



July 7, 2024

## Lay Leadership Support Group Now Open to ALL CHURCH LEADERS

A Lay Leadership Support Group has existed for several months now, but **a change has been made!**

***The group is NOW OPEN to ALL Lay Leaders, not just Consistory members!***

The group gathers once a month on Zoom – **so please join them at their next meeting September 7th at 10:00 am.** (They are taking the summer off.)

They have found it to be a great place to form new friendships, to gain support, and to be educated on a variety of topics concerning our churches. The discussions are centered around sharing valuable information about what our churches are doing or maybe could be doing. This meeting will be online to make ease of attendance for all!

All past attendees will automatically receive an email with the zoom link the Thursday, prior to the meeting. If you are new to the group, please reach out to Susan at the PSEC office at [susan@psec.org](mailto:susan@psec.org) to be added to the list. You may also get the information by going to Sept. 7th on the PSEC Calendar on the PSEC website ([psec.org](http://psec.org)).

New attendees welcome!



## Get Ready for the PSEC Fall Meeting and the Important Votes That Will be Taken

The PSEC Fall Meeting will take place Saturday, November 9th at Good Shepherd/Tuckerton UCC.

At this meeting not only will we review and vote on the 2025 budget, but this will be the time the Conference delegates will vote on a potential merger with the other three PA Conferences.

To be prepared for these important votes, we will be holding Zoom meetings to address your questions. There will be separate meetings; one set covering the 2025 budget, another covering the possible merger. We will have daytime, nighttime and Saturday am meetings.

Please watch for these meetings to be announced, in the near future and plan to attend so that you will be well-informed for our Fall Meeting.



## From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Stigma

“Addiction is one of the most stigmatized health conditions on earth and prevents people who are struggling from reaching out for help and isolates families affected by the disease who fear being judged by their communities. While over 20 million people in the United States struggle with substance use disorders, nearly half of Americans don’t think that addiction is a disease.

Recent research shows that more than 80% of Americans are unwilling to associate with friends, co-workers, or neighbors suffering from a substance use disorder. Stigma also leads to discrimination in a variety of settings, including health care, criminal justice, employment, child custody, and housing, and creates barriers to accessing evidence-informed treatment and harm reduction services.” Addiction Policy Forum

Contact the Addiction and Recovery Taskforce for tools to reduce stigma. <https://psec.org/missions-ministries/justice-witness/addiction-and-recovery-task-force/>