



Find our new website at [www.ohioucc.org](http://www.ohioucc.org)

# Annual Report 2015

From Nicole Havelka,  
Designated Minister for Resourcing, Networking and Creativity



Find the UCC news and events from Ohio and beyond:

Facebook: [/ohioconference](https://www.facebook.com/ohioconference)

Twitter: [@ohioucc](https://twitter.com/ohioucc).

Greetings! I am so delighted to serve your churches as part of the Ohio Conference UCC staff. Since arriving in June, I have observed your deep desire to connect with other local church leaders to share resources and best practices and build cooperative ministries. I am so grateful to the Board of Directors and Designated Conference Minister Phil Hart for creating this position so I can support and build these connectional ministries with you. As I say when I visit local churches on Sunday mornings, we can do good ministry alone in our local churches and communities, but we do much better ministry when we move past perceived boundaries and come together in mission and ministry.

You may have noticed that we have worked hard since my arrival to improve the systems of communication that will provide the infrastructure that will strengthen our connections as a conference. We now have two monthly eNewsletters — the Connections eNews (First Tuesday) and the Spotlight (Third Tuesday.) We have launched a new website [www.ohioucc.org](http://www.ohioucc.org) which



Our Holy Experiments media outlets connect you to ideas, resources for your ministry:

Facebook: [/holyexperiments](#)

Pinterest: [/holyexperiments](#)

Twitter: [@holyexperiments](#)

Instagram: [@holyexperiments](#)

Blog: [www.ohioucc.org](http://www.ohioucc.org)



Email me!

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features easy access to conference news, events and our “Holy Experiments” blog which features innovative ideas from local church leaders and conference staff. Phil Hart and I launched our monthly Ministry Spotlight Lunch (First Thursday) via videoconference, which highlights a speaker who shares his/her passionate interest in ministry and then opens the conversation up for discussion. In October, we will begin partnering with the Wisconsin Conference to offer their “Faith Formation Forum” monthly videoconference gathering throughout Ohio. We also have several new social media outlets (listed in the margins) to offer you more ways to share with each other across geographic boundaries.

Three core values guide our communications strategy:

**Clarity. Consistency. Collaboration.** Living into these core values is a two-way street between conference leaders and local churches. Please read more about these values on the [Contact Us](#) page of our new website.

These communications outlets are not mere window dressing, they signal a movement in Ohio to join together in mission and ministry like never before. By creating space for vibrant and inspiring conversation, for designing new ways of being church, for creating opportunities to connect to colleagues throughout the conference and the world, I believe we can become the innovative church God calls us to be. You have already inspired me with the creativity and care with which you serve your local communities. If I help you share those stories more widely, you will incite in each other a radical hope that will help a new church emerge in Ohio.

I am now eager to get to know even more of you. One of my priorities in the coming months will be to connect with as many local church leaders as possible. Do you have a group that already gathers? Invite me! Would you like me to participate in one of your ministries or Sunday worship? Put a visit on my calendar! Want a listening ear to serve as a sounding board? Call or Skype me!

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to dream big dreams with you in the Ohio Conference.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Nicole Havelka