

Keystone Study Group: Summary of June 16, 2023 Meeting

The sixth meeting of the Keystone Study Group* took place Friday, June 16, 2023. Guided by the Spirit, the study group whole-heartedly affirms the possibility of becoming ONE Keystone Conference. In our May and June meetings, we clarified WHAT a Keystone Conference would look like. We were mindful of all the ways a Keystone Conference can serve, support, challenge and unite our diverse faith communities and ministries. In all we addressed, we aimed to imagine a vibrant way of being the Body of Christ in our areas.

We focused on four additional areas of conference leadership. Considering *Search and Call* process and resources, we delved into how congregations connect with the conference and leadership authorization. With *Church Futures* we explored how ministry priorities may define where resources may be best used. Creating healthier places of ministry remains our goal. *Digital Ministry & Technology* and *Communication* at all levels, will help us build a **“together we are stronger”** culture and relationships. We recognized the conference role to fulfill its covenant with all areas of ministry: the urban hubs and rural settings, local congregations and specialized ministries.

Participants in all four conference meetings both affirmed and expressed important reflections about a Keystone Conference. Overall, meeting attendees shared energy, enthusiasm and support for continuing our study and work toward recommendations for Conference leaders and congregations. Our consensus remains, **“Together we are stronger! The Keystone Conference.”**

Our partnered work is greater than our individual efforts. We choose to embody what we want to see! May the Spirit of Christ inspire us all in the next steps of our journey in the assurance that . . . **“Together We Are Stronger! The Keystone Conference.”**

Sharing our progress in grace and hope,

KSG Communications Team

Steve Davis	St. John's UCC, Fullerton (PNEC)
New Addition (TBA)	from PNEC in July
Robin Hightower	Peace In Zion UCC, Zieglerville (PSEC)
Deb Long	First Trinity UCC, Youngwood (PWC)

With appreciation to Bob Fogal (PSEC) for additional review support.

*A study and discernment group of the 4 PA area UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, and Pennsylvania SE