

Penn West Conference
United Church of Christ
Friday Afternoon Opening Worship Service
June 11, 2010

Following Christ Creatively

DISCOVERING CREATIVE ROOTS FOR FAITHFUL LIVING
Plant your “faith seeds” and imagine the impossible!

Pause ... from your frantic pace and be centered in the Spirit
Imagine ... the possibilities for transformation
Create ... a spacious playground to co-create with the Creator
Become ... an action catalyst for hope and renewal

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|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| GATHERING MUSIC       | “Steps Ahead”   | Oikos          |
| JAZZ INVOCATION       | “Contemplation” | Oikos          |
| INVITATION TO WORSHIP |                 | Mr. Bryan Lohr |

One: As we gather to be the church at work I invite you to *pause*.  
All: **We’ve traveled from near and far to join as a family of faith. Yes, a momentary pause would help to center us in the Spirit.**  
[... Jazz antiphon ...]

One: *Imagine* the possibilities awaiting us during this annual gathering.  
All: **We open ourselves to business NOT as usual, ready to be surprised by holy encounters, even in the most mundane moments.**  
[... Jazz antiphon ...]

One: Christ calls us to follow *creatively*, opening ourselves to the impossible.  
All: **But I’m not creative. Certainly not an artist. Am I? But I’m willing to enter this time to explore the possibilities of God’s blessing.**  
[... Jazz antiphon ...]

One: God calls us to *become* sowers of seeds that can blossom into new life.  
All: **Yes, we are seed sowers, seeking to bring about the fruits of the Spirit in an often barren world.**  
[... Jazz antiphon ...]

One: Pause. Imagine, Create. Become.  
All: **May our worship be a catalyst for creative transformation – ours, the church, and the world!**

|                |                                                             |       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| A SONG TO SING | “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”                              | Oikos |
|                | (An opportunity to re-imagine a favorite hymn in 5/4 meter) |       |



**Penn West Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
Saturday Morning Worship Service  
June 12, 2010

***Following Christ Creatively***

EMBRACING NEW WINESKINS FOR CREATIVE MINISTRY  
*Expand your horizons and experience new possibilities!*

*You can't put the Spirit in a box—  
its transformative power will blow out the walls making  
the box useless, and the Spirit will arise elsewhere;  
so be flexible and create a new spacious imagination for the Spirit.*

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GATHERING MUSIC "Serenade to a Cuckoo" Oïkos

JAZZ INVOCATION "Morning" Oïkos
(Our youth will join Oikos in leading us in meditative movement to greet this new day)

INVITATION TO WORSHIP Youth leadership

One: A new day dawns—rise and welcome the morning.

All: God sets a new day before us.

One: Wake up! Pray and give thanks for this morning.

All: A day filled with limitless possibilities.

One: Blessings reach out before you.

All: A day filled with spectacular blessings!

One: Love calls out to embrace you.

All: A day filled with enormous hugs of love!

One: A new day dawns—rise and welcome the morning.

All: A day to sing praises to our wondrous God!

A SONG TO SING "Morning Has Broken" Oïkos

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

GRACE NOTE

Thoughts about “Creation”

by Frederick Buechner

PRAYER FOR RE-IMAGINING

Youth leadership

God of the cosmos, architect of aardvark and atom, zebra and zorapteran, we gaze upon our world and see your wondrous imagination brought to life in all creation. You bless us beyond measure with the bounty of earthly abundance and grace us with the simplicity of each breath. Each moment is filled with creative possibilities. Help us to pause to recognize the marvels you place before us.

God of sound and silence, mystery and majesty, possibility and probability — open us to your divine questions — whispered in the nooks and crannies of ordinary events, sung out with life’s moments of “aha”, or shouted in the midst of chaos and cacophony. Help us to ponder the limitless possibilities of being created in your holy image — to be your co-creators, imaginative stewards of wild blessings. Amen.

HOLY WISDOM/ HOLY WORD

Mark 2: 21-22

Youth leadership

A SONG TO SING

“Colorful Creator”

Oïkos

FREE PLAY ON THE WORD

“Get Outside the Box!”

Rev. Clifford Aerie

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SAINTS

SONG OF SERVANTHOOD

“Won’t you Let Me Be Your Servant?”

Oïkos

(You are invited to sing along on the final verse)

**Won’t you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Great and wondrous God, you call us to explore the adventurous pathway of life and bless us with companions for the journey. We give thanks this day for those whose lives have touched us deeply, gracing our moments with deep affection and offering their unconditional love. Together we have shared the privilege and joy of ministry, and we are humbled by the responsibility.

Loving and compassionate God, guide us as the future unfolds and our paths diverge, new partners in ministry discovered, as old memories are cherished. May all our pathways converge and meet again in the fullness of your love in Christ Jesus. Amen.

A SONG TO SING

“Give Me a Clean Heart”

Oïkos

**Give me a clean heart, so I may serve you.
God fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I’m not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I’ll follow you.**

WILD BLESSINGS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

“Summertime”

Oikos

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The Oikos Ensemble Trio:

Rev. Clifford Aerie, saxophones

Dr. Christopher Bakriges, piano

Ms. Arianna Aerie, vocalist

**Penn West Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
Saturday Afternoon Closing Worship Service  
June 12, 2010

***Following Christ Creatively***

CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE OF CREATIVE DISCIPLESHIP  
*Don't be fearful. Risk and explore the impossible!*

*Don't ask so much what the world needs.  
Go out and do what makes you come alive,  
because what the world needs most are people who have come alive.*  
—Howard Thurman

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The Journey Beckons ...

GATHERING MUSIC	"Up the Downspout"	Oïkos
INVOCATION	"El Shaddai"	Sacred Motion Dance Troupe
INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY		Barry Fillman

One: God whispers your name, inviting you to dream, to wonder, to be filled with awe as holy possibilities emerge for such a time as this.

All: Is this time of holy possibility meant for me?

One: Yes, you! All of you! Each of you! Anything is possible.

All: All of us? Young, old, sister, brother, cousin, friend, parent, child?

One: Yes, indeed! Breath in the Spirit and expect the impossible.

All: All of us? The proud and the strong, the lost and the searching, the joyous and the sad?

One: Absolutely! Breath in the Spirit and experience the impossible.

All: All of us? Word-arrangers and finger-painters, rope-jumpers and slow-walkers, belly-laughers and soul-singers?

One: Yes! Breath in the Spirit and live the impossible.

All: Here and now God breaks into our experience and calls us to join together in a holy mission—to make the impossible possible!

A SONG TO SING	"Gathered Here"	Oïkos
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**Gathered here in the mystery of this hour,
Gathered here in one strong body,
Gathered here in the struggle and the power,
Spirit draw near.**

A Holy Adventure Awaits ...

GRACE NOTE

Imagination & Creativity

Creative Viewpoints

PRAYER FOR BECOMING (unison)

Barry Fillman

God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, God of all the moments in-between—speak to us anew through your creative whisper. Speak to us in the sound of words—in conversation, dialogue and candor, in the laughter of friends and the tears of family. Speak to us in the cacophony of life and the sweet melodies of song. Speak in our faithful waiting, our doubting despair, in every moment that can transform our lives into hopeful watching.

God of all possibility, expand the borders of our imagination and speak to us anew through the creative call of Jesus Christ—a call when we least expect it, a call when we most need it, a call that inspires us to follow creatively in his footsteps, embracing one another as we travel through our daily journey, seeking new possibilities to share your amazing grace. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

“Amazing Grace”

Oïkos

INSTALLATION OF THE BOARD AND COMMISSIONING OF GENERAL SYNOD 28 DELEGATES

Presentation

Barry Fillman and Alan McLarty

Covenant

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God’s call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

All who are able stand.

Covenant partnership

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Affirmation

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ’s ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaration of Installation and Commissioning.

ANTHEM

“I’m Going on a Journey”

Oïkos & the Conference Choir

Discover Your Pathway

HOLY WISDOM/HOLY WORD	Mark 4: 35-41	Ms. Jill Marie Tony Fields
A SONG TO SING	“Praise to God”	Oïkos
FREE PLAY ON THE WORD	“Move It or Lose It!”	Rev. Clifford Aerie
JAZZ REFLECTION	“Dreams and Visions”	Oïkos

Embrace Others on the Journey

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES Ron Pederson, Jr.
(Our offering has been designated for “Our Church’s Wider Mission)

OFFERTORY “Jiangjing (The Way)” Oïkos

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WE ARE INVITED

Members: Transformational and Renewal Team

Leader 1: This is the place; now is the time. Here and now God breaks into our lives and we are invited to share in this feast of love.

Leader 2: In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, Jesus was always the guest.

Leader 1: The guest – at the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the case of the poor.

Leader 2: The guest – upsetting polite company, befriending the isolated, welcoming the stranger.

People: Jesus was always the guest.

Leader 1: But here, at this table, he is our host.

Leader 2: Here, at this table, he is our hope.

Leader 1: If you seek hope and wholeness in a shattered world, come to the table. Jesus heals broken lives in such a time as this.

People: We seek healing, hope and wholeness.

Leader 2: If you yearn for purpose and direction in life, come feast with us here. Jesus is courage and truth. His way is peace for such a time as this.

People: We seek truth, purpose and direction.

Leader 1: If you hunger for justice, break this bread;

Leader 2: If you thirst for justice drink from this cup.

Leader 1: Jesus hears our cry for peace and reconciliation.

Leader 2: We are welcome here; all are welcome here!

People: Jesus is our host.

ANTHEM “You Are Called to Tell the Story” Oïkos & the Conference Choir

WE PRAISE GOD FOR THIS FEAST Rev. Alan McLarty

One: Praise God for this feast: for the bread and the cup, for the music and the joy, for the friends near and far who share it with us!

All: Praise God for Jesus: for his passion and his grace, for his daring and his courage, for his forgiveness and his mercy.

One: Praise God for the sweet taste of the realm of God, for the drumbeat of justice, for the promise of peace.

All: For Jesus and this feast of joy, praise God!

WE REMEMBER JESUS (unison)

Merciful and gracious God, send now your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, transforming us from the patterns of this passing world, until we are like the One whose food we now share. Amen

WE SHARE THE FEAST

“Nada Teturbe”

Oïkos

WE OFFER THANKS (unison)

Rev. Alan McLarty

Amazing and wondrous God, we give thanks for this holy meal shared in your spirit of love. May this bread and cup be more than a foretaste—but an ever-present reminder of Jesus’ call to live out your holy story of redemption and grace. May it fill us with renewed courage, commitment and compassion to put fear aside, risk the impossible and transform the world. Amen.

A SONG TO SING

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

Oïkos

BENEDICTION

Rev. Alan McLarty & Oïkos

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**The Oïkos Ensemble is ...**

Rev. Clifford Aerie, soprano & tenor saxophones

Dr. Christopher Bakriges, piano

Arianna Aerie, vocals

Nathan Santos, bass

Michael Bodolosky drums

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Special Thanks to ***Sacred Motion***

sacred dance troupe of the United Church of Schellsburg, UCC.

Susie Faupel Felten, Choreographer

Abigail Beaver

Tiereni Griffin

Fiona Knoster

Olivia Knoster

Kirstyn Shippey

Megan Wertz

Music to print in the worship book
(numbers from the New Century Hymnal)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” [NCH #4]

“Colorful Creator” [NCH #30]

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower” [NCH #433]

“Praise to God” [NCH #5]

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work” [NCH #89]