



December 15, 2024

Keystone Working Group: Summary of November 15 Meeting

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced!" – Psalm 126:3

Thanks be to God!

A wide range of emotions filled our commonwealth and beyond on November 9 as the four area conferences met remotely and shared collectively in our vote to become one in Christ as the Keystone Conference. *We are modeling grief... and Resurrection Life... Together, We Are Stronger!*

Overwhelmingly the vote of this historic meeting was affirmed.

PWC: 134 Yes; 17 No = 89%
PCC: 286 Yes; 28 No = 91%
PSEC: 246 Yes; 19 No = 92%
PNEC: 141 Yes; 2 No = 98.6%



Our motion to merge moves forward to the UCC General Synod in July 2025 to combine our boundaries into one Keystone Conference UCC. The wide and diverse support indicates your sacred trust in both the people and the process of this collective two-year study, work and presentation for our discernment. For that, we express our profound gratitude.

Now... the real work of bringing this vision into reality begins in greater detail. The next steps of legal, financial, personnel, technology and more will start taking shape. The 3 regional areas for staffing support will be one of the first priorities. New transitional board leadership will be elected and transitional ministerial and staff leadership will be hired. Townhall events and more information will be provided in the coming months for adoption of a new Constitution and Bylaws in Spring conference meetings. Please review the updated timeline on the website. The Keystone Conference will meet officially for the first time in Spring 2026.

You will soon receive a Pastoral Letter from our four Conference Ministers. Our current congregations and associations will all have next steps to take as well. Together, we will further develop plans, and share our collective expertise and resources, creating more meaningful relationships in ministry. This is holy work!

It is our responsibility to share this summary in our various ministry settings with ALL!

Relying on the grace of God, we now take the next steps of bringing this great vision into reality, by taking the hands of Christ, breathing deeply the presence of the Spirit, and walking resolutely in God's grace. Please visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by the PSEC at <https://psec.org/keystone/> for additional updates and information. Send your questions and comments by email to Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com or direct mail through your Conference Office.

Thank you for moving forward in our covenant. **Together, We Are Stronger!**

KWG Communications Team

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From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Party suggestions for the Holiday Season

If you are hosting a party this holiday season, please remember those in recovery ...

- Consider having a party with no alcohol at all
- If you serve alcohol, be understanding if a person does not want to attend or wants to bring their own drinks
- Never coax a person to take a drink
- Make sure people know about hidden alcohol in food

DO NOT serve alcohol alternative drinks, like Heineken - It still has 5% alcohol in it & it can stimulate/ simulate the patterns of using.