



July 30, 2023

## Announcing Partnership between PSEC and Vanco

Exciting news for online giving! Whether your church is already using Vanco OR you are using another vendor OR if you haven't yet set up an online giving platform, we invite you to attend the webinar on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and learn what Vanco offers. Through the Conference's partnership with Vanco, all will benefit from reduced transaction fees when you come under the umbrella of the Conference! Register now and mark your calendar!

Approximately 750 UCC congregations trust Vanco for online giving and driving engagement. And with good reason. Vanco provides UCC Churches with...

Increased giving: Vanco clients see an average increase of 26% in giving.

Easy donation reconciliation: We integrate with more than 60 of the most popular church management software systems.

Complete virtual church: Vanco Live is the single tool congregations use to combine online worship, giving and discussion to a single website window.

Service: Our U.S.-based client services team is always here to help. And we answer the phone with nearly zero wait time.

Pricing: Discounted group rates available because of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference's partnership with Vanco.

Join us for a presentation about how you can grow your giving through Vanco on Tuesday, August 22 at 12:00pm EST. To register go to [psec.org](http://psec.org) and click on the Events & News tab. Click the calendar and go to August 22nd to receive more information and the link to registration.

# VANCO

## The Keystone Project....what is it?

In January 2022, the Conference Ministers of the four Pennsylvania Conferences gathered to discuss the urgency of issues confronting all settings of the UCC. We met with an eye toward confronting the divisions and hostilities of our world, and listening with a deep sense of our responsibility to answer Jesus' prayer, 'that they may all be one. We identified the spiritual hunger of our church people and pastors and the call to support and develop the local church. We dreamed about new ways to serve Jesus and our churches by drawing on the strength and giftedness of our clergy, congregations, leaders, and Conference staff.

We are not the church that we were when the denomination was formed in 1957 and our current contexts of ministry are different. The pandemic exacerbated the challenges we face. We acknowledge our responsibility to provide support and nourishment to the local church. We recognize our duty to find and develop the leadership needs of our congregations. We own the very real financial challenges that impact the future of our ministries.

Our four conferences share these challenges. Our response to them is strongest when we respond in partnership with each other. The "Keystone Study Group," a group of representatives from all four PA Conferences, was created to explore the possibilities of responding as one.

The first Keystone Study meeting took place October 15, 2022. The Group engaged in community building, learned of some of the statistical results of a February 2022 clergy survey, formed a group covenant, and designed expectations and possible next steps. At the November 2022 meeting, the Study Group named hopes, dreams and blocking forces to the possibility of a merged Conference, created a plan of action for future meetings, and began thinking about the form and function of a new Conference. The Study Group will meet every other month through 2023 with an eye toward crafting discussion and information sharing opportunities around our Conferences as soon as practical.

The PSEC representatives of the Keystone Study Group are Mr. Charles Kuthuru (Moderator), Rev. Melissa Burkhart (Vice-Moderator), Ms. Caroline Bashore (Consistory Secretary), Rev. Robert Fogal (Consistory Treasurer) and staff members Revs. Bill Worley, Kevin McLemore and Cean James.

Updates are posted monthly on the PSEC Website—[psec.org](http://psec.org).