



August 10, 2025

A Message from our Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call

I'm currently serving on three different teams working on creating new guidelines or systems for the new Keystone Conference. One of the challenges each of these teams face is taking under consideration different ways of being a conference found in different parts of the state and then creating something that will hopefully meet the needs of all our churches across the state. That means there are more people in the room with different experiences and expectations of what a conference does and does not do.

More people in the room requires more listening, more relationships to attend to, and more experiences that need to be honored and considered. For some, that is challenge and God knows it's certainly a challenge for our country right now. More people are excising other people from their lives or letting less people into their lives, simply because they don't want to listen to anyone other than those they agree with.

I'm not saying that there aren't times when we need to decide to step back from a toxic relationship or from hearing toxic words, but my general instinct is that God wants us to widen the circle to include more of God's children, as challenging as that might for some of us.

That may be one of the great gifts from this merger – or at least I hope it is.

- Rev. Kevin McLemore

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Substance Abuse and the Big Beautiful Bill

The "One Big Beautiful Bill" is projected to negatively impact access to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment, potentially increasing the number of overdoses and deaths.

The bill's Medicaid cuts will cause 7.8 million people to lose their insurance. These cuts would potentially cause 1.6 million people to lose access to SUD treatment, according to the Center for American Progress.

A separate analysis from Penn LDI, projects that this bill could double the rate of overdoses, resulting in approximately 1,000 additional deaths each year.

It also introduces work requirements that could make it more difficult for individuals to access necessary healthcare and treatment.

This bill is expected to have a detrimental effect on the nation's already existing mental health crisis, with potential negative consequences for those with substance use disorders.

The impact that this is expected to have on our churches in the coming months is imminent.

Is your church prepared to support individuals with Substance Use Disorder? Want to know how?

Part 2 to follow next week.



Lay Leadership Support Group NOT MEETING in August



The Lay Leadership Support Group, open to all church leaders is a group that gathers once a month on the fourth Saturday via Zoom. The group will not be meeting in August.

Next meeting will be September 27th!

For information go to psec.org, click on the Events & News tab and click on Calendar. Go to September and click on the event on Sept. 27th for more information.