

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE PENN WEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING AND MEETING - 2019

Arrival and Welcome – Directions to California University and two campus maps outlining your steps upon arrival 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 Johnson Hall. Park in the temporary 15 minute parking zone and unload your overnight items. Cal U staff will be in Johnson Hall to check you in. Then you should proceed up Hickory Street and park in lot #15, 17 or 19. Finally, you should enter the back entrance of the Natali Student Center to register with the Penn West Conference. Registration will be held on the Second Floor of the Natali Student Center. **NOTE: The back entrance adjacent to the parking enters directly into the second floor!**

There is a 1-2 minute walk between the Natali Student Center and Johnson Hall. The dining hall is located in the Natali Student Center on the second level, the same as the Performance Center, which is where the general session will be held. Breakouts will be held throughout the Student Center, all floors are accessible by elevator. Maps of the three floors of the Natali Student Center will be distributed at registration. If you have mobility issues, there is a golf cart that will be available to transport you. Be sure to let our volunteers know and they will be happy to assist you.

Bath Towels & Pillows – These are provided, but if you wish, you may bring your own.

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!

Materials – In addition to the materials in the program book, you may access all our materials online at <http://www.pennwest.org/content/annual-meeting.html>. All you have to do is access the California University of Pennsylvania Wifi system, and then visit www.pennwest.org. Click on “About Us”, then “Annual Gathering & Meeting.” All the links should come up on your smartphone or other device. All materials should be up on our website by May 24, 2019.

Offerings – Our offering for our opening worship service on Friday afternoon will be divided between our SHEEP Fund (Sustaining Hope for Educational Expenses in the Philippines) and support for our 2020 Mission Trip to the Northwest Luzon Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. We rejoice to be able to lift up our Global Mission Partners in our prayers in this service. The offering for our closing worship will be divided between our recognized Mission Partners this year: Homewood Homes and Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Both of these ministries will be recognized and celebrated in our Friday evening celebration on June 8. Thank you for giving generously!

Prayer Chapel – We are planning to have a Prayer Chapel available, and details about it will be announced.

Youth – We encourage all our churches to bring a youth delegate with them (ages 13-19). 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. We have a number of youth leaders who are providing some programmatic activities for our youth this year. These activities are geared toward youth ages 13-17. For children under 13, there are no activities and it will be expected that they will be supervised throughout the event by a parent(s) or guardian(s). While we will not be providing supervision or chaperones during all of the hours of activity, certified supervision will be provided during the youth specific activities. Please see agenda for times. We will provide a special block of secure rooms for our youth and certified chaperones during the nighttime hours of 11 PM through 7 AM. In addition, during the hours of activity, 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. Our care for our youth 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 during the Annual Gathering & Meeting.

Wifi – Instructions for using the California University Wifi system will be made available to you at the registration table.