

Penn West Conference – Nominations Report

June 7, 2025

Board of Directors

Officers to be Elected (two year terms, which will cease at the end of 2025 if the Keystone motion passes at General Synod 35)

Moderator – Class of 2027

Rev. Liddy Barlow

The Rev. Liddy Barlow has served as Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania since 2014. She was elected Assistant Moderator of the Penn West Conference since 2023, and participates actively in the Board of Directors, the Keystone Working Group, and many Conference committees and ministry teams. In the UCC national setting, she served on the working groups that created the Manual on Local Church (2021-2024) and revisioned the Manual on Ministry (2014-2017). She is the nominating chair of the Pittsburgh Association. 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 transportation technology consultant; they have two children, Pippa, age 15, and Edmund, age 12. In her spare time (what?) she loves reading, travel, trivia, and making to-do lists.

Assistant Moderator – Class of 2027

Mr. Tom Calvert

Tom Calvert has spent his whole life, except about 2 years, living on a livestock farm. He was born on a general livestock (sheep, pigs chickens and dairy cows) farm in Greene County, PA. He graduated from Waynesburg High School in 1958 and from Penn State University with a degree in Animal Science. In 1962 he became a Penn State Ag Extension Agent in Somerset County. He spent 34 + years working for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture (PSU Ext., ASCS now Farm Service and Soil Cons. Service now NRCS). In 1964, he married Leanne Shoher and from 11/1966, they lived on her home farm and still live on the farm. They had two sons. The oldest, Jeff, lives with his wife next to State College. The youngest, Steve and his wife, lived here on the farm. In October of 2014 Steve died of cancer. Each son had one son. Tom grew up attending and accepting Christ in 1953 and becoming a member of The Blacksville WVa Baptist Church. In 1964, he joined the Berlin Trinity United Church of Christ and has been involved over the years, with all parts and positions, except the kitchen. He was/is probably the most involved with Sunday School. His mother was always a Sunday School teacher, and he has always, with a few exceptions, been a Sunday School teacher.

Continuing Officers:

Secretary - Class of 2026
Treasurer - Class of 2026

Ms. Wendy Bigelow
Ms. Deborah Long

Assistant Treasurer – Class of 2026

Ms. Nancy Harclerode

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

Class of 2026 – note: “2nd” indicates second term

Clarion – Ken Tack (2)	St. Paul’s Community, Chicora
Juniata – Ellie Long (1)	Faith, Altoona
Lake Erie – Alice Niebauer (1)	St. Paul’s, Erie
Pittsburgh – Robin Stemple (1)	First (Millvale), Pittsburgh
Somerset – Rev. Diane Smith (2)	Salem, Frostburg MD
Westmoreland – Mark Brautigam (2)	Denmark Manor, Export

Class of 2027 – note: “2nd” indicates second term

Clarion – Rev. Frank Sapp, Jr. (2)	St. Paul’s Community, Chicora
Juniata – Rev. Mary Hendricks (2)	St. John’s, Martinsburg
Lake Erie – Rev. Nicole Pickens (2)	St. Mark’s, Fredonia
Pittsburgh – Rev. Lois Morrison (1)	St. John’s, Evans City
Somerset – TBA (1)	
Westmoreland – Rev. Paul Sarver (2)	First, Mt. Pleasant

Transitional Keystone Board Members

Please note that these nominees were nominated directly by the Penn West Conference Board of Directors, not by the Nominating Committee.

Members to be Elected (effective upon the passing of the Keystone motion at General Synod 35)

Class of 2028

Rev. Liddy Barlow

The Rev. Liddy Barlow has served as Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania since 2014. She was elected Assistant Moderator of the Penn West Conference since 2023, and participates actively in the Board of Directors, the Keystone Working Group, and many Conference committees and ministry teams. In the UCC national setting, she served on the working groups that created the Manual on Local Church (2021-2024) and revisioned the Manual on Ministry (2014-2017). She is the nominating chair of the Pittsburgh Association. 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 transportation technology consultant; they have two children, Pippa, age 15, and Edmund, age 12. In her spare time (what?) she loves reading, travel, trivia, and making to-do lists.

Tom Croner

Tom Croner is a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin and serves as President on their Consistory. He has also served the Conference as our Treasurer and Moderator, currently a member of our Financial Stewards team and the Keystone Study Group.

Class of 2027**Rev. David Mears**

The Rev. David Mears has served as the pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Dorseyville (Pittsburgh Association), since 2016. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1995 and was ordained at St. Paul's, Trauger in the Westmoreland Association. Then began a twenty-year sojourn in Iowa serving two churches and working closely with the Outdoor Ministry Program, and representing the Iowa Conference on what was then called the Executive Council of the UCC. As the current moderator he has worked with the various committees of the conference, as well as representing Penn West on the Keystone Working Group. In the past he has served on the Pittsburgh Association Committee on Ministry, as a member and then the chair. He and his wife Patty, a registered nurse enjoy their blended family of four kids and especially their six grandkids. He enjoys riding his motorcycle, trying to find time to swing his golf clubs and following Pittsburgh sports.

Deborah Long

Deb Long is currently serving on the Conference Financial Steward committee and the Investment Committee. She has been active in her local church for many years, serving in all capacities on Consistory and in the office. Recently retired, she enjoys spending time training and hiking with her 3 dogs, working part time at a local greenhouse, and making quilts.

General Synod Delegates**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

Roxanne Tuinstra, Somerset Association

583 Wayne St., Johnstown PA 15905
First UCC, Ebensburg
412-867-1122; roxyinpa@yahoo.com

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

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

Class of 2028

Chelsea Neatrour, Juniata Association
8810 King St. Clair Rd., Osterburg PA 16667
St. Paul's UCC, Imler
814-977-2844; ccneatrour@gmail.com

Matthew Fox, Westmoreland Association
112 Tara Dr., Greensburg PA 15601
First Reformed UCC, Greensburg
724-610-1261; matthewfox328@gmail.com

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

Rev. Donald Hammonds, Pittsburgh Association
3817 Oswego St., Pittsburgh PA 15212
Community of Reconciliation Church, Pittsburgh
412-519-0216; dhammonds@pts.edu

Associate Delegates (Voice with no Vote)

Rev. Liddy Barlow
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. Mary Hendricks (Juniata)
Rev. Jay Shaffer (Somerset)	Alice Niebauer (Lake Erie)
Rev. T.J. Lucas (Westmoreland)	Rev. Liddy Barlow (Pittsburgh & Assistant Moderator)
Rev. Dave Mears (Moderator)	
Rev. David Ackerman (Conference Minister)	