



April 13, 2025

## Keystone Working Group: Summary of March 21 meeting

*“Hope that takes us past our fear.  
Hope that calls us into life.  
Hope that holds us beyond death.  
Hope that blesses those to come.”*

*from “Rough Translations” by Jan Richardson*

Rooted in our resurrection hope with the start of Spring, the Keystone Working Group is preparing more detailed organizational plans and processes to guide us in the transition activity of tasks.

Updates were shared by task groups, with the Governance team holding town halls on the proposed Constitution and Bylaws to be presented at all 4 Conference Spring meetings. A Staffing Letter of Intent has been shared with all current staff to give notice by April 1 if interested in any of the new conference positions, either transitional or settled. Legal updates were shared regarding the New Transitional Board and the Historical Boards, comprised of 4 persons elected from each conference to guide our transition as The Keystone Conference. The preliminary boundaries for the 3 regions of The Keystone Conference were established with number of congregations and geography considerations, to be released in early April.

Financial updates continue to focus on the 2026 Draft Budget and consideration for staffing needs. We remain committed to holding the tension of long-held memories of ministry and how God is guiding us into the future. We celebrate who we have been and the resources God has given to empower sustained and new ministries.

As we become The Keystone Conference, a new communications ministry will contain a website and social media presence. This team will share important press releases to the General Church, partner organizations, our ministries and congregations of the Keystone area. A process for creating a conference logo with input and design elements submitted from all across our area is forthcoming.

The process for General Synod hearings and question and answer session was reviewed. For the General Synod Sunday (July 13), all congregations will have access to a bulletin insert and liturgy for every place to be in prayer for the anticipated vote, affirming that **Together We Are Stronger!**

All these purposeful actions add to our blossoming hope as the Spirit of God leads us all forward. Together, we all share the task of creating new relationships and building upon previous ones to form a KEYSTONE, the unifying center which is our hope in Jesus Christ.

*We urge you to share “Hope that takes us past our fear. Hope that calls us into life. Hope that holds us beyond death. Hope that blesses those to come.”*

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](mailto:Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com) or direct mail through your Conference Office.

Relying on the grace of God and holding on to the hope of the Spirit, we affirm again and again, **Together, We Are Stronger!**

### KWG Communications Team

Steve Davis, St. John’s UCC, Fullerton (PNEC),  
Heather Kurtz, Zion UCC, Arendtsville (PCC)  
Deb Long, First Trinity UCC, Youngwood (PWC)  
Melissa Burkhart, Zion’s Union Church, Maxatawny, Kutztown (PSEC)



## PSEC Spring Annual Meeting

**May 31, 2025—9:00 am—4:30 pm @ Zwingli UCC, Souderton**

Welcome to the Spring Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ—the second to last meeting of our historic Conference! We will gather in faith, fellowship, and forward-thinking mission. This year, we celebrate our shared commitment to God’s calling, exploring new opportunities for ministry in the Keystone Conference, and strengthening the bonds that unite our churches and people in service and love. Come to a time of worship, learning, and collaboration to inspire your faith in the abundant grace that keeps this world.

**To register:** Go to [psec.org](https://psec.org), click on the *2025 PSEC Spring Meeting* slider at the top of the page.

