

July –August Ministry Packet
Commission on Child Advocacy
Susquehanna Conference, UMC
Rev. Dr. Ed Zeiders, Commission Chairperson

The Commission on Child Advocacy is an agency of the Conference dedicated to (1) awaken the congregations and agencies of the Annual Conference to the risks and well-being of the children, youth, and their families who live on the margins of the thirty-two counties of the Annual Conference; (2) to increase the level of involvement of local congregations, clusters of churches, and networked partners within the many and varying contexts of ministry; and (3) to equip, build partnerships, and assist in sustaining *child advocacy ministries* in effective and impactful ways within communities and regions across the Conference.

The Commission is authorized to establish advocacy congregations (Phase III) within each of the seven districts, to help local congregations align with other local churches, agencies and the social service networks in each county or region to collaborate on behalf of children, young people, and families who are seriously at risk in our communities. The Commission will visit with prospective congregations to interpret the advocacy work to laity and clergy ready to take these vital next steps. Please contact Rev. Ed Zeiders, at 814-308-3343 or email Ed at ezeiders@susumc.org for more information to set up a Zoom meeting or face-to-face dialogue in your setting. We look forward to walking alongside on behalf of so many who have no voice.

The Love a Child Fund: The Commission on Child Advocacy also assists congregations or collaborating partners through grants from the “Love a Child Fund,” an endowed fund of the Stewardship Foundation. If interested in a grant, send an email to Ed Zeiders, Commission Chairperson, explaining your ministry with children and young people who are at risk, or your interest in building such a ministry and mission. In keeping with our interest in disciple-making and reaching new people for Christ and the Church, the Commission is eager to assist. Use the contact info above to talk about a possible grant.