



PENN WEST CONFERENCE

United Church of Christ

Serving in Western Pennsylvania and Northern Maryland

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**OFFICIAL CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PENN WEST CONFERENCE  
Lay Delegates, Youth Delegates, Authorized Ministers, PWC Board of Directors, and Visitors**

A special meeting of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024, beginning at 10 AM Eastern. It will be held at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 S. Maple Ave., Greensburg PA, and there will be a Zoom option for attending, as well. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a motion that would come before the 35<sup>th</sup> United Church of Christ General Synod in July 2025. The motion calls for the creation of a Keystone Conference out of the four present Conferences of Penn West, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Penn Northeast.

Along with this letter of call to the meeting, you will find in this packet a copy of the motion to be considered. The motion may not be amended; it will be either an affirmative or negative vote. All four Conferences must have a 2/3 (66.67%) affirmative vote in order for the motion to be brought before General Synod. After gathering at 10 AM, we will plan to worship, have time for any other business and for discussion on the motion. The vote is scheduled to take place at 11:30 AM, and around noon, we will plan to communicate with the other three Conferences about the results. After that, for those who gather in person, we will plan to have some time for those who have signed up and paid for a meal to share it and share some time together for both lament and celebration. No matter what the result of the vote is, feelings of grief, loss, and hope will be present, and it is our intent as a community of Christians to genuinely honor and respect these feelings in each other in a spirit of Christian love and care.

You should also find in this packet in-person and Zoom registration forms for the meeting. We ask that you return these by the deadline(s) indicated on the forms along with a check for the meal if you are planning to stay for that. Materials about the proposed merger, which were provided at the Annual Meeting this past June, are in the link that you will find in the article, "November 9, 2024 Special Meeting of Penn West Conference," which is on the homepage of our website at [www.pennwest.org](http://www.pennwest.org). 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.

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. Each church should also choose alternate delegates to serve if its delegates are unable to attend. Visitors are welcome with the privilege of voice but without vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members ex-officio.*

Please note that the guide we will use for determining church membership is the 2024 UCC Yearbook. A guide for the vote will be released soon, which will include a statement on how voting delegates from each church will be confirmed. Thank you for registering for this Special Meeting of the Penn West Conference. We pray that it proves to be a meaningful time for you and for all of us.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bigelow  
Secretary, Board of Directors