

# **PNC UCC Stewardship Reflections August 2021**

**by Martha Baldwin**

I am writing this message a week after experiencing the Special Edition Online General Synod 33 as a visitor. So much of what I witnessed represents my dreams for the future of the United Church of Christ and our Pacific Northwest Conference.

General Synod 33 started on the first day with delegates passing a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. This echoed for me our conference's commitment back at the Fall Gathering in October 2019 to make anti-racism work a priority. Racial Justice was intentionally woven throughout the week of Synod. If you missed out on attending Synod, you can catch up on the highlights at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

Between the radically inclusive spirit filled worship and the deeply rich keynote addresses, I am left with a reaffirmation of the commitment made at our Annual Meeting in April 2021 to allocate a significantly meaningful portion of our annual budget toward anti-racism work.

Sometimes I find myself becoming impatient with what feels like our conference and churches just TALKING about this work and not DOING anything about it. Plans are being made and will be revealed soon.

In the meantime, I am following the lead of my fellow Stewardship Committee member Ed Coleman and have made a financially significant contribution toward the PNC Anti-Racism Fund at [www.pncucc.org](http://www.pncucc.org). It is the first fund listed in the many choices available under Donate.

I encourage any of you who share my passion for this work to make a pre-campaign donation. This will show our conference Board of Directors and Stewardship Committee that you are on board and support this timely and life-saving work.

Here are some closing words from Keynote Speaker, Valarie Kaur, Civil Rights Activist and Founder of the Revolutionary Love Project "Deep solidarity is rooted in love...So I let your story into my heart, even when it is hard. I let your grief become my grief."