

JCVDT PSEC Fall Meeting

1. What has been your role in the life of the Conference? (committees, mission, etc.)

Board of directors, //

National footprint

Committee work (represents all committees) //////////

Investment

Pastor //

Church delegates ///

Attend conference meetings ///

Mission //

Shared ministry – union church

Clergy convocation

Clergy women's retreat

Outdoor and retreat ministry

Evangelism

General Synod delegate //

Phoebe home & Bethany Home

Student in care //

OCWM support

2. What experience have you had with your conference? Positive (P) & Negative (N)

Positive

Mostly positive

Quality of people

Helpful in search committee ///

Member of Board of Directors – eye opening experience to larger body at work

Good response from conference staff

Gets resources out or has them available

Clergy convocation

National youth event

Faith alive

Good meetings

Negative

both conferences have gotten out of the Mensch Mill program

not enough fellowship in PSE

signed up to serve – was never contacted

had tremendous difficulty with in care process (2005-2007)

not sensitive to local church needs – dictated what will happen – not listening

Better attitude from our church about the conference

Better education about the conference

3. How might we strengthen our covenant to be church in Eastern PA, by becoming one conference?

Whenever people gather to do good work – the spirit grows & becomes stronger

Strength in numbers & resources ////

Joint Great Love mission project

“Undie Sunday” & “Socket to me” – collect underwear for homeless

Cost savings

Streamline positions

Positive, fun spirit

Move conference office to Palmerton

Mission

Disaster relief and long-term recovery

Voice for the voiceless

Strengthen ministry

Outreach to community

Wider outreach

Strengthen rural churches

Prayer

Talk to one another

Be open to ways in which we make ministry work and not be tied to old ways

Live up to our motto that they may all be one

**Partner churches NE/SE*

Host the congregation for an event & worship

**Strengthen clergy convocation – it’s a great event*

**Strengthen PNEC women’s connection program (Bethlehem AMC) for all the women’s guilds and organizations for both conferences*

**Develop preaching retreats for all clergy – this will help folks to get to know one another*

**Develop shared workshops that mix churches together in mission //*

**Have a mixer to get people to get to know one another – lay people //*

**Have a camp for youth and adults*

*these are good comments that were not included in summary

4.What are your deepest hopes for a new conference?

Better communication
 Sharing strengths & spiritual works //
 Hope – ability to reach more people who feel “outside” of church community
 One great conference made from 2 good conferences
 Consistency between conferences
 Church & ministry Guidelines
 More diversity //
 Revitalize our outdoor minister
 Continue to offer educational opportunities
 Affirming God’s love for all people
 Change into a church in the world
 Support/leadership/networking
 Strengthen rural churches
 More resources & education opportunities //
 That we can market our religious traditions in a better and more concerted effort
 Evangelism – we need to grow our UCC together
 Youth events that will really bring some #’s of youth together
 Develop 10 new churches each decade
 Increase specialized staff for larger conference //
 Strength in numbers
 Greater voice in state
 To see the new conference working together and show other conferences that growth physical and spiritual is very possible.
 More money for mission
 To help facilitate our congregations to change with the times
 More collaboration

5.What have you heard about the work of the JCVDT before today?

Very good things – sincere about wanting to hear from everyone and address all concerns
 Moving slowly to do so – but personal anxious for us to move along toward goal
 Heard about it at Spring meeting ///
 Nothing ///
 They have big plans
 Working to dialogue, discover talents, strengthen our wider ministries and outreach by sharing together
 Its moving forward
 Done deal
 Its in early stages
 Small groups, emails about process
 General synod conference got together
 My pastor is on the committee, but I don’t know what JCVDT is doing
 Need to consolidate for co-operation and saving money