



The Council for Health &  
Human Service Ministries

---

United Church of Christ

# CHHSM and the Local Church

---

---

Past, Present, and Future

*2020 CHHSM 82nd Annual Gathering: Justice and Grace –Together*

# Introductions

---

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino, Lakewood Congregational Church

Rev. Andrea Asselmeier, Emmaus Homes

# *Diana Butler Bass*

## *Grounded: Finding God in the World*

“The biblical narrative is that of a God who comes close, compelled by a burning desire to make heaven on earth and occupy human hearts.” Page 13.

IN A VENN DIAGRAM  
BETWEEN HEAVEN AND  
EARTH...

— OUR JOB AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST —  
IS TO OCCUPY THE OVERLAP



# Introductions

---

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino, Lakewood Congregational Church

Rev. Andrea Asselmeier, Emmaus Homes

# History of CHHSM and our UCC Churches

“...a pattern of caring that gave rise to many church-related organizations, created by lay and clergy, begun from simple, faith-driven acts of loving care.”

– page 2, The Church’s Arm of Charity

“Health and welfare services are an integral part of the ministry of the church, not an optional segment of its program. Through the expression of its faith by love and service, the church encompasses the well-being of the whole person and the whole human community. Thus the church is vitally related to all aspects of health and welfare.”

– Lee Rockwell, 1961

# Discussion Questions

- How is your current CHHSM setting connected to the United Church of Christ?
- How is your current church, if you have one, connected to CHHSM?

# Discussion Questions

- What makes your agency one of a “Just, Caring, and Compassionate World” in a different way than a secular health and human service agency?
- Would your agency be different if it was not connected to the United Church of Christ? How?



# Discussion Questions

- Can you imagine some ways in which you might benefit from a stronger connection to your UCC roots or to the denomination today?
- Can you imagine ways that our local churches might benefit from a stronger connection to HHS agencies (note: not all UCC churches are near a CHHSM agency, but may be able to find similar connections with other HHS agencies in their communities)

# Reflecting on our Opening Worship

---

Our faith draws us together here in Memphis

*Toward Tomorrow – Together We Learn, Together We Flourish*

# Takeaways

- What are we taking away from this conversation today?
- What are some of your dreams about the future of CHHSM and our UCC Churches?