

Penn West Conference – Nomination Report June 9, 2023

Board of Directors

Officers to be Elected (two year terms)

Moderator – Class of 2025

Rev. David Mears

The Rev. David Mears has served as the pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Dorseyville (Pittsburgh Association), since 2016. Currently he serves as the Chair of the Association Committee on Ministry. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983 and Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1995 and was ordained at St. Pauls Trauger in the Westmoreland Association. Then began a twenty year sojourn in Iowa serving two churches and working closely with the Outdoor Ministry Program of the Conference and representing the Iowa Conference at what was the Executive Council of the UCC. As the current assistant moderator he has worked with the various committees of the conference. He is married to Patty, a registered nurse, and they enjoy their blended family of four kids and their spouses and especially all of their grandchildren! He enjoys riding his motorcycle, trying to find time to swing his golf clubs and following Pittsburgh sports teams - now that he is home.

Assistant Moderator – Class of 2025

Rev. Liddy Barlow

The Rev. Liddy Barlow has served as Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania since 2014. She is a member of the Conference's Long-Term Planning Committee and the Caring for Churches Caring for Clergy Campaign Committee. She also serves on the Manual on Church working group in the national setting, and previously was a member of the national setting's Habakkuk Group, which revised the Manual on Ministry. Additionally, she has served as Secretary of the Penn West Conference Board of Directors and Chair of the Pittsburgh Association Committee on Ministry. She is a member of Smithfield United Church of Christ in Pittsburgh, which she served as Minister of Christian Education from 2007-2011; she then served as Interim Pastor of St. John's UCC in Larimer from 2012-2014. Rev. Barlow grew up in New Hampshire, attended Mount Holyoke College and Andover Newton Theological School, and was ordained by the Cheshire Association of the New Hampshire Conference in 2008. She is married to Greg, a traffic light robot scientist; they have two children, Pippa, age 13, and Edmund, age 10. In her spare time (what?) she loves reading, travel, trivia, and making to-do lists.

Continuing Officers:

Secretary – Class of 2024
Treasurer – Class of 2024
Assistant Treasurer - Class of 2024

Wendy Bigelow
Tom Croner
Deborah Long

Association Representatives – elected by the Associations (two year terms)

Class of 2024 – note: “2nd” indicates second term

Clarion – Ken Tack (1)	St. Paul’s Community, Chicora
Juniata – Miriam Slicker (1)	The Abbey Reformed, Huntingdon
Lake Erie – Carrie Goral (2)	St. Paul’s, Hermitage
Pittsburgh – Joel Pretz (2)	Smithfield, Pittsburgh
Somerset – Rev. Diane Smith (1)	Salem, Frostburg MD
Westmoreland – Mark Brautigam (1)	Denmark Manor, Export

Class of 2025 – note: “2nd” indicates second term

Clarion – Rev. Frank Sapp, Jr. (1)	St. Paul’s Community, Chicora
Juniata – Rev. Joseph Ward (1)	Gladeland Charge, Manns Choice
Lake Erie – Rev. Dr. Ericjon Thomas (2)	St. Paul’s, Hermitage
Pittsburgh – Rev. Dr. Leanna Fuller (2)	Trinity, Dorseyville
Somerset – Sharon Fox (2)	St. Paul’s, Stoystown
Westmoreland – Rev. Don Watkins (2)	Denmark Manor, Export

General Synod Delegates

Class of 2023

Roxanne Tuinstra, Somerset Association
538 Wayne St., Johnstown PA 15905
First UCC, Ebensburg
412-867-1122; roxyinpa@yahoo.com

Kevin Jones, Westmoreland Association
144 Penn Woods Dr., Irwin PA 15642
First UCC, Harrison City
412-841-3029; kjones@cardinalres.com

Rev. Nicole Pickens, Lake Erie Association
762 Park Ave., Youngstown OH 44510
St. Mark’s UCC, Fredonia
419-677-8999; revnicolepickens@gmail.com

Douglas Hearn, Clarion Association
111 Willoughby Ave, Warren, PA 16365
Community United Church, Erie
814-723-1056; hearndouglas@aol.com

Class of 2025

Kaitlyn Farber, Juniata Association

307 Bear Run Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15237
Grace UCC, Claysburg
814-312-5264; kaitrf415@gmail.com

Rev. John Titus, Westmoreland Association
133 Whipple St., Pittsburgh PA 15218
First UCC, Harrison City
412-334-5496; rev_jt@verizon.net

Tessa Lynn, Somerset Association
839 Savage Rd., Salisbury, PA 15558
St. John's, Salisbury
240-727-3146; tessalynn739@gmail.com

Ciera James, Pittsburgh Association
124 LaCrosse St., Apt. 103
Pittsburgh PA 15218
757-434-5374; cjames@pts.edu

Rev. Shannon Garrett-Doege, Pittsburgh Association
5528 Beverly Place, Apt. 2, Pittsburgh PA 15206
Community of Reconciliation Church, Pittsburgh
412-559-2272; sm.garrettdoege@gmail.com

Associate Delegates (Voice with no Vote)

Rev. Liddy Barlow (pending election as Assistant Moderator in June 2023)
5506 Baywood St., Pittsburgh PA 15206
Smithfield, Pittsburgh
412-523-6736; lbarlow@casp.org

Rev. David Ackerman, Conference Minister
312 S. Maple Avenue, Suite PWC, Greensburg, PA 15601
Penn West Conference
724-552-8150; david@pennwest.org

UCC Board of Directors Member from PWC

Tom Croner
3872 Huckleberry Hwy., Berlin PA 15530
Trinity UCC, Berlin
814-442-6740; tomcroner@yahoo.com

Respectfully submitted by the Penn West Conference Nominating Committee:

Sam Swick (Clarion)

Rev. Matt Deal (Somerset)

Rev. Don Watkins (Westmoreland)

George Kepple (Moderator)

Rev. David Ackerman (Conference Minister)

Rev. Liddy Barlow (Pittsburgh)

Alice Niebauer (Lake Erie)

Rev. Mary Hendricks (Juniata)

Rev. Dave Mears (Assistant Moderator)