

Whereas the United Church of Christ conducted a 2014 study reviewing the health and vitality of conferences across the United Church; and

Whereas the 2014 study identified the need for and the desire for Conferences to begin working collaboratively; and

Whereas the need to innovate, leverage resources, share responsibilities to support local congregations and settings of the church has become more and more apparent to the congregations, associations and conferences in Eastern Pennsylvania; and

Whereas the Council of Conference Ministers has supported the work of conferences through its relationships with the administrative staff of conferences, financial and resource support as conferences continued our conversations and discussions about collaborative initiatives; and

Whereas the Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference determined at their spring 2017 annual meetings a vision statement to work together to explore the opportunities which forming a new conference might provide; and

Whereas the Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference have continued conversations which have resulted in a draft design for a possible new unified conference; and

Whereas the Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Annual meetings passed a resolution (attached) at their Annual Fall Meetings (November 3, 2018 – PNEC and November 10, 2018- PSEC);

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Synod 32 does hereby approve the change of geographic boundaries for both the Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference so they might continue their conversations for unification and the formation of a potential new conference.