



April 23, 2017

## 2017 Spring Meeting: "Pre-Meetings"

### Why Attend ?



**Tuesday, May 9th - 6:30 pm @ Zion Blue Mountain, Bernville**  
**Wednesday, May 17th @ Church of the Ascension, Norristown**  
 Reservations not required.

Why have pre-meetings to our Spring Meeting? Why should you attend? The answer may be, you don't have to but you may want to!

These meetings will be an opportunity to discuss items that will be on the agenda for the Conferring session. Items such as the discussion and subsequent vote on whether our conference leadership team will move forward in talks with the PNE Conference regarding a possible merger or the revision of the Constitution and By-laws (very minor changes).

Prior to these meetings the "Vision for a new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UCC" and the proposed revised Constitution and By-laws will be posted to the Spring Meeting section of the PSEC website—psec.org . Take the time to review these documents and come prepared to have an open dialog. "A Vision for a new Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UCC" will also be highlighted in next week's Communitas.

This is your conference and it is in our working together, in open and honest discernment, that we will be a "unified portion of the Body of Christ moving in a collaborative direction to effect for God and for good the lives of all people living in Southeast Pennsylvania and beyond".

## Ventures 2017

### September 26-28

Have you ever heard about Ventures or have you heard about it and wondered what it is? Well, wonder no more.

The 42nd annual Ventures Retreat will be held September 26-28 at the Mariawald Renewal Center in Cumru Township just outside Shillington. Prior to its current home of 5 years, Ventures was held at Camp Fernbrook, Camp Mensch Mill and the Kline Center. This year the theme is **Opening to Grace: God's Healing Ways**. Rev. Wanda Craner will be the keynote presenter on Tuesday.



There are many aspects to Ventures and one of them is the fellowship among participants. Plenty of free time is provided. Strangers become friends. There is always a jigsaw puzzle in need of completing as well as other activities. Mariawald is in a beautiful location. The rooms are comfortable and spacious. The meals are delicious. People also enjoy spending time outside if the weather permits.

The retreat begins with lunch on Tuesday. After lunch there is a get acquainted period followed by a presentation on the theme. There is free time before dinner then an evening theme session followed by worship. Snacks and fellowship follow worship. Bible study follows breakfast on Wednesday morning. Then workshops on various themes are provided. A program and free time follow lunch. In the evening there will be worship and communion. Snacks and fellowship again follow worship. Thursday morning includes Bible study and a sharing time which is followed by worship and lunch.

Here are some comments from former participants:  
 "There was great sharing among the participants."  
 "It was my first time and it was great. The support I received was truly a blessing."  
 "It was a truly wonderful experience."  
 "I would highly recommend it to others."

The cost of \$160 covers 7 meals and all program expenses. Registration information for Ventures will be on the conference's website in early June. For additional information contact June Rung – 610-683-6563.