

PSEC Annual Report 2023



Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

PSEC

United Church of Christ

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Conference Minister's Message

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body

(2 Corinthians 4:8-11)

Friends in Christ,

Paul's words to the people of Corinth capture the essence of our shared experience as a community of faith and a Conference of the United Church of Christ. They speak to the realities of our lives, where challenges loom large, and uncertainties abound. Yet, through it all, we find solace and strength in our faith and our connections with each other, knowing that we are never alone in our struggles to be the church.

The past year has been marked by adversity and uncertainty, testing the resilience of our faith and the depth of our resolve. We are as hard pressed in our day as Paul was in his. The election cycle, wars in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Africa, climate change, racial injustice, homelessness, and all the challenges of being a Christian community of faith have us perplexed, but we need not despair. We carry in us the same life that was in Christ Jesus. We are people of his way which still lights our way.

Through the grace of God and the support of one another, we have kept faith with our Conference's mission to be the link that connects our church's various and diverse ministries both locally and globally. Together, we provide our local churches, pastors and congregations with the training and inspiration they need to carry out our church's wider mission. We are stronger together; therefore, we embrace diversity, and above all, we spread God's love!

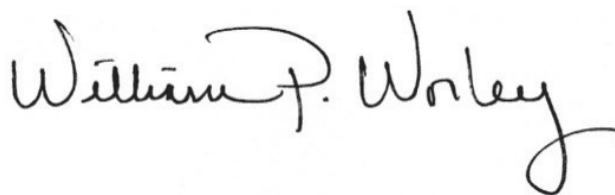
Your generosity and that of the people of your congregation helped our Conference end 2023 on strong financial footing. Some churches were able to contribute more than anticipated and some, facing uncertain futures, less. Almost all contributed something, getting us ever closer to the goal of 100% participation in Our Church's Wider Mission.

This Annual Report reflects the challenges and triumphs of living into that mission as well as our hopes and dreams for a future that is shared between and among congregations and Conferences. To quote our Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call, Rev. Kevin McLemore, "the way forward is shared"—shared pastors between congregations, shared ministries between churches, shared financial resources to "equip the saints for ministry." Conference leaders from the four Pennsylvania Conferences have spent this year discerning how we might share our gifts across the state in one unified conference. This is a momentous undertaking which has helped clarify our essential mission and the life-giving ministries we share to build up the body of Christ.

This report points to the enduring and vital ministries of our conference life made possible by your commitment to our church's mission. While we continue to grow in all the ways that help resource and equip our pastors, lay leaders and congregations for ministry, your generosity remains the key to the future that God intends us to have. To this end, we draw inspiration from the words of Paul and embrace each new day with renewed faith, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in this portion of the Body of Christ that is The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

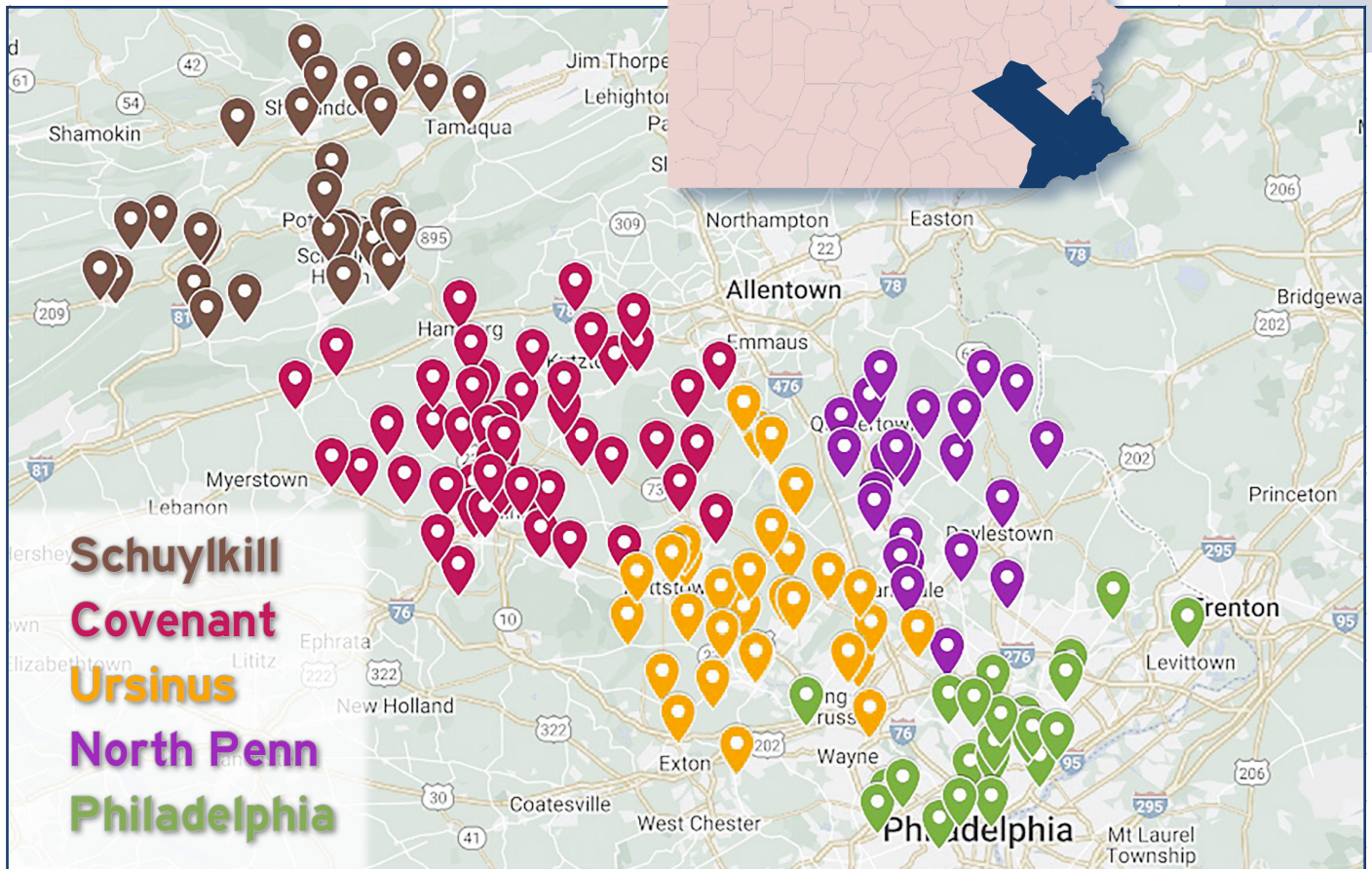
With the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister



*Conference Minister Bill Worley at
2023 Clergy Men's Retreat,
Kirkridge Retreat Center*

What Is PSEC?



5 Associations

150 Congregations

Heartland of the historic German Reformed Church

A bridge between the local and national United Church of Christ:

- One of **4** Pennsylvania conferences
- One of **36** regional conferences
- Part of a national covenant of **745,230** members

PSEC Views and Voices

“

When our pastor first announced that he was leaving Salem, we had no idea what to do next! Thankfully, Associate Conference Minister Rev. Kevin McLemore from PSEC’s Search and Call team was prepared and ready! He walked us through the many steps necessary to write our church’s short profile and begin the process of reading ministerial profiles and interviewing potential candidates. He answered our ongoing questions and eventually introduced us to the perfect candidate for Salem. We even changed our thinking from desiring an interim pastor to hiring a designated term pastor, and we are thrilled with the results! Now, only a year after saying goodbye to our last pastor, we can’t imagine our community without Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright. We are beyond grateful for Kevin’s guidance and input during the search and call process at Salem Church. ”

—Beth Mann, Transition Team Chair, Salem UCC Doylestown



Pastor Alexis Fuller-Wright at Salem UCC, Doylestown.

PSEC Views and Voices

“

I am deeply grateful for the presence and work of the PSEC. The support of the staff, and the intentional connection of churches and clergy, daily strengthens my ability to effectively and creatively engage in local church ministry. Without the PSEC, my ministry would be diminished in countless ways.

”

—Rev. Joseph A. Motz, Bausman Memorial UCC, Wyomissing



“

Jesus said, ‘Freely you have received, freely give.’ In gratitude and joy for God’s abundant grace, we can give ourselves for the glory of God. This includes our giving to the church.

”

—Pastor Chuck Maxfield

“

St. Peter’s is incredibly grateful to Zack Jackson for assessing our needs and installing equipment. Because of his selfless service, our worship is reaching people in other towns and other states!

”

—Trish and Cheryl Rathbun, Tech Team Leaders, St. Peter’s Tohickon UCC, Perkasie

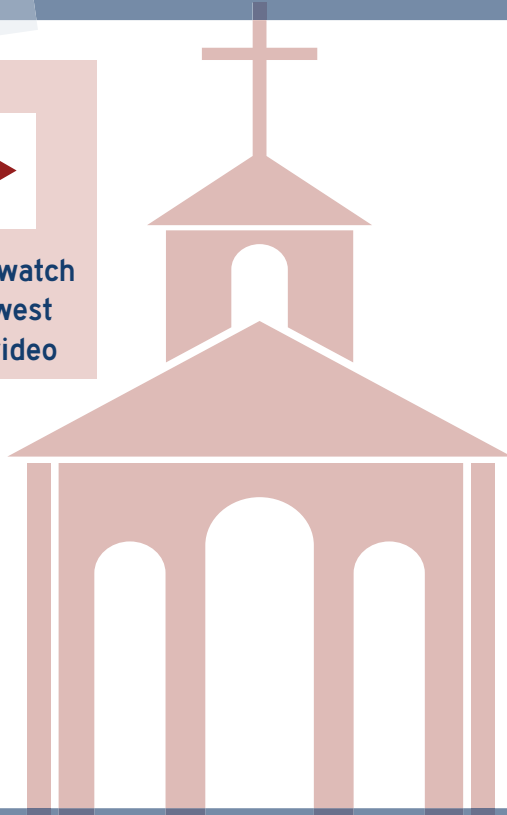


At A Glance

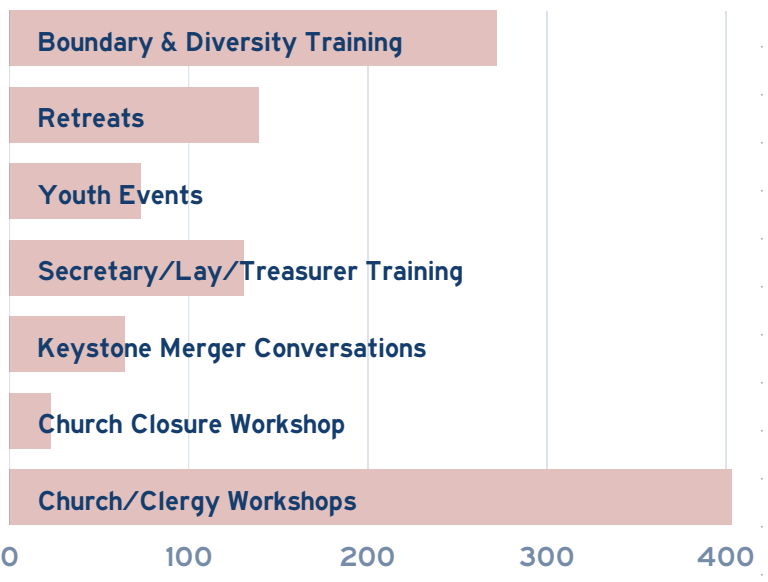
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the name we give to congregational gifts that support wider UCC ministry in the national and global setting as well as in the Conference setting.



Click to watch the newest PSEC video



Attendance at OCWM-Supported Trainings, Workshops & Events



403 Conference Meeting Attendees	163 Profiles recieved & reviewed for pastors interested in serving PSEC	65 Congregations supported in the Search and Call process	34+ Number of events, trainings or workshops funded by OCWM
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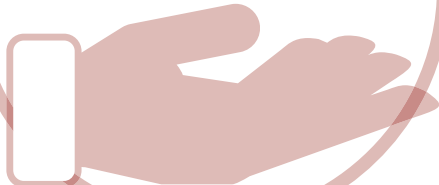
OCWM support bolsters our efforts to spread God's love to more people in more places than any one of us can do alone.

Supporting the Wider UCC



Supporting Our Church's Wider Mission connects you regionally, nationally and globally to those around the world who share our Christian faith across United Church of Christ network.

Of the OCWM
& Other Receipts
Collected in 2023:



- ▶ \$76,510 United Church of Christ Ministry
- ▶ \$3,500 Lancaster Theological Seminary
- ▶ \$2,000 Evangelical & Reformed Society
- ▶ \$4,579 Bethany Children's Home
- ▶ \$4,070 Locust Lake Chaplaincy
- ▶ \$3,000 PA Council of Churches
- ▶ \$9,450 Ursinus Campus Ministry & Phoebe
- ▶ \$2,000 Interfaith Center of Greater PHL
- ▶ \$1,000 Disaster Response Ministries

"Five for Five"
churches

giving to OCWM and
the Special Mission
Offerings

62

\$227,000+

Pass-Through contributions donated to
35 UCC initiatives, including

Lancaster Theological
Phoebe Homes/Ministries
Bethany Children's Home

PSEC is the link that connects our church's various and diverse ministries both locally and globally. Together, we provide our local churches, pastors and congregations with the training and inspiration they need to carry out our church's wider mission. We are stronger together; therefore, we embrace diversity, and above all, we spread God's love!

Donor Acknowledgements



Individual Donors

Frances Chester
Anne Cormier
Caroline Dunleavy
Paige Engro
Robert Fogal
Jane Kropa
Frances Merkel
Jason Stump
Marc Ullom
Shawn Van Dyke
William Worley



Giving Tuesday

Kim Adamson	Jan Remer-Osborn
Susan Creswell	David Reppert
Rick Deerfield	Jan Rose
Caroline Dunleavy	Michele Schenk
Richard Fiedler	Marian Shearer
Robert Fogal	Robert Stewart
Donna Fried	Antonio L. Villareal
Selina Hamilton	Susan Wargo
Laura & Ed Hart	Deborah Winters
Barbara Hughes	Tammie Wisniewski
Cean James	William Worley
Mary Loiselle	Steve & Bonnie Yost
Ruth Mitman	



Leading Per Capita OCWM Churches

Collenbrook United Church
Glenside UCC
Gulph UCC
Old First Reformed UCC
Peace in Zion UCC
Pleasantville UCC
St. James UCC, Limerick
St. Matthew's UCC, Chester Springs
UCC East Goshen
UCC at Valley Forge



Greatest OCWM Giving over Pledge

Bausman Memorial UCC
Falkner Swamp UCC
First UCC, Spring City
New Jerusalem Zion UCC
Olivet Schwenkfelder UCC
St. Stephen's UCC, Perkasio
Salem Belleman's UCC
Trinity UCC, Shenandoah
Trinity UCC, Telford
UCC of Robeson



Top OCWM Giving

First UCC, Quakertown
Glenside UCC
Huff's UCC
New Goshenhoppen UCC
Old First Reformed UCC
Pleasantville UCC
St. John's Hain's UCC
St. John's UCC, Lansdale
Shenkel UCC
UCC at Valley Forge
Zwingli UCC

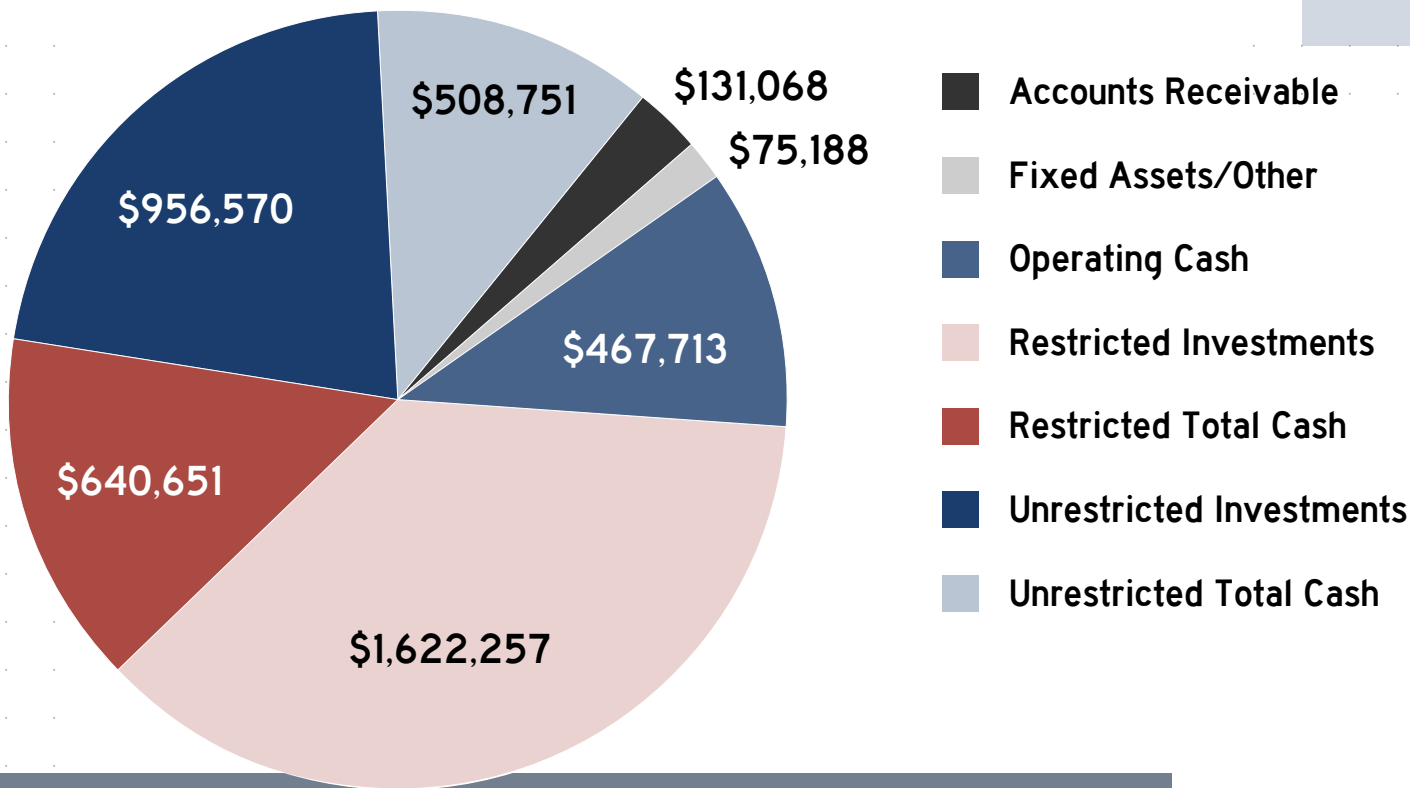


Greatest OCWM as a Percentage of Total Budget Expenses

Christ UCC, Hegin
Collenbrook United Church
Old First Reformed UCC
St. Paul's UCC, Ringtown
St. Peter's Wilshire UCC
St. Stephen's UCC, Philadelphia
Salem Hetzel's UCC
Shenkel UCC
Trinity UCC, Shenandoah
UCC at Valley Forge

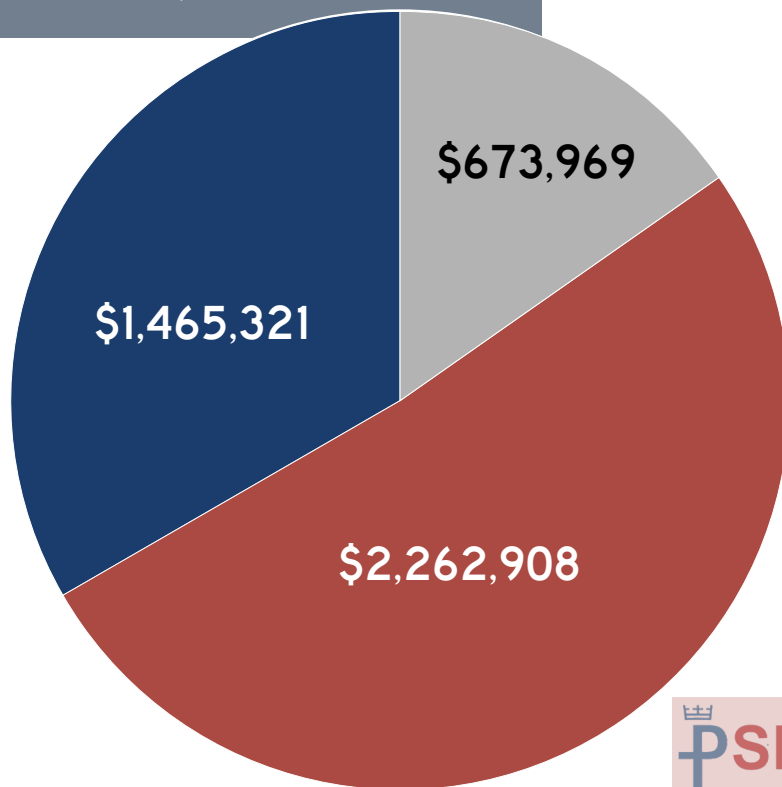
2023 Financials

Net Assets as of 12/31/23



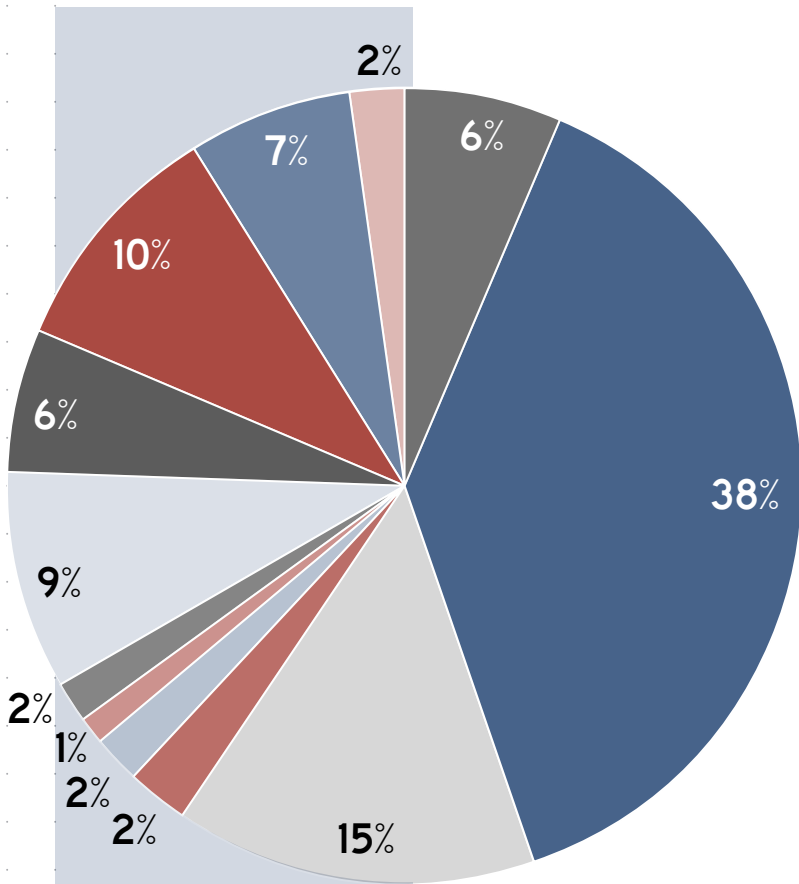
\$4,402,198

- Operating/Working Assets
- Restricted Cash/Investments
- Unrestricted Cash/Investments



2023 Financials

Expenses as of 12/31/23



- 105 - OCWM National Commitment
- 110 - Conference Staff ministries
- Taxes/Benefits
- Misc. Office Expenses
- Rent Expense
- Cleaning-Recycle/Insurance/Rep
- Office Supplies/ Telephone/ Postage/ Leases
- Administrative Expenses
- Conference Supported Ministries
- 130 - Church Development Prog Exp
- 135 - Clergy Development Ministries
- 140 - Communications/ Equip Program Exp

\$1,167,565



**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ**

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Pastor Chuck Maxfield at the 2023 Lay Leadership Convocation at Trinity Reformed UCC, Pottstown



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

