

PIFF – Partners in Faith Formation Annual Report  
2016 – 2017

First the PIFF Team wishes to express our thanks and gratitude to Jill Marie and Rev. Ruth Shaver for their years of service and dedication to Christian education in Penn West Conference. Jill has retired from the team, and Rev. Ruth has moved to Massachusetts. It has been a joy to work with them for many years. We are praying for dedicated people to join our team to fill the positions that are open. Those of you interested in education can be a valuable asset to this team to provide new and exciting ideas.

Since last years report, the PIFF team sponsored “Put Down Your Ducky” , an overnight retreat at Living Waters with presenter Ryan Henderson from a neighboring New York conference. The retreat focused on renewing a joyful spirit. Pastors and lay leaders fill their schedules with obligations we feel as Christians we must make. Being better stewards of our time, ridding our lives of too many obligations, and giving ourselves time to rest and relax will renew our spirit. Writing our concerns or worries on the colorful rubber duck and putting it away for the night symbolized the importance of our reliance on our Lord for peacefulness and joyfulness in our lives.

During the year, the PIFF team schedules work days to organize and order items for the resource center and the bookstore for the Conference and Annual Meeting. A permanent bookstore is available at the Conference. Stop by when you are at the Conference in Greensburg or call Valarie Poole to order. Don't forget to visit us at Annual Meeting.

Valarie Poole, the Minister of Youth for Penn West and a member of the PIFF team organized the youth group that went to the National Youth event at Disney World. Read her report about this event.

A core group of Partners joined the Association of United Christian Educators, AUCE. This organization provides information, resources, and gatherings to help us learn more about educating our congregations with innovative ideas.

As we approach Annual Meeting, Valarie and the team are organizing and seeking members from the Conference to host the Regional Youth event at Cal U in 2018. This is an exciting adventure for our Conference and our youth. There are many job openings for this event. Search your hearts and join us to make this event a life changing experience for the youth of our churches and region. Call the office and volunteer. No prior experience necessary. Dedication, Love of Youth, and Encouragement for Youth are the requirements.

The Partners are ready to help. Call the conference office for scheduling with us. **REMEMBER WE NEED MANY HELPERS FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Alice Lynn and PIFF Team