

**Penn West Conference Special Conference Meeting
November 9, 2024 (First Reformed, Greensburg/Zoom)**

Gathering and Opening Prayer:

Rev. Mears, Moderator, opened the meeting at 10:07, welcomed everyone to First Reformed Church in Greensburg, PA and on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 and registration was declared closed.

Rev. Ackerman welcomed everyone and offered his appreciation to the Penn West Conference staff, the Keystone Working Group and others who have assisted with the Keystone project on various teams.

Worship:

Worship, led by Rev. David Ackerman and Rev. Mary Hendricks, focused on scripture from Luke 5:1-6. Rev. Ackerman preached on going into the deep water and finding buoyance in the deep. He offered a few words detailing the Hunger Free Pennsylvania organization that all four conferences are supporting with the offering today.

Adoption of the Agenda

Rev. Mears asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MSP: That the agenda is adopted.

Appointment of parliamentarian:

Rev. Mears introduced Mr. Ryan Cribbs, a local attorney and member Christ UCC, Latrobe as the conference's parliamentarian.

MSP: That the Parliamentarian was approved.

Credentials Report: Declaration of Quorum

The credentials report is:

Lay Delegates – 53 in person, 33 on zoom

Authorized Ministers – 25 in person, 21 on zoom

Board of Directors – 9 in person, 4 on zoom

For a total of 145 delegates

Recognition of Those to be Granted Voice without Vote

Staff and visitors who are in good membership standing of any local UCC church may speak.

Approval of Tellers

The following were introduced as tellers for the vote today:

Andrea Kopcak, Wendy Stemple, Nancy Harclerode, Diane Fox, Rev. Dr. Deirdre Hainsworth

MSP: That these people are approved as Tellers

Order of the Day: Vote Scheduled to Occur at Approximately 11:30 AM EST

MSP: That the order of the day was accepted

Discussion of Voting Process

Rev. Barlow discussed the order of voting for in person. The order of call will be Lay Delegates, Authorized Ministers, and Board Members. Churches will be called and delegates were instructed to bring the ballots to the front bag. Anyone needing help would be assisted at that time. To keep the process moving, people were to come up to the front when called.

The Zoom attendees were instructed to send a chat to Rev. Hainsworth when requested. She would count those votes.

Voting badges were assigned to lay delegates and were surrendered upon registration when delegates received the voting ballot.

Introduction of the Motion

Rev. Mears introduced the motion as stated:

I move that the Penn West Conference adopts the motion ‘Motion of the Penn West, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Northeast Conferences to Join Together to Form the Keystone Conference’ and submits it to General Synod 35.

MSP: The motion was approved.

Discussion on the Motion:

The following people spoke from the Floor:

Ellen Sautter, Christ UCC, Latrobe
Kris Long, First Trinity UCC, Youngwood
Rev. Matt Deal, St. Paul’s UCC, Somerset
Matt Fox, First Reformed UCC, Greensburg
Rev. Meredith Hutchison, Denmark Manor UCC, Export
Deb Long, First Trinity UCC, Youngwood
Christina Lonsinger, Faith UCC, Altoona
Rev. Nicole Pickens, Pymatuning Charge
Diane Fox, Penn West Conference Staff
Rev. John Titus, First UCC, Harrison City
Jim Little, First UCC, Harrison City
Rev. Barry Fillman, Paradise Community UCC, Reynoldsville
Rev. Tom Caruso, First UCC, Millvale
Rev. Don Hammonds, Community of Reconciliation Church, Pittsburgh

Vote on the Motion:

The question was called and voting commenced.

Zoom Call to Share Election Results

The Conference Ministers of each of the four Pennsylvania conferences joined a zoom call to announce the vote results:

Penn West: Rev. David Ackerman – 135 yes, 15 no, passed at 90%
Penn Central: Rev. Dr. Carrie Call – 286 yes, 28 no, passed at 91%
Penn NorthEast: Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates – 141 yes, 2 no, passed at 98.6 %
Pennsylvania Southeast: Rev. Bill Worley – 246 yes, 19 no, 2 abstentions, passed at 92%

Concluding Thoughts and Prayer

Rev. Ackerman offered some final thoughts.

Adjournment:

Rev. Mears asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MSP: That the meeting be adjourned.

Rev. Ackerman offered a blessing for the meal and those attending the luncheon were invited downstairs for fellowship and lunch.

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES

After the meeting it was noted the final vote count did not match the original voting delegate count. Corrected delegate counts are as follows:

Lay Delegates:	53 in person, 40 on Zoom
Authorized Ministers:	25 in person, 21 on Zoom
Board of Directors	9 in person, 4 on Zoom
	For a total of 152 delegates

When the Zoom votes were being tabulated, internet service was lost and some votes were missed. The meeting was recorded and Zoom results were reviewed by Rev. Dr. Hainsworth and the following are the corrected counts:

Yes:	134
No:	17
Abstention:	1

For a total of 152 votes counted, with results 88.7% affirmative.

NOTE: This will be the official count for the meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Deb Long