OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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February 26, 2023

OFFICIAL CALL— PSEC ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

Friday, June 2—Saturday, June 3
@ West Chester University
110 W. Rosedale Ave.
West Chester, PA

Register at: https://psecannual23.eventbrite.com

With the future of the church being anything but status quo, we find ourselves in a wilderness experience struggling to navigate the harsh realities and uncertainties of what lies ahead.

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to enter into a time of oasis, where you can take in a deep breath, commune with the Spirit of Christ, find renewal, and know that you are not alone in the struggle. We invite you to open to the Spirit's leading as we explore together the life-giving seeds of possibilities within the wilderness experience, and re-imagine what it means to be the Body of Christ in this place and time.

That reimagining includes building partnerships between local churches who share resources (including pastors), merge ministries, and connect with community partners.

Representatives from congregations around our conference will share how this has been life giving for them and how they overcame longtime resistance to making it happen. Similarly, representatives of the Keystone Study Group will share their conversations about creating partnerships between and among our four PA Conference that may lead to a four Conference merger.

PSEC Climate Justice Team Visits Eastwick

In February, members of the Climate Justice Team, Marian Shearer, Karl Jones, Austin Chinault, Zach Jackson, and Barbara Pence, visited the Eastwick Community in Philadelphia to hear about their ongoing work around the environmental justice issues of living in a community built next to Cobbs Creek in spite of its tendency to flood and an over 50 acre trash dump that is now an EPA Superfund site. In addition, the team visited two homes to see the damage and to hear the homeowners' stories from when Hurricane Isaias flooded their homes and community in early 2020. The tour was led by Ted Pickett of Eastwick United Community Development Corporation and Victor Jackson of Eastwick United Methodist Church. The Team saw contractors replacing doors using materials funded by a Lowe's grant obtained through the UCC Global HOPE Team. The contractors were funded by another grant from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. Both grants have been managed through the PA Southeast Conference. Volunteers have been coordinated by another UCC Partner in Service, Sharon Sgriccia.

The Climate Justice team then met with church members of Eastwick United Methodist Church and their pastor, Rev. Tracey Duncan, Denise Shelton, from the Eastern PA Conference United Methodist Disaster Ministries, Eileen San Pedro, whose home flooded and, through the recovery work of the UCC Disaster Ministries, became a UCC partner in service, and the CEO of Eastwick United Community Development Corporation, Carolyn Moseley, who gave a presentation on the history of the environment injustices present in the Eastwick and how they're working for justice.

The trip was set up by Karl Jones, our PSEC Conference Disaster Coordinator and a member of the PSEC Climate Justice Team. The team is currently creating a video to share the Eastwick story and hope to have it available to churches by the Spring Meeting of the Conference.