



February 25, 2018



Training the Volunteers who Make It Happen!

The Leadership Project, unveiled at our PSEC Fall Meeting, November 2017, is an effective online training tool for all church leaders and potential leaders. The Leadership Project allows leaders to:

- Develop strong leadership skills
- Help team members feel heard and know their opinion is valued
- The Leadership Training Program is four modules:
  - ◇ Effectively Engaging a Project Team
  - ◇ Running an Effective Meeting
  - ◇ Listening Fully, Responding Intentionally
  - ◇ From Conflict to Conversation
  - ◇ Videos introduce each learning module
- Each module contains three lessons
  - ◇ Videos are used to explain important skills in each lesson
  - ◇ Each lesson provides one or more guide, worksheet and template to implement the skills taught.

If you or your church has not yet taken advantage of this outstanding training tool, don't wait another day!!

Log into the PSEC website (psec.org) and on the slider at the top of the page titled "Strengthen your church leaders—Free online leadership training" click the "more info" box to learn how to begin your training....today!

Contact Sue (susan@psec.org / 484-949-8774 x 312) at the PSEC office with any questions.

## Necessary Endings: When Does Closure Become An Option

### Workshop

**Saturday, April 21st**

**9:00 am—12:00 noon**

**Location: One UCC**

**1730 New Holland Road, Reading**



**To Register: [psecclosure.eventbrite.com](https://psecclosure.eventbrite.com)**

Being an authentic disciple of Christ is not easy. Living together in Christian Community is equally challenging. Churches are confronted with ongoing threats to their existence. That is nothing new to our 2,000 year history. But that means something different when it's your church's future that is in doubt.

On an average day in the United States, nine churches close their doors for good. Since 2014, one PSEC congregation has closed, on average, every six months. This isn't often talked about in church circles—partly because that news is filled with feelings of profound loss and grief. It's the source of uncomfortable shame—that somehow church members failed to do all they could do to maintain their sacred space. It provokes questions about the power and/or presence of God. Taken together, these things make it difficult to say what sometimes needs to be said: "It's time for our church to close."

The writer of Ecclesiastes is quick to remind us there is a season for all things—"a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted." This is true for ALL things in life, for ourselves, the people we love and the churches we call home. There are times to plant new ministries and times to end existing ones. PSEC has groups working on both.

The Conference Church Closing Team is comprised of people who have helped congregations bring meaningful closure to their years of faithful ministry. They have created a printed resource called Necessary Endings to assist with that process. They will introduce it and themselves and those resources at this workshop. Lay leaders and pastors will be able to discern difficult questions with brothers and sisters who are sharing a similar predicament of congregation decline and potential closure.