

JCVDT Town Hall Meeting PNEC

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

Not much

Wasn't sure who was on the team

Assumption that the merger is a done deal

Misconception about the process being already determined and what is happening

A merger is only a possibility, not a done deal and will be a slow process

Conference mailings not enough

Didn't we already decide to do it?

Staff was worried that they might not have a position.

Asked about the history

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

Looking at new ways of being church P

Came away from spring meeting energized about the possibilities P but then was hard to keep energy up once back in the congregation N

Served on MID team and meeting all the different candidates P hard to maintain energy N

Licensed pastor experienced positive energy during licensing process - and negative felt like she had to make her way on her own as requirements and expectations changed mid-course.

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

To look back 10 years from now and say "We made a good decision."

Hope this works and we don't mess it up

More resources to help congregations that are struggling

Equip local churches for 21st Century

Help with mergers, losings, planting and revitalization

Need to revitalize our spirits (spiritual life) God is a God of abundance

Move forward with more resources

Bring peace & hope & ability to embrace the future

Build excitement

Casting the vision

Hold up our covenantal relationships - not retreat into our autonomy

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

Sharing ministries

Congregational leadership development

Think tank - creative ministry lab to experiment with worship, outreach, governance, etc

Sharing mission, people, info, training, retreats - intentionally working together

Guidance for local churches to work together in mutual ministry partnership

Best practices - sharing what is working

Online resource bank of info, speakers, resources

Congregational coaches