chaplain and director of Advent Spirituality Center. Paula lives with her family in Western North Carolina and travels from there to be with Alliance of Baptists congregations and ministry partners.

PHILIPINE (PINI) KIDULAH
Before founding Jitokeze, Philippine Kidulah worked with women and youth of Kenya and Rwanda to promote community economic development, Christian discipleship, leadership, missions and peace building. Philippine holds a master’s degree in international development from Eastern University and a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and community development from Kenyatta University.

COVENANT REVISIONING WORKSHOP
Over the next year the Alliance of Baptists will explore revisioning its covenant for a new day. Join members from the working group that will be facilitating this process for a dialogue about our historic covenant and the challenges of carrying its legacy into the 21st-century.

TIM MOORE
Tim Moore is the writer-in-residence and former pastor of Alliance congregational partner Sardis Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. He also is a current member of the Alliance Board of Directors.

CREATION CARE AND THE LOCAL CHURCH: CRAWL, WALK, RUN
Sick and tired of only being told to upgrade your lightbulbs? Learn how you and your church can go beyond lightbulbs to make a difference toward keeping the Earth a habitable place for your children and grandchildren.

DARRELL SMITH
Darrell Smith is the executive director and senior environmental scientist of Global Environmental Relief. He has advanced degrees in aquatic/wetland ecology (Ph.D.), water quality/aquaculture (M.S.), and cross-cultural ministry (M.Div.) and is a certified floodplain manager and a professional wetland scientist.
KATHY SMITH
Kathy Smith has a master’s degree (MPS) in ecology and theology from Loyola University. As the minister of missions and faith formation at Trinity Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga., Kathy is situated to lead Baptists and others to a more biblically-based understanding of our responsibility to the created world.

CREATION JUSTICE ADVOCACY TRAINING
Room 31, Friday & Saturday
Explore the unique role that a faith voice plays in the public square. Enhance your ability to influence public policy and peoples’ views on creation justice issues through earned media, coalition-building, education, creative dialogue and nurturing long-term respectful relationships with decision-makers.

SHANTHA READY ALONSO
Shantha Ready Alonso has served as executive director of Creation Justice Ministries since 2015. Creation Justice Ministries is an ecumenical Christian organization that educates, equips and mobilizes faith communities to protect, restore and more rightly share God’s creation. Creation Justice Ministries is led by representatives of 38 member communions from Orthodox, Mainline Protestant, Baptist, Historically Black Church and Peace traditions.

JIM ROGERS
An A.B. graduate of the University of North Carolina and J.D. graduate of George Washington University. Jim Rogers has a background working in law and the non-profit and for-profit sectors. For the last four years he has served on the Green Team of the Community of the Good Shepherd Church in Montgomery Ohio and the Greater Cincinnati Archdiocese Task Force on Climate Change.

ECO-ETHICS OF CORPSE CARE
Room 14, Saturday
This workshop will help attendees develop prophetic perspectives on what we do with our bodies when we die (a question with large-scale economic and environmental implications). Attendees will engage in an introductory conversation on conventional/dominant funerary practices in the U.S. and their historical and cultural development, including the growing occurrence of “green/natural burial” and “do-it-yourself funeral” practices.

APRIL BAKER
April Baker is co-pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., and is a member of the Alliance. She also has served on the Board of Directors of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. April holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University.

CODY SANDERS
Cody Sanders is pastor to Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square and American Baptist Chaplain to Harvard University. He is the author of A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth (Westminster John Knox, 2017). Cody earned the Ph.D. in pastoral theology and pastoral counseling from Brite Divinity School and a Master of Divinity degree from the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University.

IMMIGRATION
Fellowship Hall, Friday & Saturday
The debate over immigration has been in the news and the focus of presidential elections since 2008, but there isn’t a lot of education on the issue or stories of immigrants who are affected directly. Immigration 101 will help you understand why 11 million undocumented immigrants can’t “get in line,” play a game that will allow you to step into the shoes of an undocumented immigrant’s life, and hear stories of immigrants who are directly affected.
José Arnulfo Cabrera is an immigration program organizer with the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC). Since his sophomore year of high school, he was a part of the Youth Education Society (YES) program at IJPC. As a member of YES, José shared his personal immigration story with others, helped organize YES events and fell in love with IJPC’s values and mission. When he is not at IJPC, he is at Xavier University, where he is studying entrepreneurship.

**IMPACTED FIRST AND WORST: CLIMATE CRISIS AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**

Herbster Community Room, Saturday

How does climate resiliency interface with social and racial justice? Is the climate ambivalence of privileged people (the so-called “new normal”) the ultimate expression of white supremacy? We’ll look at how to build common cause with those already impacted by climate chaos.

CHED MYERS

See page 8 for bio information.

**INTERSECTION OF RACIAL, GENDER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Room 15, Friday & Saturday

Why do environmental crises, like lead in Flint’s drinking water and Puerto Rico’s slow hurricane recovery, hit people of color, especially women, disproportionately hard? Participants will explore the intersectionalities of racial, gender, and environmental justice from ecowomanist and intercultural perspectives, and be empowered with strategies for building the beloved community.

JANN ALDREDGE-CLANTON

Jann Aldredge-Clanton, an Alliance of Baptists-endorsed minister, currently serves as co-chair of Equity for Women in the Church and adjunct professor at Richland College, Dallas, Texas. Jann is co-editor of Intercultural Ministry: Hope for a Changing World and author of other books and hymn collections.

SHEILA SOLES-ROSS

Sheila Sholes-Ross, an Alliance of Baptists-endorsed minister and former board member, currently serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Pittsfield, Mass., and co-chair of Equity for Women in the Church. Sheila is the author of “Beyond Resurrection Sunday” in Intercultural Ministry: Hope for a Changing World.

**#METOO? PASTORAL & PROPHETIC APPROACHES TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

Parlor, Friday & Saturday

Join us for a conversation and working meeting to share best practices for the church’s response to sexual misconduct from pulpit to pew and beyond.

EILEEN CAMPBELL-REED

Eileen Campbell-Reed (she/her/hers) is coordinator for coaching, mentoring and internship and an associate professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. She also is co-director of the Learning Pastoral Imagination Project, and the author of Anatomy of a Schism: How Clergywomen’s Narratives Reinterpret the Fracturing of the Southern Baptist Convention.

HILARY J. SCARSELLA

Hilary J. Scarsella (she/her/hers) is director of theological integrity for the sexual violence survivor advocacy organization Into Account and is a candidate for a PhD in theological studies at Vanderbilt University. She also is the director of Our Stories Untold (ourstoriesuntold.com), a supportive online platform for survivors in Christian contexts to share their experiences.
MINISTRY WITH LGBTQIA YOUTH

A commitment to LGBTQIA affirmation is a good first step. But our churches need the knowledge and skills to put this affirming commitment into caring action. This workshop offers a crash course to develop and/or update your knowledge and skills on ministry with LGBTQIA youth and their families.

CODY SANDERS
See page 10 for bio information.

WHITE SUPREMACY & SYSTEMIC RACISM WITHIN THE AOB

Malu and Tammerie build on their 2016 workshop toward a new level of instigating communal cultural change in the Alliance, queering our current racial-ethnic politics. Together let’s create liberative spaces that invite black and brown peoples beyond resistance towards free creation, and that ground whiteness in just identities and agency.

TAMMERIE DAY

MALU FAIRLEY-COLLINS
Malu Fairley-Collins is co-pastor of Wedgewood Church in Charlotte, N.C. She serves as director of spiritual care and education for the Palliative Care Group within Atrium Health, is a board certified chaplain and is an associate certified pastoral educator. She is married to Ezra Fairley-Collins and has one teenage son.
**INTERDISCIPLINARY PANEL**

**FACILITATOR:**

CHED MYERS, *Activist Theologian, Biblical Scholar, Educator, Author, Organizer and Advocate*

See page 8 for bio information.

**PANELISTS:**

MALINDA ELIZABETH BERRY, *Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

Malinda Elizabeth Berry is passionate about the subject matter of her courses and believes that the content of a course should shape how it is taught. Her commitment to Anabaptism in the Mennonite tradition is evident in her approach to an array of topics, issues and concerns of our day: Christian social responsibility, environmental stewardship and renewing congregational life in its structural and spiritual dimensions. In addition to the research she does to support her teaching, Malinda continues to develop her contribution to peace theology: shalom political theology.

KRISTINA KEEFE-PERRY, *Creation Care Coordinator for The American Baptist Churches of MA*

Kristina Keefe-Perry is the mother of a second-grader, a wife and works for The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts coordinating the Creation Care Ministries Program. Kristina’s focus has been on creating just and sustainable community food systems, most recently as Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York’s food justice coordinator. She is a minister in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends and host of Quaker Dinner Church, Boston. She has an MA in environmental geography and an MDiv from Boston University.

PHILIPINE (PINI) KIDULAH, *Founder and Executive Director of Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika*

Before founding Jitokeze, Philippine Kidulah worked with women and youth of Kenya and Rwanda to promote community economic development, Christian discipleship, leadership, missions and peace building. Philippine holds a master’s degree in international development from Eastern University and a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and community development from Kenyatta University.

ANDY LOVING, *Certified Financial Planner with Just Money Advisors and Expert in Community Investments*

An ordained minister and social justice activist, Andy Loving has been a financial advisor since 1993, specializing in socially responsible and community investing. He has a rare blend of the practical—sound financial planning and money management—and the idealistic—how people can exercise the power of our money to create a world that works for everyone. He and his wife and business partner, Susan Taylor, are active members of Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty, an Alliance church in Louisville, KY.
ECUMENICAL INTER-BAPTIST PANEL

FACILITATOR:

IAN MEVORACH, Common Street Spiritual Center

Ian Mevorach is the co-founder and spiritual leader of Common Street Spiritual Center. He holds a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. in theology and ethics from Boston University School of Theology, and a B.A. in philosophy from Middlebury College in Vt. He is an ordained American Baptist minister, and his areas of focus in ministry are environmental and social justice, interfaith dialogue, eco-spirituality, the arts and community building. His vision for a love-centered and pluralistic spiritual community was largely inspired by Howard Thurman.

SHANTHA READY ALONSO, Creation Justice Ministries

See page 10 for bio information.

PANELISTS:

BROOKS BERNDT, United Church of Christ

Before becoming the UCC Minister for Environmental Justice in 2015, Brooks Berndt served for eight years as the pastor of First Congregational UCC in Vancouver, Wash. While there, he became active in various environmental campaigns, including a successful effort to transition the state of Washington away from its only coal plant. Berndt is the author of Sounding the Trumpet: How Churches Can Answer God’s Call to Justice, co-authored with J. Alfred Smith Sr., a pastor at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif.

THOMAS BOWEN, Progressive National Baptist Convention

Thomas L. Bowen is the director of the Mayor’s Office of Religious Affairs in the Executive Office of Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. He also is the Earl L. Harrison Minister of Social Justice and Community Outreach at Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington. Bowen is a founding member of the Jamestown Project, an action-oriented think tank, and a member of the African American Ministers Leadership Council of People for the American Way. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and studied for the ministry at The Divinity School at the University of Chicago.

TOM CARR, American Baptist Churches USA

Thomas Carr is pastor of Second Baptist Church of Suffield, Conn., an American Baptist Churches, USA minister, and a certified spiritual director. For 30 years he has been involved in issues of ecology and environmental justice with local congregations, ecumenically and on an interfaith basis. Carr is co-founder of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN), and the American Baptist Churches, USA, Creation Justice Network (ABC, CJN). He and his wife, Peg, have two adult children, Geoff and Sarah.

MICHAEL MCCLAIN, National Baptist Convention USA

Michael McClain is pastor of Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Catawba, S.C. and national outreach coordinator for The National Religious Partnership for the Environment. For the past 12 years he has worked on environmental justice education and advocacy with denominational leaders and congregations across the U.S. McClain is founder and president Green Bulb Lighting, LLC, which specializes in “green technology” installations. He is married to the former Detra Henry McClain and they are the parents to Nicole, Rosalinda, Courtney, Christopher and Kevin. They also are the proud grandparents to nine grandchildren.

BETSY SOWERS, Alliance of Baptists

Betsy Sowers is minister for earth justice at Old Cambridge Baptist Church (OCBC) in Cambridge, Mass. She was raised Southern Baptist in Florida, ordained in the ABC, and is committed to the progressive witness of the Alliance. At Harvard Divinity School, her focus was broadened to what we now call intersectionality. That included understanding that theologies that privilege some people over others are theologies that also lead to destruction of the natural world. Her work for The Department of Church and Society of The American Baptist Churches of Mass., The Mass. Council of Churches, and now on behalf of earth justice, has always been ecumenical and interfaith.

ECUMENICAL INTER-BAPTIST PANEL

Saturday, 4 p.m.

FACILITATOR:

IAN MEVORACH, Common Street Spiritual Center

Ian Mevorach is the co-founder and spiritual leader of Common Street Spiritual Center. He holds a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. in theology and ethics from Boston University School of Theology, and a B.A. in philosophy from Middlebury College in Vt. He is an ordained American Baptist minister, and his areas of focus in ministry are environmental and social justice, interfaith dialogue, eco-spirituality, the arts and community building. His vision for a love-centered and pluralistic spiritual community was largely inspired by Howard Thurman.

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Alliance Communities, Endorsed Chaplains and Newcomers are invited to meet over lunch breaks. Meeting days and locations are listed below.

**ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS-OHIO COMMUNITY**

ROOM 36, FRIDAY

The Alliance of Baptists-Ohio Community (AOBOC) is a network of individuals, clergy, and five churches (First Baptist/Dayton, Harmony Creek/Dayton, Peace Community/Oberlin, United Church/Graville, University Baptist/Columbus) that are identified with the Alliance of Baptists. Together, AOBOC has made possible a membership on the Ohio Council of Churches and is the only Baptist voice and presence on the Council. Any Baptist church or person in Ohio who resonates with the work and witness of the Alliance of Baptists is welcomed to participate.

**BRAZIL COMMUNITY**

ROOM 34, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

The Brazil Community meets to hear a report from the last annual meeting of the Aliança de Batistas do Brasil. We shall hear reports from the two existing Brazil/U.S. church partnerships and learn about interest in another such arrangement. Information also will be presented about an upcoming visit to Brazil to coincide with the annual meeting of the Aliança in historic Porto Calvo, Alagoas, Brazil. The meeting will be held July 20-21. The trip includes ample sightseeing and an opportunity to worship on Sunday with either of the churches with partnerships in the U.S.

**CREATION JUSTICE COMMUNITY**

ROOM 15, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Learn more about this community, a group committed to sharing ideas on projects, worship resources and programs which enable us to foster our relationship with the earth as we extend the justice, peace, reconciliation, hope and love of Christ to all creation.

**ENDORSing COUNCIL**

ROOM 35, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

If you are endorsed or interested in endorsement, the Endorsing Council invites you to bring your lunch and join us in conversation about chaplaincy, education and counseling.

**EQUITY FOR WOMEN IN THE CHURCH**

ROOM 31, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

The Alliance of Baptists’ “Equity for Women in the Church Community” strives to advocate and network on behalf of clergywomen to facilitate access and congregational receptivity so that they find clergy positions in order to transform church and society. This community encourages women to tell their stories, receive needed support to achieve their ministry goals and ultimately be recognized as God’s vessels able and willing to be pastors. For more information, email sandncajuns2323@msn.com or aldredge-clanton@sbcglobal.net.

**FIRST TIMERS**

PARLOR, FRIDAY

Members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will be present to introduce First Timers to the Annual Gathering and to the work and witness of the Alliance of Baptists.

**JUSTICE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL**

HERBSTER COMMUNITY ROOM, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

This community seeks to follow the model of the 1st Century Jesus by “speaking truth to power” in 21st Century Palestine and Israel. In the words of the Martin Luther King Jr., “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” This community works for justice in Palestine and Israel by raising awareness about the current situation there, participating in the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign, sponsoring trips/pilgrimages to the Holy Land, networking with other likeminded faith-based groups such as Churches for Middle East Peace, and advocating the pursuit of justice with elected policy makers. We believe that if justice exists, peace will be found. Contact Leslie Withers: leslie@ML1945.com.

**NEW FAITH COMMUNITY PASTORS**

ROOM 33, FRIDAY

Join in conversation with other pastors who have begun new faith community churches within the last five years or so! Adam Gray, lead pastor of Redeeming Church in St. Augustine, Fla., and Ken Meyers, Alliance faith formation specialist, will hear from you. We want to know ways in which the Alliance can support and undergird your new ministry or the new start you are considering. Pick up your lunch and bring it to our room.

**RACIAL JUSTICE & MULTICULTURALISM**

ROOM 33, SATURDAY

Mindful of the reality that we live in aracialized society and that our institutions often reflect this racialization, the Alliance of Baptists has made historic commitments to promote racial reconciliation, diversity and multiculturalism. This commitment requires the ongoing leadership of the members and staff of the Alliance. The Community for Racial Justice & Multiculturalism cultivates leaders and shepherds the work of building a multicultural organization committed to racial justice and reconciliation in our congregations, ministries and the broader society.
The Alliance of Baptists gives thanks for the generosity of these individuals and organizations that helped make the 2018 Annual Gathering possible with their additional financial contributions.

ABC Creation Justice Network
Creation Justice Ministries
Eden Theological Seminary
Hope Manifest, Inc.
Carolyn & Billy Hall
Craig Henry
Betsy Sowers

EXHIBITORS

Hallway outside Fellowship Hall

808 Turner Enterprises, Columbus, Ohio
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.
Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, Louisville, Ky.
Baptist Creation Care Initiative, Conyers, Ga.
Equity for Women in the Church, Ministry Partner, Monroe, La.
Insurance Board, Cleveland, Ohio
Journey Partners, Ministry Partner, Franklinton, N.C.
Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, Ill.
Ring Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyo.
UC Funds, New York City, N.Y.
Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston Salem, N.C.
Everyone is invited to the **BAPTIST BEER GARDEN** on Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. following the dinner at Harmony Creek Church. The Baptist Beer Garden is being sponsored by **HOPE MANIFEST: Bringing about hope through change ... for good.** It will be a fun and festive way to kick off our 2018 Annual Gathering. Weather permitting, we’ll meet outside in the Harmony Creek courtyard next to the sanctuary. Local beers from Dayton’s own Warped Wing Brewing Company (including some nonalcoholic offerings) will be served. We’ll also enjoy the music of Greensboro, N.C. singer/songwriter/guitarist Christian McIvor. With beer and music, the Baptist Beer Garden will be a fun evening to reconnect with old Alliance friends and meet some new ones. See you in the Garden!

A **SHUTTLE** from the two Holiday Inn Expresses will be provided on the following schedule:

**Thursday**
- Pick up times:
  - 12:15 p.m. Holiday Inn Express – 7701 Washington Village Drive
  - 12:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Express – 5655 Wilmington Pike

- Depart Church:
  - 9 p.m. for both hotels

**Friday & Saturday**
- Pick up times
  - 8:15 a.m. Holiday Inn Express – 7701 Washington Village Drive
  - 8:30 a.m. Holiday Inn Express – 5655 Wilmington Pike

- Depart Church:
  - Immediately after worship service

**Sunday**
- Pick up times (please bring luggage):
  - 8:30 a.m. Holiday Inn Express – 7701 Washington Village Drive
  - 8:45 a.m. Holiday Inn Express – 5655 Wilmington Pike

Please check in with our transportation volunteers if you need a special run to your hotel.

Harmony Creek Church and the Alliance of Baptists want to be clear that all people attending the Annual Gathering are free to use the **RESTROOM** that seems right for them and matches their gender identity. In addition, there is a gender neutral, single-occupancy, family, handicap-accessible restroom available between the parlor and the Child Care Center. Please see map and signs for location.

A **HOSPITALITY STATION** is available throughout the Annual Gathering, complete with bistro tables to enjoy some relaxing conversation. The hospitality station will offer light refreshments and hot/cold beverages. Please stop by if you need a little pick-me-up! The hospitality station is located in the exhibit hall area beside the double doors leading to the Child Care Center playground.

**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION** services for those in our community who are deaf or hard-of-
hearing is being provided by Community Services for the Deaf.

Thursday **DINNER** and Friday and Saturday **PORTABLE LUNCHES** are provided for all who registered. All meals will be served in the Fellowship Hall and are being catered by Chef Marco Alexander Ollino of Spinning Platters in Cincinnati. Chef Marco is a personal chef who delights in bringing custom meals to tables of all sizes. Chef Marco is thrilled to be a part of this conference that is so focused and engaged with the care of the earth. Chef Marco takes pride in working with local foods and markets in preparing his meals at an affordable cost. The menus include:

**Thursday Dinner:** Spring Mix Salad with Strawberries, Mandarins and Walnuts, and served with Raspberry Vinaigrette; Au Gratin Potatoes; Vegetable Risotto; Green Bean Almondine, Glazed Carrots, Chicken Bruschetta, Baked Cod Buckwheat, Chickpea, Edamame, Medley (Vegan/vegetarian protein); Fruit Salad; Assorted Desserts; Dinner Roll with Butter.

**Friday Lunch:** Tossed Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Mashed Potatoes, Acadian Black Bean and Rice; Vegetable Medley; Baked Chicken; Stuffed Portabella, Fruit; Assorted Desserts; Dinner Roll with Butter.

**Saturday Lunch:** Vegetable Soup, Italian Roasted Potatoes, Wild Rice Pilaf, Roasted Corn, Oven Roasted Turkey; Vegan/Vegetarian Option; Fruit Bowl; Assorted Desserts; Dinner Roll with Butter.

**RECYCLING** bins are provided throughout the building and all are encouraged to recycle as much as possible to make recycling a regular practice.

**CHILD CARE** is provided for infants through age five. Activities will be a combination of free play and structured activities, such as music, art and games. Parents should bring children to Room 13 for check-in each day. Child care is provided during all of the scheduled presentations and worships of the Annual Gathering. All children must be picked up for lunch each day.

**YOUTH** will join in with the adults for all programing.

**WIFI** is available throughout the building. It may be accessed using the HARMONY CREEK GUEST network and the password is **please4me**.

The **ANNUAL GATHERING BOOKSTORE** is located in the Art Gallery at the entry area to the sanctuary. It will offer books and resources by speakers, proclaimers and presenters at this Annual Gathering, as well as others who are a part of the Alliance family. The bookstore also will offer a special display featuring the many writers who are a part of Harmony Creek Church. The bookstore will be open from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. on Thursday; 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and from 9-10:30 a.m. and after the morning worship service on Sunday. This year’s bookstore also will host a number of book signings by our featured authors. A schedule of book signings will be available at the bookstore.

Please stop by the **EXHIBIT HALL**! We are pleased to welcome a diverse assortment of ministry interests and partnerships. Stop by their display, say “hello” and check them out!
The Alliance offers thanks to Sarah Macias, Genny Rowley and the annual gathering planning team for all of the time, effort, creativity and passion they brought to shaping and forming this 2018 Annual Gathering. Planning team members are:

Sarah Macias, Van Alstyne, Texas, co-chair
Genny Rowley, Salt Lake City, Utah, co-chair
Glenn Gall, Oberlin, Ohio, meal planning and local needs
Ian Mevorach, Natick, Mass., ABC Creation Justice Ministries
Scott Shirley, Dallas, Texas, budget and logo design

We offer special words of thanksgiving to Sarah Macias, who poured her heart out as leader of the planning team. She probably should have been given her own office, phone extension and Alliance email address because she functioned like a staff member throughout the past year!

Thanks also go to Harmony Creek Church for welcoming us to your church house and for extending such magnanimous hospitality to us. We are so grateful for all of the time, energy and resources you have poured into being our hosts. Our gratitude goes out to the many volunteers who have made sure the gathering runs smoothly, and we especially thank Peggy Coale, logistics team leader. She and her husband Scott became covenant members of Harmony Creek last August. Logistics Team members are:

Peggy Coale, Leader
Naomi Tredinnick, Hospitality
Teresa Braden, Building Arrangements
Donna Hanby, Child Care
Eric Nash, Sound/Technology
Linda Stephens and Juli Burnell, Courtyard Garden
Ruth Hopkins, Workshops/Exhibitors
Brian Terry, Bookstore
Mike Castle, Worship
Erin Kobs, Guest Housing
John Allen, Transportation/Parking
Cristie DeBuhr, First Aid
Kathy Schultz, Ushers/Greeters
Josh Umbaugh, Baptist Beer Garden
John Cummings, Communications
Erin Umbaugh and Teresa Lowen, Art Gallery
Jan Harry and Brian Terry, Office Support
Eddy Miller and David Rogers, General Grunt Work

The Alliance and Harmony Creek Church also thank David’s United Church of Christ in Dayton for sharing its facility for the chaplain’s retreat, and Lizbet Kloot Palmer of Church in the Cliff in Dallas, Texas, for volunteering to create the gathering logo.
Harmony Creek Church: A United Church of Christ and Alliance of Baptists Community is the merged church of Oak Creek United Church of Christ and Cross Creek Community Church (United Church of Christ and Alliance of Baptists). We are a new church but our legacy has long and historic roots in the Miami Valley dating back to 1833.

Oak Creek United Church of Christ was formed in 1963, the result of a merger between Central United Church of Christ, which was located on Ludlow Street in downtown Dayton, and the Fair Lea United Church of Christ, which was located in an old mansion at 456 Whipp Road in Centerville. Central United Church of Christ (1922 – 1964) was formerly called Central Evangelical and Reformed Church, and before that, Central Reformed Church. Central Reformed Church was formed as the merger of the First Reformed Church (1833 – 1922), the Trinity Reformed Church (1886 – 1922) and the Fourth Reformed Church (1892 – 1928). Fair Lea United Church of Christ (1859 – 1963) was formerly known as Fair Lea Evangelical and Reform Church, and before that as Second Reformed Church, which was originally located at Cass and Clay Streets in the Oregon District in downtown Dayton. All of these congregations trace their roots back to German immigrants who settled in Dayton.

In 1960, the Central United Church of Christ sold their building to the Rike-Kumler Company who removed the building to make way for a new parking garage. After the church was sold, two congregations were formed and two buildings were built. Half of the Central United Church of Christ went north to form the Mt. Olive United Church of Christ in Trotwood, which is now closed. The other half of the Central United Church of Christ went south, merging with the Fair Lea UCC to form the Oak Creek United Church of Christ. The Oak Creek United Church of Christ building was completed and dedicated in 1964 at 5280 Bigger Road in Kettering.

Cross Creek Community Church was formed in 1997 as a new church of the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists. Cross Creek Community Church was created to be a contemporary, progressive, and intentionally “open and affirming” congregation (meaning that it would be a place of welcome, safety and healing to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their families and friends) after Michael D. Castle was fired from the Miami Valley Community Church (Southern Baptists) for refusing to recant that he understood himself to be a gay man. With a small group of people from the Miami Valley Community Church, Cross Creek Community Church opened its doors in a storefront at 5800 Bigger Road (yes, just down the street from Oak Creek United Church of Christ!) and later purchased a 5600 square foot building at 667 Miamisburg-Centerville Road in Washington Township in 2001. Cross Creek Community Church quickly out grew that facility.

In the first half of 2012, Cross Creek Community Church and Oak Creek United Church of Christ began to explore whether a merger of our two congregations would be desirable and beneficial. In November of 2012, both congregations overwhelmingly decided to merge, agreed that the optimal facility for our new church would be the Oak Creek campus, and began worshipping together on Christmas Eve of 2012. Since coming together, the congregation selected its name, wrote a new constitution and sold the Cross Creek building. The vision of Harmony Creek Church is: to embody the ministry, message, and hope of Jesus of Nazareth, serving as a vital and leading voice for progressive Christianity in the Miami Valley. The mission of Harmony Creek Church is: to be a community of progressive Christians sharing our journeys, doing ministry, seeking justice, and living God’s love.
DIRECTIONS FROM HARMONY CREEK CHURCH TO HOTELS

From: Harmony Creek Church, 5280 Bigger Rd., Kettering, OH 45440
To: The Holiday Inn Express Dayton-Centerville, 5655 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, 45459

Turn left out of church parking lot onto Bigger Rd.
Turn left at first light onto E Whipp Rd.
Travel 0.9 mi, then turn right onto Old Whipp Ct.
Travel 0.1 mi, destination will be on the right
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dayton-Centerville, 5655 Wilmington Pike, Dayton, OH, 5655

From Harmony Creek Church,
To: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dayton South, 7701 Washington Village Drive Dayton, OH

Turn left out of church parking lot onto Bigger Rd.
Turn left at first light onto E Whipp Rd.
At first light turn right onto Wilmington Pike
Stay right to exit onto I-675 S toward Cincinnati
Travel 4.92 miles, then take the OH-725 exit, EXIT 2, toward Miamisburg/Centerville
Travel 0.26 miles, then turn left onto Yankee St.
Travel 0.26 miles, then turn left onto Miamisburg Centerville Rd/OH-725
Travel 0.14 miles, then turn left onto Washington Village Dr.
Travel 0.31 miles to 7701 Washington Village Drive, Dayton, OH
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dayton South
COFFEE SHOPS

- Boston Stoker Coffee Company – 6071 Far Hills Ave, Centerville
- Boston Stoker Coffee Company – 215 N Main St, Centerville
- Calico Coffee – 5707 Bigger Rd, Kettering
- Dorothy Lane Market – 6177 Far Hills Avenue, Centerville
- In-n-Out Java – 2244 Wilmington Pike, Kettering
- Mocha Mavens – 5707 Bigger Rd, Kettering
- Winan’s Chocolates and Coffees – 4425 Feedwire Drive, Dayton

RESTAURANTS *

- Bagger Dave’s (burger tavern) – 5299 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- Bill’s Donuts (Best donuts in Dayton; open 24 hours) – 268 N. Main St., Centerville
- Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen – 5341 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- Coco’s Bistro – 250 Warren St., Dayton
- Core Life Eatery – 5201 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- Dorothy Lane Market (deli, prepared foods, grocery) – 6177 Far Hills Ave, Centerville
- Figlio Wood Fired Pizza – 424 E Stroop Rd, Kettering
- Firehouse Subs – 5239 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- First Watch (breakfast, brunch, lunch) – 5245 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steakburgers – 5601 Wilmington Pike, Centerville
- Mama DiSalvo’s Italian Ristorante – 1375 E Stroop Rd, Kettering
- Meadowlark Restaurant – 5531 Far Hills Ave, Kettering
- Merit Grill – 3800 Wilmington Pike, Kettering
- MOD Pizza (individual, artisan-style pizza) – 5225 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville
- Pine Club (steakhouse) – 1926 Brown St, Dayton
- Rapid Fired Pizza – 2001 E Dorothy Lane, Kettering
- Sky Asian – 4090 Wilmington Pike, Kettering
- Wheat Penny Restaurant – 515 Wayne Ave, Dayton
- Zombie Dogz (unique take on the classic hot dog) – 1200 Brown St, Dayton
- Zoup! (soups, salads, sandwiches) – 5235 Cornerstone North Blvd, Centerville

*All listings are relatively close to Harmony Creek Church and the Holiday Inn Express. Dayton is home to many fine restaurants. For other options, visit https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g60785-Dayton_Ohio.html
THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks for attending the 2018 Annual Gathering! There is much to celebrate in Alliance life, and we hope you find yourself at home as we gather, praise, pray and proclaim God’s love and justice. We remain grateful for your partnership, and look forward to journeying with you in the years to come!

Carole Collins & Paula Clayton Dempsey

LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF
Carole Collins, director of operations & finance
Paula Clayton Dempsey, director of partnership relations
Cathy McGaughey, operations specialist
Ken Meyers, faith formation specialist
Kristy Pullen, website specialist
Toya Richards, communications specialist
Jason Smith, congregational engagement specialist
SAVE THE DATE

April 26-28, 2019

ANNUAL GATHERING 2019
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D.C.