News from the Keystone Study Group

Communications Team
Steve Davis    St. John’s UCC, Fullerton (Penn NE)
Sterling Fritz Redeemer’s UCC, Littlestown (PCC UCC)
Robin Hightower Peace In Zion UCC, Zieglerville (Penn SE)
Deb Long       First Trinity UCC, Youngwood (PWC)

On Friday, November 11, 2022, the second gathering of the Keystone Study Group (a study and discernment group of the 4 PA UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, Pennsylvania SE) continued to build our understanding and framing around the possibility of coming together for the work of mission and ministry as one (1) Pennsylvania conference. Over the last several months, using resources provided by all 4 conferences, initial conversations have occurred to explore what new thing God may be calling together in our area.

We spent much of our time identifying a vision for healthy congregations, the supports needed from the conference, and the potential roadblocks to moving forward together. As churches and leaders across many denominations discern the changing landscape of “doing church” and how we can “Be the Church” in new and life-giving ways, we are exploring what we, as conferences, could do to help local congregations and pastors experience deeper connections and provide support for vitality. We are identifying the challenges of navigating through uncertain times and new ways of intergenerational connections to our present and future communities with the message of hope our faith, experience and tradition has to offer. Together, the study group will be asking the significant questions to strengthen the connection between pastors and local congregations and larger conference networks of the PA UCC conferences to share support, resources, experiences, training and equipping and offer hope.

We welcome and appreciate your prayers as this body of leaders from the 4 PA UCC Conferences study and explore together, gaining valuable information from you and melding the ways we work together to imagine and see the possibilities God is bringing to us. We hold all these things in sacred trust of our shared covenantal relationships.

Respectfully submitted,
Keystone Project Communications Team

Looking for something new for members?
Christmas Coloring Books make ideal Christmas gifts for kids and adults alike. Five themes available: The Light Shines in the Darkness, Shepherd the Light, God’s Love Colors Everything, The Light Is Surely Coming and For Such a Time as This. Order at uccresources.com, search coloring books.

Book Study: “Breathing Under Water”

Breathing Underwater by Richard Rohr study starts Tuesday January 10 at 7:30 to 8:30 by zoom. The number of sessions will be determined by the group. Who should attend: Anyone interested in learning more about spiritual healing for themselves and others.

Breathing Under Water by Richard Rohr is a written within the framework of the 12 steps for those experiencing addiction. But this book is so much more. Rohr goes through the steps weaving biblical passages into the fabric of the steps in such a way that every one of us can benefit from the spiritual journey he takes us on. This book will broaden your understanding of the deeply spiritual healing that takes place in recovery as well as the deeply spiritual healing we all need.

Note: Participants will need to purchase book themselves before the first session.

Go to psec.org and click January 10th on the calendar (under the Event & News tab) for more