



May 7, 2023

Are your church delegates registered for the

The — **PSEC** ANNUAL MEETING 2023
 Pennsylvania Southeast Conference



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

Go to psec.org and click on the Annual Meeting Information slider for information and a link to registration!

All churches can register all clergy, 2 delegates and 1 youth delegate. Churches over 800 in membership, can register 3 delegates and 1 youth delegate. Don't miss having your church represented!



**From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce:
 Words to ponder**

"Deep communion and dear compassion is formed much more by shared pain than by shared pleasure."

Richard Rohr, *Breathing Under Water*, p. 123

**From the Associate Conference Minister
 for Search & Call:
 The First Lay Leadership Convocation**

On April 15, seventy-three of us gathered to participate in the first Lay Leadership Convocation being held at Trinity Reformed UCC and Zion's UCC in Pottstown, who generously donated their space and labor to this gathering. When the Planning Team, under the wise leadership of the Rev. Dr. Charles Maxfield, was putting together this gathering we really had no sense of how the Convocation would be received. We worried if there would be enough interest, or whether we had chosen topics that would interest those in lay leadership. There were basic workshops on how the UCC works to how to do Sunday School post-Covid to more nuanced topics such as the spirituality of lay leadership. Thankfully, many of you did respond, and the initial feedback on the evaluation forms was positive. I'm thankful for the souls who took a Saturday from their busy lives to explore these topics. There will be another Lay Leadership Convocation next Spring, with some new topics being addressed, and our hope is that more will join the conversation.

It felt hopeful to me that we as a church are beginning to understand that the future really is shared, that we will have to keep exploring ways of both empowering the laity to share in some parts of pastoral leadership in new ways, as well as sharing resources between congregations. It is a mantra of mine that "the future is shared" and we might as well get on board before we get left behind. In my last congregation, we shared our confirmation classes and youth group with another UCC congregation nearby, and we were both enriched by the experience. It also laid the groundwork for future conversations about how these congregations might share more ministry with each other in the future, as each of us dealt with the "post-Christendom" reality in America. The time is now to start asking this fundamental question: what can we do together that makes all of us stronger for the cause of Christ?

Kevin

Rev. Kevin J. McLemore

Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call