



February 24, 2019

## Looking for Individuals to Join the Joint PSEC/PNEC Disaster Ministry Team

For some time both PA Southeast and Penn Northeast conferences have been active in disaster ministries in eastern PA and throughout the UCC. We can celebrate the ministry that we have had, but now it is time to take a fresh look at what God is calling us to do and be. Over the past few years our Conferences have affirmed that we share a ministry relationship, even though we are not moving forward with the unified conference council at this time.

Therefore, we are seeking to consult with people who have a passion for Disaster Ministries as we seek to discover if and how we can work together. Therefore, **you are invited to the initial meeting of the joint PNEC/PSEC Disaster Ministry Team on March 11 at 6:30 pm** at the Penn Northeast Conference Office (a Zoom option will be available). We will explore some "What if..." questions, seeking ways to grow and enhance our Disaster Ministries Initiatives:

*What if ...* our Conferences would be engaged in a collaborative disaster ministry program, sharing leadership and resources? Is this the right time?

*What if ...* we could get others involved? Who should that be?

*What if ...* we had some common goals and objectives? What protocols should guide our collaborative ministry?

*What if ...* we would start working together? What are the first steps we would take?

We ask that you pray about your response to this opportunity. If you are interested in participating, please contact Karl Jones at [kjones275@comcast.net](mailto:kjones275@comcast.net), so we can prepare for your attendance.

Rev. Karl Jones, *PSEC Disaster Coordinator*

## Necessary Endings: When Does Closure Become An Option

**Saturday, April 6th**  
**9:00 am—12:00 noon**  
**@ St. James UCC, Limerick**

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 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." This workshop is intended to create a safe space where difficult questions can be discerned with brothers and sisters who are sharing a similar predicament of congregation decline and potential closure. You will receive resources and meet lay people and pastors who have church closure experiences that can be put to work for you as you discern your congregation's future.



**Register at: <https://psecclosure19.eventbrite.com>**

## Church Stewardship Workshop Set for This Spring

Need to energize and revitalize your church's strategies for faithful generosity? Does your church find it hard to talk about money?

UCC Church Building & Loan Fund would like to make you aware of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center's "Generosity transformed! your mission\*your ministry\*your money Conference", April 30-May 3 in Indianapolis.

For conference details and to register, visit:  
<https://stewardshipresources.org/generosity-transformed/>.

### There is a live streaming option for this event!

UCC Church Building & Loan Fund can help your church with stewardship and much more! For more information, contact Jill White, Regional Mission Interpreter, [whitej@ucc.org](mailto:whitej@ucc.org).