

March 11, 2024

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 62ND ANNUAL MEETING
Lay Delegates, Youth Delegates, Authorized Ministers, PWC Board of Directors, and Visitors

For the first time in history, the four Pennsylvania United Church of Christ Conferences will come together in person and virtually for a shared 2024 Annual Gathering & Meeting. We will meet at the Penn Stater in State College PA, and we will have an online option for those wishing to participate virtually. This mailing serves as the *Official Call* to the meeting. We will meet from *Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9*. Our keynote preacher on Sunday, June 9, is the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.

A schedule for the gathering may be found along with all the registration materials at <https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/keystone-conferences-annual-gathering>. Please contact our office if you have any questions about registration. Please note that you need to reserve your hotel room separately from the registration itself; the relevant links to the Penn Stater are provided on the registration webpage. We are trying to reduce costs for those for whom finances are an issue, especially because we know the costs are higher this year. Please use the following code to receive a 50% discount on your registration: **PWAnnual50**.

Our Conference Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8, from 9 AM till 11:45 AM. A schedule for that time will be including in this mailing. We are planning on discussing a possible motion to General Synod 35 regarding the proposed Keystone Conference that we expect to bring back for a vote at a special Conference meeting on Saturday, November 9, beginning at 10 AM at First Reformed UCC in Greensburg.

Please note that all youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, who are responsible for the behavior and safety of their youth. Youth must be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times; no separate youth supervision will be available. And if you are planning to offer a speak-out, please inform our Office Secretary Andrea Kopcak about this, along with your topic, sometime before Tuesday, June 4. Reports and other materials and additional details should be posted on www.pennwest.org by Friday, May 31.

According to Article VII, paragraph 4, in our Penn West Conference By-Laws:

4. When the Conference meets, its voting membership shall consist of the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers holding standing in its Associations, and of lay delegates selected by and representing the member churches. A church of not more than 200 communicant members (members in full standing) shall be entitled to be represented by two lay delegates and a youth delegate; a church of 201-500 such members, by three lay delegates and a youth delegate; a church of more than 501 such members, by four lay delegates and a youth delegate. Youth delegates are those under the age of 19. ...Visitors are welcome with the privilege of voice but without vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members ex-officio.

Thank you for registering for the 62nd Annual Gathering & Meeting, and we pray that it proves to be a meaningful time for you and for all of us in the Conference!

Sincerely,

Wendy Bigelow
Secretary, Board of Directors