OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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January 26, 2025

## A Message From Our Conference Minister

Dear Friends,
This New Year will be one of change and transition for our Conference. We will transform the sixty-three-year ministry of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference into part of the new Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ. There will be sad endings and exciting, new beginnings. There will be hard work, a good deal of stress, some anxiety, and unintended confusion. There will be prayers for grace and patience and friends committed to enlarging the table around which Jesus calls us.

The Keystone Working Group that lead us to the November 9 decisions that formed one Conference continues their work this Friday keeping us faithful to our process and timeline. That Group, along with Committees comprised of members from each Conference, are working on the following:

1. **Establishing an infrastructure for search and call**. Penn Northeast and Penn West have long utilized volunteer infrastructures to facilitate this work. We're looking to engage that model across the state.

2. **Gathering Association presidents/moderators** to begin cross-Conference discussions regarding constitutional and ecclesial responsibilities of UCC Associations that are mission critical for the health and wellness of congregations and clergy. If you are an Association President, you should have received a doodle poll to establish future meeting dates.

3. **Finalize decisions related to logistics** such as future office space location, territories for Regional Conference Ministers, data storage and website, and the like.

4. **Financial conversations and decisions** as we combine four operating budgets, endowment and investment funds, and the accounting policies and procedures that maintain a high bar of transparency and fiducial responsibility.

5. **Complete the final draft version of the Keystone Constitution and Bylaws** so that you may review those (at your leisure or in as-yet-to-be-scheduled Town Hall Meetings) in preparation for their adoption at the spring meetings of each Conference.

6**. Prepare General Synod Delegates** to represent our four Conferences and the future of the Keystone Conference at the 35th General Synod in Kansas City, MO this July where the motion for merger, passed at the Fall Conference Meeting, comes to the Synod floor.

Additionally, there are Committees that have begun conversations about Generosity and Stewardship, Ecumenical Ministry, Missions, and Conference staff.

Finally, the PSEC Annual Meeting Planning Team and Conference Consistory are preparing for the last two meetings of our Conference. The first, **The Annual Spring Meeting, is Saturday, May 31 at Zwingli UCC in Souderton, PA** when we will adopt the Keystone Constitution and Bylaws and elect a Transitional Keystone Board of Directors (both of which can only take effect pending the approval of the General Synod motion to merge).

If you have a question, and I am sure you do, PLEASE ASK. We need your engagement and prayers!

In peace and hope, Pastor Bill (Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister )

## UCC Climate Hope Art Contest for Youth

PSEC's Climate Justice Team encourages you and your youth to let their artistic flair flourish and submit a piece to the 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest! This year's theme is "Planting Seeds of Hope".
Submissions will be accepted from February 2nd to March 14th, with winners chosen for different age groups. An overall winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington DC with a parent or guardian! The winning art will also serve as the logo for UCC
Climate Hope advocacy work throughout 2025.

For more information and to register go to ucc.org and search "2025 Climate Hope Art Contest".