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April 13, 2023

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

Lay Delegates, Youth Delegates, Authorized Ministers, PWC Board of Directors, and Visitors

“Be Transformed, Part II” is the theme of our 2023 *Penn West Conference Annual Gathering & Meeting*. This year’s meeting will again be a hybrid gathering. We will be meeting in person at California University of Pennsylvania and have an online option for those wishing to participate virtually. We will meet on *Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10*. A schedule for the time should be including in this mailing. Our keynote presenter is the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference. This mailing serves as the *Official Call* to the meeting and contains information to be shared with those attending from your church.

If you are planning to attend in person this year, please note that overnight accommodations are in Smith Hall this year. Please also 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. Please note that the costs for this year’s meeting are the same as last year’s. And if you are planning to give a two-minute speak-out, please inform our Office Manager Diane Fox about this, along with your topic, sometime before June 9.

According to Article VII, paragraph 4, in our 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. ... Visitors are welcome with the privilege of voice but without vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members ex-officio.

This packet includes Registration Forms, and please note that one form is for those who are planning to attend in person and the other form is for those planning to attend virtually. Please fill out just one form per person. Forms may be completed and mailed to the Conference Office (they may be copied) for each attendee: lay delegate, youth delegate, Authorized Minister, PWC Board of Directors member, and visitor from your church. **OR** Registration for each attendee may be completed online at www.pennwest.org. Reports and other materials and additional details should be posted on www.pennwest.org by May 31.

Thank you for registering for the 61st Annual Gathering & Meeting, and we pray that it proves to be a meaningful time for you and for all of us in the Conference!

Sincerely,

Wendy Bigelow
Secretary, Board of Directors