

March 25, 2025

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 63RD ANNUAL MEETING
Lay Delegates, Youth Delegates, Authorized Ministers, PWC Board of Directors, and Visitors

As you likely know, we are in the midst of a time of exciting and momentous change in the life of the Penn West Conference. In July, we are taking before the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ a motion of the four Pennsylvania United Church of Christ Conferences to merge to become a single Keystone Conference. If that motion passes, we will become a single Keystone Conference in the eyes of the church beginning January 1, 2026. We are looking forward to having a meeting/celebration of the Penn West Conference on November 1 this year and a preliminary meeting of the Keystone Conference on November 22.

By way of our Annual Gathering & Meeting for 2025, we will meet on Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM ET at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 202 W. Union St., Somerset PA 15501. It will be both an in-person and virtual event. The theme will be "I Will Pour out my Spirit," and the focus scripture will be Acts 2:1-21. This mailing serves as the *Official Call* to the meeting. Our program will be led by our Association Presidents, and we will focus on the opportunity of Association mergers in our Conference. We will be considering a proposed Keystone Constitution & Bylaws and will plan to elect representatives to the new Keystone Board.

Registration forms will be available in this mailing, and online registration may be found here: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9944104>. We invite you to search online if you are seeking a hotel in the Somerset area if you plan to stay there overnight either before or after the meeting.

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. And if you are planning to offer a speak-out, please inform our Office Secretary Andrea Kopcak about this, along with your topic, sometime before Tuesday, June 3. Reports and other materials and additional details should be posted on www.pennwest.org by Friday, May 31.

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. ...Visitors are welcome with the privilege of voice but without vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members ex-officio.

Thank you for registering for the 63rd 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