**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ANTOINETTE BROWN AWARD NOMINATION**

General Synod 35

July 11-15, 2025, in Kansas City, MO



[ ]  **Emerging Innovator**

[ ]  **Trailblazer**

[ ]  **Elder**

[ ]  **Community Catalyst**

***Celebrating the life and ministry of Antoinette Brown and all womxn in ministry***

Nominees for***Emerging Innovators****,* ***Trailblazers, Elders***must be clergywomxn\* in the UCC who honor Antoinette Brown’s vision of womxn’s calling to leadership in church and society. We seek to honor exceptional emerging leaders, those currently blazing new trails, and those whose work exemplifies a lifetime of achievement, with an emphasis on forging a path for women in ministry, and a commitment to racial justice.

Nominees for***Community******Catalysts***must be clergywomxn serving in Specialized Settings whose projects, collectives, or organizations provide a provocative space that advances racial justice and empowers women in ministry.

A persuasive nomination will offer a detailed account of the nominee’s leadership; use additional pages as needed. A minimum of **three letters of support**, as well as any supporting documentation, may be attached to this form or as email attachments. Additionally, we require contact information for at least **two verbal references**. Websites and links to online platforms are encouraged.

Awardees will be honored at General Synod and invited to keynote at our Clergywomxn’s Leadership event. Travel expenses and an honorarium are included. Awardees and all nominees will be contacted in spring of 2025 to share the decisions.

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of nominee:**  | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| **Email address of nominee:**   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| **Address and phone of nominee:**   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| **Year ordained:**   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| **Present ministry:**   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |

**Antoinette Brown was a pioneer who worked to advocate for women's leadership, racial justice, and transformation in church and society. How does this nominee carry on that spirit of justice in their work? (see Wikipedia…)**

 ​Click or tap here to enter text.​

**Briefly share the nominee’s vision, impact, and accomplishments:**

​​Click or tap here to enter text.​

**Add any further comment you wish to make about the nominee:**

​​Click or tap here to enter text.​

|  |  |
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| ***Person submitting the nomination:***   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| ***Contact information:***   | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |

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| ***Verbal References:***   | ***Contact Information:***   |
| ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
| ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
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| ***Written References:***  | ***Contact Information:***  |
| ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  | ​​Click or tap here to enter text.​  |
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**Deadline to send in completed nomination packet - January 31, 2025, to**

Rev. Tara Barber

Minister for Ministerial Support and Accountability

United Church of Christ

1300 E 9th Street, Suite 1100, Cleveland, OH 44115

barbert@ucc.org; 866-822-3840

Background information and instructions on following page -

**Background**

Rev Antoinette Brown was ordained into Congregational Ministry in 1853. We trace her as an ancestor in faith as the first white woman ordained into mainline Christian ministry in the United States. She was an advocate for justice, working within and beyond the church toward racial, social, and economic justice. The UCC has offered awards in her honor since 1975.

**Nomination Instructions**

Please complete the attached nomination form and provide the contact information for two individuals who will offer verbal references, along with names of those who will be writing references. A minimum of three written references are required to complete the nomination process.

References can be gathered and sent in a single email from the nominator or sent individually to Rev Tara Barber barbert@ucc.org by Jan 31, 2025.

The leadership team will be reviewing nominations and references looking for UCC Clergywomxn\* who exhibit the following attributes - leadership, justice seeking, engaged in anti-racism work, dedicated to women’s ministries and issues, commitment to the UCC, and demonstrated excellence in ministry.

Please indicate the particular award.

**Emerging Innovator** - those entering ministry with creativity and ingenuity who are gathering folks in new ways.

**Trailblazer** - more experienced clergywomxn serving in pastoral ministry (local church or wider church), who has developed a unique path in ministry and is lighting the way for others to follow.

**Elder** - seasoned clergywomxn who throughout their ministry have established a distinguished legacy of justice and hope.

**Catalyst** – clergywomxn serving in a specialized setting such as chaplaincy, para-church or non-profit organizations whose work exemplifies Rev Antoinette Brown’s commitment to justice in the community.

**Recognition**

Awardees will be invited to be celebrated at General Synod in Kansas City, MO, July 11-15, 2025, and invited to keynote at our Clergywomen’s Leadership Gathering in 2026. Date and location to be determined. An honorarium plus reimbursement for traveling expenses will be provided.

\*Clergywomxn = womxn spelled with an “x” is an inclusive and expansive spelling embodying and honoring the complexity of gender beyond the spectrum.