



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE PENN WEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING AND MEETING

Arrival and Welcome – Directions to California University and a campus map are included in this mailing. Overnight accommodations are in the Johnson Hall dormitory. We will have bright-vested volunteers available for help with moving in and registering. As you enter the campus, your first stop should be to temporarily park in the front of the Convocation Center to register. (If, for some reason, you need to spend more time here, you should utilize parking lot #11, near Gallagher Hall). Your second stop should then be to travel down Third Street and temporarily park by Johnson Hall to unload your vehicle (commuters, of course, may skip this step). Then you should proceed up Hickory Street and park in lot #17. If lot #17 becomes full, you may get a pass to park in lot #19. The dining hall is “Goldrush” in the Eberly Student Center. There is a 4-5 minute walk between the Convocation Center and Johnson Hall, and the dining hall is roughly in between these buildings. If you have mobility issues, we will have golf carts available to transport you. Be sure to let our volunteers know and they will be happy to assist you.

Bath Towels & Pillows – We believe that the bath towels and pillows are poofier than they have been in years’ past, but if you wish to ensure maximum poofiness, you won’t go wrong by bringing your own.

Bookstore – We will again have our bookstore that will include a variety of United Church of Christ items. Credit cards, cash, and checks will be accepted. We are no longer able to invoice churches for payment.

Conference Choir – Everyone is welcome to sing in the choir for the Closing Worship on Saturday. Rehearsal times are announced in the schedule.

Dress – Dress is casual. Please bring an umbrella in case it rains!

Offerings – Our offering for our opening worship service on Friday afternoon will be directed toward the fund to support the educational efforts (for children & pastors) in the Northwest Luzon Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Our offering for our closing worship service on Saturday afternoon will be directed toward the Neighborhood Academy.

Prayer Chapel – We are planning to have a Prayer Chapel available in a room near the plenary space in the Convocation Center. Thank you to Betty Royer for hosting this. You are welcome to visit this space if you wish to find a quiet environment for prayer and meditation.

Youth – The Annual Gathering & Meeting is youth inclusive rather than youth focused, so we will encourage youth to participate in the meeting with the adults as fully as possible. Chelsea Neatrou is providing some programmatic activities for our youth this year. We are providing them with a special block of rooms and certified chaperones for the nighttime hours of 11 PM through 7 AM. Also, during the hours of activity (Friday 10:30 AM to 11 PM and Saturday 7 AM to 3:30 PM), there will be a designated area where youth may visit and designated certified volunteers who will be available to help or assist youth who desire time apart from the Annual Gathering & Meeting. Please complete the various youth forms that we have provided for the protection and care of our youth. Our care for them is such that we desire their participation as much as possible but also acknowledge that they may need space apart and trusted adult volunteers who may be available to them.