



Rev. Phil Hart,
IKC Consulting Conference
Minister

A Conference E-Pistle

Brought to you by Our Church's Wider Mission

Reflections From
The Indiana-Kentucky Conference



Oct. 10, 2016

Dear Friends,

The chill in the air tells us the season change is here. As with all changes, we will be losing some things... the warm days beside the pool, the family picnic at the park, stepping out and smelling the fresh cut grass. We will also be gaining some things with this change. The autumn leaves, bonfires, pumpkin spice pancakes, coffee, candles, gum (etc.). There are changes going on in our conference. At the Annual Gathering this year, our conference decided to make budget changes that will put us in a stable and balanced budget for the next four years while we try to figure out how to do "conference" into the future. With that change, we will need to change our staffing patterns and workloads. We are using the input from the Dreams and Visions process that you, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, provided us over the first part of 2016. I will be sending out a letter and emails to our conference explaining more of those changes, but let me briefly describe a few.

First, we have had two staff take new positions and will be leaving our conference. We announced and celebrate Rev. Carrie Call's ministry a few weeks ago. This last week, Val Ruess accepted a new job working with an organization that promotes the city of Indianapolis. She has been, for many of us, a friend, colleague and a symbol of our community as a conference. When I walked in the office and saw Val sitting at her desk, even though I had a ton of things to do, I felt a sense of peace. She has that kind of personality. You always knew she would be there with you to get through whatever was going on. We are sad to see Val leave, but this new job has a lot of possibilities for her, so we send her off with our blessings. She will do great! I asked her if she wanted to share a few words in this E-Pistle... she writes:

To my colleagues and friends of the IKC, it has truly been a privilege and blessing to have had the opportunity to work with all of you during my tenure at the IKC. It is simply a good time for me to transition in to something new and I'm very excited about that. Life is full of twists

and turns, and that's a wonderful thing when we embrace them and allow God to lead us along life's journey. I want to thank everyone for your kind words of appreciation and encouragement. That touches my heart and means so much to me. I will be holding the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and all of you in my prayers for a bright future that is full of opportunity and hope. Blessings, Val Ruess

The second point I would like to share is that I have hired, Rev. Dennis Frische-Mouri and Rev. Elizabeth (Izzy) Harbin as part-time transitional associate conference ministers. They will help us serve and support the churches in the northern part of our conference, while Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner will continue to serve and support the churches in the southern part of our conference. Please reach out to these people, the conference office, or to me with any needs you may have.

The season of change is here. It is the end and the beginning at the same time. Last week I moved to a new apartment - the craziest, hardest move ever. I shared some of my struggles on Facebook and a friend wrote to me and told me about a 5-year-old who was playing goalie on a soccer team. After this 5-year-old missed a shot she shouted out to my friend, "Persevere!"

Out of the mouths of babes.

We get through much just by hanging in there and persevering. Think how much more we can do when we pray and support one another through the changes. It reminds me of the prayer from Saint Julian of Norwich:

"All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well... For there is a Force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go."

Phil Hart
philh@ikcucc.org

Sincerely,

Indiana-Kentucky Conference
United Church of Christ
ikc@ikcucc.org



The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ was selected as a Constant Contact All Star in 2011, 2012 & 2013



Indiana-Kentucky Conference
United Church of Christ
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 155
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 924-1395
<http://ikcucc.org>

