Keystone Working Group – Bulletin Insert 3

"Together We Are Stronger"

A Keystone Conference Mission

Conference Choir Anthem, "We All Are One," by Joel Raney



A proposal for a mission focus for the Keystone Conference ... People of the Table: Celebrating and Energizing Ministries that End Hunger

What do we mean by a "mission focus"?

Our faith calls us into action. We see a need for the newly-formed Conference to unite around a specific direction for our outreach in the coming years. A new Keystone Conference UCC mission focus offers us a way to concentrate our efforts in this initial season, amplifying our voice and helping to bring us together.

We propose that this initial mission focus, **People of the Table**, will be a Conference priority in our founding years (2026-2028).

Why choose ending hunger as a mission focus?

Ending hunger is a goal that unites our diverse Local Churches and Associations. Across the proposed Keystone Conference, settings of the United Church of Christ area already engage in many ministries to feed our neighbors.

We do this work because the Gospel mandate is clear: "feed my sheep," said Jesus: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

We are **People of the Table**, uniting around our Eucharistic tables and then welcoming our neighbors around our social hall tables. This identity is particularly strong in Pennsylvania, a commonwealth containing over seven million acres of farmland, where many Local Churches take pride in our agricultural heritage. While our members may vary in their perspectives on many social issues, we believe that ending hunger is a priority that brings us all together.

Next Town Hall Sessions



The conversations around the timeline and a unified Keystone Conference Mission are available for registration. Please use the QR code, on all conferences websites or conference office.

In each townhall conversation, the timeline

will be reviewed for possible action toward our vote, the motion to the General Synod and next steps.

Merger Motion Vote by 4 Conferences Nov. 9, 2024

Each congregation is allowed their usual number of delegates to vote on the merger motion. See each conference for details to register, participate and make your vote count! The full motion is available on the website.

For more information: <u>https://psec.org/keystone/</u>

Motion to General Synod, July 11-15, 2025

If approved by all 4 conferences, the motion is presented to General Synod for UCC delegates' approval.

"We all are one in mission, we all are one in call, Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single, great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love." "We All Are One," by Joel Raney