BUSINESS ITEMS
for the 2020 Fall Conference Meeting

&

ADVANCE REPORTS

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
United Church of Christ

2020 Fall Conference Meeting
November 7, 2020 - VIA Zoom

Moving Forward

"Behold, I do a new thing." Isaiah 43:19
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2020 Fall Virtual Conference Meeting
Saturday, November 7 at Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington

Tentative Agenda

8:30 a.m.  Log in Time for Panelist and Attendees
9:00 a.m.  Introductions of Guests – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
9:15 a.m.  Installation of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
10:30 a.m.  Break
10:45 a.m.  Call to Order, Appoint Parliamentarian, Adopt Agenda, Registrar’s Report, and Adopt Business Guidelines – Moderator Elect Doug Taylor
11:00 a.m.  State of Conference Address and Recognition of Gilberto’s Ministry – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
11:15 a.m.  Approve Minutes from the 2019 Fall Conference Meeting and Receive Advance Reports – Ms. Helena Lindquist
11:20 a.m.  Treasurer’s Report for 2019 – Rev. Martin Nuscher
11:45 a.m.  Lunch
1:05 p.m.  Adopt 2021 Proposed Budget – Rev. Martin Nuscher
1:15 p.m.  Nominating Committee Report – Rev. Todd Fennell
- Recognition of Moderator and Board/Committee Members who Completed their Terms
- Affirmation of Board Appointments
- Voting for GS Delegates
1:30 p.m.  Bylaw Revision – Rev. Jeffery Brinks
1:40 p.m.  Ministry Recognitions
- Recognition of Pastors’ Anniversary of Ordination – Rev. James Robison and Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevenson
- New Pastors – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
- Time of Remembrance – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
- Recognition of Congregational Gifts to OCWM and 5 for 5 – Mr. Jeff Carlton and Rev. Richard Teitsworth
2:00 p.m.  Ministry Team Videos
2:15 p.m.  PNEC Racial Justice Commitment Resolution – Rev. Bob Gutekunst

2:30 p.m.  Result of the Voting for General Synod Delegates – Moderator Doug Taylor

2:40 p.m.  Installation of Officers, Board and Committee Members, and General Synod Delegates – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

2:50 p.m.  Passing the Gavel and Announcement of the 2021 Spring Meeting – Moderator Doug Taylor and Former Moderator Rev. Dr. Joanne Marchetto

3:00 p.m.  Closing Prayer – Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

**Officers of the Penn Northeast Conference**
Mr. Doug Taylor, Moderator
Rev. Dr. James Gottwald, Assistant Moderator
Ms. Helena Lindquist, Secretary
Rev. Martin Nuscher, Treasurer

The Parliamentarian for the Fall Meeting is Rev. Dr. David DeRemer.
BUSINESS GUIDELINES FOR CONFERENCE MEETING

(1) All proceedings of a Conference meeting shall be governed by the parliamentary procedures in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12th Edition, unless otherwise provided for in these guidelines.

(2) Panelists (voting delegates) have voice and vote. Those who want to speak shall secure permission from the Master Teller through the Zoom Chat Function.

(3) In order to cast a vote, one must have been named by a local church as its delegate (or alternate if the delegate is absent), or be an authorized minister with standing in the Penn Northeast Conference, or be a lay member of the Conference Board.

(4) Only the votes of those qualified to vote and within the declared bar of the house which is the Zoom Panelists will be counted on any issue. Voting will be done by polling (virtually) or raising of the official delegate card for those physically present.

(5) When a motion is introduced, the person speaking shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes for the initial presentation. Anyone speaking to an issue already introduced shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes. No previous speaker to a specific issue shall be permitted to speak again until all who want to speak to that issue have had an opportunity to do so. Attendees may request their chat to be spoken by the Master Teller.

(6) The right to limit the time for discussion shall be vested in the presiding officer.

(7) All amendments and main motions from Panelists shall be presented in writing to the Secretary in the Chat Function of the Webinar.

(8) Members of the Budget Committee shall be available at the Conference meeting to discuss any pertinent items relating to the proposed budget.

(9) The Officers of the Conference Board will serve as the Business Committee. It will receive all business items, recommendations, overtures, proposals, resolutions, etc., and determine when they are to be considered by the Conference. It shall also arrange business items in such a way that duplication may be avoided and the agenda expedited.

(10) All resolutions, proposals, etc. submitted should be in the Conference Office prior to the Conference Meeting.

(11) The Conference Board and Officers shall serve as the Business Committee during the Conference Meeting.

(12) Any resolution not accepted for consideration shall be referred to the Conference Board for consideration and possible referral to the Conference at a later meeting.

October 2020
Call to Order
Moderator Rev. Dr. Joanne Marchetto called the Fall Conference Meeting business session to order at 1:04 p.m. after the keynote address in the morning by The Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of Canoeing the Mountains, and after a lunch enjoyed by those in attendance. She appointed Mr. Geoffrey Brace as Parliamentarian.

Adoption of the Agenda
After referring delegates to the agenda, she asked if anyone had objections or additions; and hearing none, she declared the agenda adopted by unanimous consent.

Business Guidelines and Bar of the House
The Business Guidelines were adopted by consensus, and the Bar of the House was defined as the entire sanctuary.

Registrar’s Report
Phyllis Hamm gave the Registrar’s Report:
Total Registration - 173
  PNEC Staff – 5
  Authorized Ministers – 102
  Lay Delegates – 41
  Youth Delegates – 0
  Alt. & Youth Visitors & Advisors – 3
  Alternate Delegates, Visitors and Board – 30
  Child Care/Children’s Program – 3
  Total Churches Represented – 68
The moderator declared a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates introduced Karl Jones, Disaster Response Coordinator for PNEC an PSEC, Parker Loesch and Darryl Stephens, Lancaster Theological Seminary, and Alan Kramer Moyer and Scott Brooks Cope of Phoebe Ministries, as well as members of the Conference Meeting Planning Team, the Worship Team, Tellers, Ushers, Childcare Volunteers, and representatives of the Amigos de Guatemala and The Nominations Committee.

Minutes of the Spring 2019 Conference Meeting and the Secretary’s Report for the Fall Conference Meeting
Helena Lindquist, Secretary to the Board, referred to the minutes from the May 4, 2019 Conference Meeting and the Secretary’s Report on Board actions since that date. There was one correction of a typographical error in the Minutes. With that noted, the Minutes and the Secretary’s Report were accepted by unanimous consent.
Motion to Call Bonnie Bates as Conference Minister
On behalf of the Conference Board, the Moderator moved the nomination of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates to be the fourth Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference. Because the motion came from the Board, it did not require a second. She highlighted the biography and the vision for the Conference included in the Advance Reports, as well as the Conference Minister’s Job Description. After her introduction, the floor was opened for any questions from the delegates. Some of the questions for Bonnie Bates included a request to elaborate on her vision for the Conference, if there was a term for her position, and how having two Settled Conference Ministers might impact future conversations about uniting with PSEC. She left the room and the Moderator welcomed any further questions or discussion. There were few other questions/comments, so the tellers distributed the ballots and voting instructions were given. Ballots were collected and taken to be counted.

Proposed Budget for 2020
Rev. Christian Creyer presented the Proposed PNEC Operating Budget for 2020 as compiled by the Budget and Finance Committee. He highlighted some areas where changes had been made and asked if there were additional questions. After questions and further clarifications had been made, the Moderator pointed out the Budget had already been reviewed by the Board and recommended to the Fall Conference Meeting for approval. Hearing no further questions, she asked for the vote. Approval for the budget passed unanimously.

The Moderator then announced that Rev. Creyer has submitted his resignation as the Conference Treasurer, but he will continue to serve as the Search and Call Associate. She thanked him for his years of service in the Treasurer position and announced that Rev. Martin Nuscher will now serve as PNEC Treasurer.

Election Results
After a careful tally of the votes cast and the number of eligible delegates still in attendance, it was determined that Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates has been elected to the Settled Conference Minister position in the Penn Northeast Conference by a nearly 90% affirming vote. She gave some brief remarks expressing her gratitude for the reaffirmation of her work here and spoke of her excitement for the goals yet to be accomplished.

Adjournment
After asking everyone present to complete an evaluation form and to place them in the appropriate bin on their way out of the sanctuary after closing worship, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Dawn Hummel made the motion and Rev. Martin Nuscher seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by: Helena Lindquist, PNEC Secretary to the Board

Treasurer’s Reports
See Separate Document

2021 Proposed Budget Comparison Report
See Separate Document
Nominating Committee Report & Bios

The number after the name indicates to which term the candidate is being appointed/elected. U=unexpired

Officers Class of 2021

**Moderator: Mr. Doug Taylor** (1), 26 Willow Drive, Belvidere, NJ 07823; 908-619-3774
Member St. John, Riegelsville, PA
PNEC: Assistant Moderator, General Synod Delegate, Conference Planning Committee
Local Church: Consistory President, Annual Meeting Delegate
Wider Church: New Jersey Association Church Development & Support Committee Chair, Central Atlantic Conference Church Development & Support Member
Cell Phone: 908-619-3774; Email Address: dptaylor16@comcast.net

**Assistant Moderator: Rev. Dr. James Gottwald** (1), 5070 Steeple Chase Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078
Pastor of St. John’s United Church of Christ Laurys Station, PA 2006-Present
PNEC Friends of Guatemala since inception; Served two terms on the PNEC Board
Joined the UCC in 1987
Represented both the Illinois Conference and the PNEC at General Synod
DMin Western Theological Seminary 2004; MDiv Princeton Theological Seminary 1993 – Ordained in Central Atlantic Conference
Helped to coordinate youth ministry for the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference
Pastor of Union Congregational Church UCC Somonauk, Illinois 1993-2006
Dynamics Engineer with Sikorsky Aircraft 1986
610-769-5372 pastor@stjohnslaurys.org

Conference Board Class of 2021

**Rev. Albert Martin** (U), 1102 North New Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018; 610-739-8473
Chaplain, Phoebe Ministries; Former member of the Authorization Working Group
Cell: 610-739-8473 Email: amartin@phoebe.org

Conference Board Class of 2023

**Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman** (2), 5331 Vera Cruz Road, Emmaus, PA 18049
Pastor Cedar UCC, Allentown, Pennsylvania
PNEC: PNEC Board, PNEC Board Executive Committee, PNEC Coach, General Synod Delegate to two General Synods
Cell Phone: 610-762-9391 Email Address: CandiCain@gmail.com

**Rev. Kathryn Foster** (2), 735 Overlook Dr., Lehighton, PA 18235
Settled Minister 2014 to present, Jerusalem UCC, Palmerton
PNEC: Board of Directors, Congregational Vitality Committee, Coaching Committee Volunteer, General Synod Delegate.
Local Church: member and ex officio on all committees.
Cell Phone: 610-554-7364 Email Address: juccpast@ptd.net

**Mr. Ben Gulledge** (1), 110 N. Main Street, Apt. 6, Souderton, PA 18964
Member, UCC Greenawalds, Allentown
484-347-9994 Mrbig231@yahoo.com
Mr. Jeff Hartman (1), 212 West Main, Macungie, PA 28062
Member of Church of the Good Shepherd, Alburtis PA
Local Church: Co-taught and Co-Lead Sr. High Sunday School Class and Youth Group, Choir and Music Ensemble member, Consistory member (Vice-President and President of Consistory last 2 terms), and member of the Search and Call committee.
PNEC: Church delegate to Conference Meetings. As Consistory President, helped to coordinate church hosting Spring 2019 PNEC meeting.
Personnel: Jeffrey has been married to his wonderful wife Steffany for 41 years. They have 3 children, Lara, Kristen, and Jeffrey William. Jeff’s career included 34 years with Merck Pharmaceuticals. He was fortunate to have worked in manufacturing, process development and licensure for new and existing APIs, vaccines, sterile and non-sterile pharmaceuticals. After retiring in March 2015, he joined Valsource and consulted for another 2 years in the pharmaceutical industry.
Cell Phone: 610-329-0158; Email Address: jeffreyhartman5@gmail.com

Youth on the Conference Board
Mr. Johnathan Dieter, 130 Tittle Road, Saylorsburg, PA 18353; 484-632-8822
Member, St. John’s UCC, Nazareth, PA
PNEC- I serve as a youth member on the Conference Board
Home Church- Consistory member, Property Committee secretary, Security Task Force, Counting Committee, Worship Host and Usher, Kitchen Crew, and I am very involved with the youth group and youth activities.
Email- dieter.johnathan@gmail.com Cell Phone #: 484-632-8822

Ms. Mollie Jarrett, 5049 Mill Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078; 610-674-5235
Member of Neffs Union UCC
Local Church: Sunday School teacher, Youth Group Advisory Team, Youth Group Intern, Associate Pastor Search Committee.

Staff and Personnel Committee Class of 2023
Mrs. Patti Hoyt (1), 501 Henry Street, Hellertown, PA 18055
Member Bethany UCC, Bethlehem
PNEC: Supply Pastor, formerly Co-director of PNECommUNITY camp
Local Church: Annual Meeting Delegate
Cell Phone: 484-268-2527; Email Address: PattiHoyt5@gmail.com

Pastor Dave Berryman (1), 934 Marshall Drive, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Pastor, Zion UCC, Stroudsburg, PA
PNEC: Church and Ministry Committee, Crisis Response Team, Staff and Personnel Committee, Church Renewal Team
Local Church: Consistory Mbr, Church School Teacher, Annual Meeting Delegate, Sr. Choir, Building and Grounds Committee, Family Promise Volunteer
Cell Phone: 570-350-8029; Email Address: djberry@ptd.net

Rev. Becky Moyer (1), 591 Cedar Hill Dr., Allentown, PA 18109 610-297-2295
Pastor at Lower Saucon UCC, Hellertown and Emmanuel UCC, Allentown
PNEC: Staff and Personnel Committee, Conference Meeting Planning Team, General Synod Delegate to two General Synods; Cell Phone: (610) 297-2295; Email Address: pastorbecky1121@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Class of 2023

**Rev. Lori Esslinger** (1), 27 West Berger Street, Emmaus, PA 18049
Ordained at UCC Greenawalds 1989. Served PA Southeast Conference for 10 years on many committees including Church and Ministry. Delegate to General Synod three times. PNEC served on Board of Directors and Mentor to Licensed Pastors Committee. Served 10 churches in various ways throughout my 30 years. Currently serving Old Zionsville UCC. Live in Emmaus. Call or text: 610-393-3522 email: MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com

**Rev. Mike Eckroth** (1), 628 Benner Rd. Apt. 101, Allentown, PA 18104
Member and Pastor at Christ Church of Bath, UCC
PNEC: Previously served on In Care Committee, Staff & Personnel Committee, Delegate to 3 General Synods
Local Church: Annual Meeting Delegate, Community of Practice Member; Bethlehem Area Mission Council Facilitator, Bath Area Council of Churches Member
Home Phone: 610-841-8943; Email Address: pastormike@rcn.com

**Rev. Virginia (Ginny) Heimer** (2), 373 Riverside Dr., Walnutport, PA 18088
Pastor at St. Peter’s West Penn Township, Tamaqua
PNEC: Nominating Committee since 2017, General Synod Delegate 2017
Cell: 610-762-3840 Email: vheimer@me.com

**Committee on Ministry**
AWG = Authorized Working Group
OWG = Oversight Working Group
LCSWG = Local Congregational Support Working Group

**Class of 2021**

**Pastor David Adams** (U) (AWG), 325 Greenhouse Lane, Zion Grove, PA 17985
Pastor, Grace UCC Millgrove, Catawissa
Local: Consistory member, Sunday School teacher
570-889-5896; dja22876@yahoo.com

**Pastor Andrea Lazicki** (U) (OWG), P. O. Box 1021, Kresgeville, PA 18832
Andrea Lazicki, Licensed Minister in the UCC, affirmed in September of 2019 with Phoebe Ministries. I serve as a per diem chaplain on the Phoebe Richland campus since August of 2019. I volunteered as a chaplain on the Allentown campus 2013 – 2019 after my first CPE unit 2012 -2013. I had three extended units of CPE with Phoebe Ministries.
I’m a member of Jerusalem UCC in Palmerton, PA. I live in Kresgeville, PA with my husband of 31 years and our dogs and cat. Our daughters, Megan and Kelsey, are grown, college graduates, and living in Elizabethtown and Philadelphia respectively. We have an almost 3 year old grandson who adds such joy to our lives.
I spent most of my career in physical therapy as a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant and enjoyed my working life as a healthcare owner, practitioner, and active member of our Pleasant Valley community. Healthcare is my calling and it’s a blessing to now sit with people in a whole new environment and care for people in a spiritual and holistic way.
570-730-9147 andrealazicki@me.com
Class of 2022
Pastor Mark Rowell (U) (LCSWG), 279 McGuire Park Dr., Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Pastor of the Orangeville Charge: Orangeville United, Zion, and St. James
Member In Discernment
Cell: 570-204-7937; markerowell@gmail.com

Class of 2023
Rev. Dr. David DeRemer (1) (AWG), 6642 Blue Heather Court, Macungie, PA 18062
Pastor Emeritus, St. John's, Nazareth
Wider Church: Dir Supervised Ministry, Moravian Seminary; UCC Polity Teacher at Moravian, Princeton and others. PNEC: Delegate to multiple General Synods, Board of Directors, Moderator
Cell Phone: 610-392-2179; Email Address: davidhderemer@gmail.com

Rev. Greg Edwards (1) (LCSWG), 144 North 9th St., Allentown, PA 18102
Founder and Senior Pastor of the Resurrected Life Community Church, United Church of Christ, and President and CEO of the Resurrected Community Development Corporation
A frequent lecturer at colleges and universities, he has presented to the faith-based, corporate and nonprofit sectors, has been featured in TIME Magazine, and has served as Guest Chaplain to the Pennsylvania State Senate. As a professional musician, he is a musicologist specializing in Black Sacred Music and Jazz.
Dr. Edwards currently serves as Board Chair for Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, and board member for the Community First Fund, the financially largest Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in Central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley focused on improving the economic well-being of historically marginalized, and under represented communities in Eastern Pennsylvania. He previously co-chaired the Water Fountain Project, a regional task force comprised of African-American and Latinx political and community leaders committed to addressing educational and economic inequities in the greater Lehigh Valley.
484-221-8072 revrlcc@gmail.com

Rev. Todd Fennell (1) (AWG), 48 Ridgewood Road, Easton, PA 18045
Part-time Pastor at Bethany UCC in Bethlehem, a very musical church. He is celebrating 40 years in ministry, having served at First UCC, Milford NJ and St.Paul’s, Northampton.
Cell: 908-507-0824 Email: tnjfnl@gmail.com

Rev. Kayli Freeman (1) (LCSWG), 1790 Timothy Court, Kutztown, PA 19530
Kayli currently serves as the Associate Pastor at Union UCC, Neffs. She has served in that position since November 2017. Kayli serves as convener of the PNEC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team. She also received her certificate in Theology and Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary in Spring of 2020. She looks forward to whatever future God holds for her, and the work of the PNEC.
pastorkayli@unionucc.org cell: 610-390-8768

Rev. Debra K. Hess (1) (AWG), 560 Frable Street, Nazareth, PA 18064
Pastor, St. Thomas UCC, Bethlehem
Local Church: Volunteer coordinator for Bethlehem Emergency Shelter
PNEC: General Synod delegate for two General Synods, served on the Licensed/Commissioned Ministry Committee, mission trip to Back Bay Mission (2012)
Email: pastordkhess@yahoo.com Cell: 610-739-4926
Mrs. Amanda (Mandy) Muschett (1) (AWG), 95 County Road 627, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Member, St. John, Riegelsville  
PNEC: Committee on Ministry Authorization Working Group, General Synod Delegate  
Local Church: Consistory Member, Handbell Choir Director (First, Milford,NJ), Musician  
Cell Phone: 908-763-0728;  Email Address: achadeayne@gmail.com

Mrs. Diane Schnaars (1) (LCSWG), 223 S. Walnut Street, Walnutport, PA 18088  
Member, Union UCC, Neffs  
PNEC: Annual meeting planning committee, Local Congregational Support Working Group  
Local church: St. Paul’s UCC, Northampton, where my husband serves as interim—Member, Music and Worship team  
610-760-9505; drschnaars@live.com

Mr. Richard Schantz (1) (OSWG), 3010 Aronimink Place, Macungie, Pa. 18062  
I am a member at Jordan UCC for more than 30 years. Served on consistency for 4 years as a deacon and 8 years as an elder. Grounds keeper about 12 years. Chairman on the personal committee 2years. I am active on 2 small groups.  
schantzn@ptd.net  610-248-0062

October 2020

**General Synod Delegates Class of 2023**

*Will attend two Synods: 2021 in Kansas City, Missouri July 16-20 – A Virtual Meeting 2023 – date & place TBA*

**Class of 2023  Clergy – Elect 3**

**Rev. David Schnaars**, 223 S. Walnut Street, Walnutport, PA 18088  
Professional interim minister currently serving St. Pauls UCC in Northampton. Since 1994 Dave has been involved with PNEC youth and stewardship programs, served on the Board of Directors and the Ordained Member In Discernment Committee, and the Committee on Ministry. David was a delegate to the 2005 General Synod.

**Rev. Virginia Schlegel**, 85 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, PA 18032  
Pastor, Saint John's UCC Mickley's, Whitehall  
Associate Member Jordan UCC  
Committee Chair of Jordan’s Ecumenical Peace Garden.  
Memberships: PNEC Nominating Committee, Boehm Clergy Group, Community of Practice  
General Synod Alternate Delegate 2015, 2017, 2019. Pastorvee13@gmail.com  610-442-4223

**Pastor Janet Newett**, 919 N. Leh Street, Allentown, PA 18104  
Member and Pastor of St. John’s UCC Fogelsville. MID w/ Lay Ministerial Standing.  
Member of Association for United Church Educators (AUCE) and Annual MA AUCE Event Planning Team, former regional representative and Vice Chair to AUCE Board of Directors. Attended three General Synods as youth leader/visitor: Long Beach, Baltimore and Milwaukee  
PNEC: GTW Ministry Team Chair, Faith Formation Ministry Team Chair, Youth Retreat Planning Team, former annual planning team member, former YEA Team member and chair.
LOCAL CHURCH- former ministerial staff at St. John’s Allentown, St. John’s Nazareth, and Christ UCC Bethlehem, UCC Greenawalds and Hope Allentown.
Cell 610-657-2189   Pastorjanetn@gmail.com

**Pastor David Adams**, 325 Greenhouse Lane, Zion Grove, PA  17985
Pastor, Grace UCC Millgrove, Catawissa
Local:  Consistory member, Sunday School teacher

**Rev. Jennifer Bannerman**, 95 Manor Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071
I have been serving as interim pastor at Huffs Union UCC/ELCA, Alburtis, PA for the past several months. This is my 2nd interim position in Eastern PA after serving as a settled Pastor at Zion UCC, Lehighton, PA. This my 9th call over all within the UCC having served in churches across the country. During my ministry I was able to be a delegate to one General Synod. I found it to be a fascinating and informative experience, filled with meeting old friends and making new ones. I would very much like to attend as a delegate again and experience the gathering of the greater church. It would be an honor to go as a delegate of PNEC.

**Rev. Kenneth Fuller**, 11 West 8th Street, Pottstown, PA 19464
Pastor, St. John, Riegelsville
Ken graduated from Davidson College in 1969, having studied in Montpellier, France during his junior year, working on a Kibbutz in Israel in the summer of 1968. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1972 and was immediately called to his first pastorate at the Williamstown (Mass.) Congregational Parish, where he was ordained in the Berkshire Association of the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ in October of that year. He has since served churches in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. He was called as Pastor and Teacher of the Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ in May of 1994. In 2009 he was called by the Avon Congregational Church and moved to Connecticut to become its Pastor and Teacher in September of that year. On May 31st of 2011, he retired from that pastorate and moved to Frederick, Maryland. In 2014 he became Pastor of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Cavetown, MD until in 2019 he was called as Contract Pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in Riegelsville, PA.

Ken serves on the Authorization Working Group of the Committee on the Ministry of the PNEC. He has previously served as a delegate to GS in 1983 and ‘85 from New Hampshire Conf. and in 2003 and ‘05 from the Central Atlantic Conference.

**Rev. Teresa Martin**, 2058 East Hendricks Road, Pennsburg, PA  18073
I am Teresa Martin, Pastor of Saint John's Coopersburg for now what has been a very rich 4 years.  I have been in ordained ministry for 18 years beginning with my first call in Connecticut.  I have also served in York, and Lancaster Pennsylvania.  I have Three Sons and Three Wonderful grandchildren  Keith and I have been married for six years.  We enjoy riding motorcycles together and I am also an avid reader and cross stitch fanatic.  I am committed to church revitalization and the progressive church for the future.  Not forgetting our history or the rich liturgy of the church but presenting it in new and different ways.
Rev. Josh Knappenberger, 1805 Spring Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018
Rev. Josh Knappenberger was ordained in November 2013 and has served six churches in his ministry. All but one of those six have been served in a part time capacity. From 2014-2017 Rev Josh Knappenberger served in Pennsylvania Southeast Conference as full time pastor at Zion Blue Mountain UCC. Since leaving Strasstown, he served Faith UCC in Center Valley PA along with Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevenson. He also served under Rev. Robert Stevens at Zion’s Liberty Bell UCC. He is currently Pastor of Transition for St. James UCC in Allentown and also works as the Director of the Liberty Bell Museum located in Zion’s Liberty Bell Church. While in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference he served on the Heidelberg Association’s Committee on Ministry. As chair of the Committee on Ministry, he served as a representative on the Association Merger Committee which worked to merge several associations into one, creating the Covenant Association. In PNEC, Josh served on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team. Currently, he serves on the planning committee for the 2020 PSEC Men’s Clergy Retreat which is intended to be available for both PNEC and PSEC, and has agreed to serve on the Oversight Working group in the PNEC beginning late 2020.

Class of 2023  Lay – Elect 7

Mr. Douglas Lander, 2315 Montgomery Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
Member: Lower Saucon UCC, Hellertown
Lower Saucon UCC: Consistory, PPRC, Choir, Instrumentalist, Vision Team
PNEC: Board of Directors, (past Moderator), Generosity Committee, Annual Meeting Planning, Search and Call Team, Nominating Committee (past chair), Youth Retreat Planning
National: Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, Evangelism In The Community (workshop presenter)
Phone: 610-867-0536; Email Address: dlander@ptd.net

Mrs. Veronica Fabian
Mrs. Veronica Fabian, Union United Church of Christ, Neffs
Local Church: Former Church School Assistant, Chime Choir, Fellowship Committee, Wedding Coordinator for Non-Members
Home phone: 610-261-2850   email address: jvfabian@rcn.com

Mr. Thomas Moyer, 2633 Amy Way, Whitehall, PA 18052
PNEC – Oversight Working Group, Church & Ministry, Staff & Personal, Response Team
Local Church, St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, Whitehall – Annual Meeting delegate, Financial Secretary, Adult Church School Teacher, past deacon and elder
Home phone – 610-432-3372 Cell phone 484-264-0268
E-Mail - thomasmoyer@rcn.com

Mrs. Diane Schnaars, 223 S. Walnut Street, Walnutport, PA 18088
Member, Union UCC, Neffs
PNEC: Annual meeting planning committee, Local Congregational Support Working Group
Local church: St. Paul’s UCC, Northampton, where my husband serves as interim—Member, Music and Worship team
610-760-9505; drschnaars@live.com
**Mrs. Patti Hoyt**, 501 Henry Street, Hellertown, PA 18055  
Member Bethany UCC, Bethlehem  
PNEC: Supply Pastor, formerly Co-director of PNECommUNITY camp  
Local Church: Annual Meeting Delegate  
Cell Phone: 484-268-2527; Email Address: PattiHoyt5@gmail.com

**Mrs. Amanda (Mandy) Muschett**, 95 County Road 627, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Member, St. John, Riegelsville  
PNEC: Committee on Ministry Authorization Working Group, General Synod Delegate  
Local Church: Consistory Member, Handbell Choir Director (First, Milford, NJ), Musician  
Cell Phone: 908-763-0728; Email Address: achadeayne@gmail.com

**Mrs. Karen Ezzo**, 1113 Constitutional Drive, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Member of Zion UCC Stroudsburg, Pa.  
PNEC: Committee on Ministry  
Local church: Consistory President, Annual Meeting delegate and Family Promise volunteer.  
Cell 570-236-3684 Email kezzo@ezzo.us

**Ms. Helena Lindquist**, 249 Ridings Circle, Macungie, PA 18062  
My faith journey has been somewhat circuitous as I was baptized in the Methodist Church, attended Sunday School at a Presbyterian Church as a young child, but mostly grew up and was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I've been a member of the UCC for about 35 years. My professional career has also been varied. I spent 24 years in banking, five years as the Executive Director of a start-up non-profit, and 16 years as a development consultant for Lehigh Valley non-profits as diverse as Head Start, The Wildlands Conservancy and The Military Affairs Council. I am now fully retired. I am currently serving my third term on the PNEC Board in the role of Secretary. I also served two terms on the Board in the late ‘90’s, was Assistant Conference Moderator in 1997 and Moderator in 1998, as well as serving on several Conference committees and teams.  
Cell: 610-554-6773

**Mrs. Kathryn "Kathy" Latshaw**, 206 Hoffmansville Road, P.O. Box 182, Sassamansville, PA 19472  
Member: Old Zionsville U.C.C. Old Zionsville, PA for 2 years  
PNEC: Annual Meeting Delegate  
Local Church: Finance, Worship, and Personnel Committees  
I was never a delegate for Penn Northeast Conference. Most of my experience with Conference, Synod and Association Meetings happened while I was with the PSEC for more than 40 years GS 2007, 2009, and 2015;  
Phone: 610-754-7701 Email: katdan627@dejazzd.com

**Mr. Jackson Pyne**  
By way of introduction, I am from Liberia, West Africa; traveled to the USA in March 11. 2000. Attended the AME Church in Philadelphia were I ministers and preach for about twelve years before moving on to St. John’s UCC, Laurys Station in 2007. I am excited in that attending the General Synod will create an eye opening opportunity for most young people like me to be fully involved into extending the vision of the church across the globe mostly, in third world countries that are still in such of the true meaning Christ Love.
Mrs. Stephanie Creyer, 2642 27th Street SW, Allentown, PA 18103
I am a member at Chestnut Hill Church in Coopersburg. I love being involved with the church. I have been a member of Chestnut Hill Church for 4 years and since then I am happy to say that a women’s group was started and we call ourselves Whine, Women & Worry. We gather monthly, talk about topics that are of interest within our group. We have also had successful Spaghetti Dinners/Basket Raffles in November. I am married to Reverend Christian Creyer and I have one daughter and a granddaughter. I love spending time with my family and playing games.

Mr. Bernard Hobson, 491 Bossardsville Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Member, Zion UCC, Stroudsburg

Mrs. Sandra Marsch, 85 Merry L. Dr., Drums, PA 18222
Member, Faith, Hazleton
I am a retired social worker and certified geriatric care manager. I am a charter member of Faith UCC. Previous to that I belong to St. Paul’s in West Hazleton. I was baptized in that church and 23 years later, I was also married there. I was a Sunday School teacher and a Vacation Bible School teacher at St. Paul’s. I was the chairperson on the committee for Faith’s 20th Anniversary. We had several planned activities for the congregation to become involved in, such as, the Alzheimer Walk in Bloomsburg and an annual church picnic at Knoebels. Both events have evolved into annual events. I am a member of Faith’s Choir and Team Captain for Faith’s annual Alzheimer Walk. I am a member of consistory for the past 2 ½ years. I enjoy talking with an learning more about the members of our congregation and finding out their interests.
Being a delegate to the General Synod would allow me to take part on various committees discussing topics pertinent to the UCC church. I look forward to learning the process of how decisions are made on important topics. I have never gone to a Synod meeting.

Class of 2023 Under Age 30 Lay and Authorized Ministers – Elect 3

Ms. Christina Siewert, 514 Briar Circle South, Kutztown, PA 19530
Member at New Bethel Church, Kempton. This is a federated ELCA and UCC congregation. She has attended the biannual PNEC meetings in the past. She sings in her church's choir. She is a recent graduate with a masters in Clinical Counseling from Moravian Theological Seminary, who is interested in being a voting delegate.
Cell phone: 484-947-8440   Email address: 15christinas@gmail.com

Ms. Jordan Smith, 1815 Church Road, Allentown, PA 18104; Member: Jordan UCC, Allentown

Ms. Melissa Mendiolina, 362 Hawthorne Lane, Whitehall, PA 18052
484-725-0203
Member: St. John’s UCC, Fullerton, Whitehall
PNEC: Youth member of the Nominating Committee

Rev. Becky Sausser, 514 Briar Circle South, Kutztown, PA 19530
PNEC: Member of the Conference Board
2019 graduate of Moravian Theological Seminary. She serves the congregation of New Bethel Church in Kempton, a federated UCC & ELCA church. She is passionate about the United Church of Christ, its polity, practice, and application. With her love of Robert's Rules and enthusiasm, she would be honored to serve as a delegate!
General Synod Ballot for 2020 Fall Conference Meeting

Clergy – Class of 2021/23
Vote for No More than THREE

_____ Rev. David Schnaars, 223 S. Walnut Street, Walnutport, PA 18088
_____ Rev. Virginia Schlegel, 85 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, PA 18032
_____ Pastor Janet Newett, 919 N. Leh Street, Allentown, PA 18104
_____ Pastor David Adams, 325 Greenhouse Lane, Zion Grove, PA 17985
_____ Rev. Jennifer Bannerman, 95 Manor Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071
_____ Rev. Kenneth Fuller, 11 West 8th Street, Pottstown, PA 19464
_____ Rev. Teresa Martin, 2058 East Hendricks Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073
_____ Rev. Josh Knappenberger, 1805 Spring Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Laity – Class of 2021/23
Vote for No More Than SEVEN

_____ Mr. Douglas Lander, 2315 Montgomery Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
_____ Mrs. Veronica Fabian, 2331 Washington Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067
_____ Mr. Thomas Moyer, 2633 Amy Way, Whitehall, PA 18052
_____ Mrs. Diane Schnaars, 223 S. Walnut Street, Walnutport, PA 18088
_____ Mrs. Patti Hoyt, 501 Henry Street, Hellertown, PA 18055
_____ Mrs. Amanda (Mandy) Muschett, 95 County Road 627, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
_____ Mrs. Karen Ezzo, 1113 Constitutional Drive, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
_____ Ms. Helena Lindquist, 249 Ridings Circle, Macungie, PA 18062
_____ Mrs. Kathy Latshaw, 206 Hoffmansville Rd, P.O. Box 182, Sassamansville, PA 19472
_____ Mr. Jackson Pyne, 39 N. Jefferson Street, Allentown, PA 18102
_____ Mrs. Stephanie Creyer, 2642 27th Street SW, Allentown, PA 18103
_____ Mr. Bernard Hobson, 491 Bossardsville Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
_____ Mrs. Sandra Marsch, 85 Merry L. Dr., Drums, PA 18222

Laity (under 30) – Class of 2021/23
Vote for No More Than THREE

_____ Ms. Christina Siewert, 514 Briar Circle South, Kutztown, PA 19530
_____ Ms. Jordan Smith, 1815 Church Road, Allentown, PA 18104
_____ Ms. Melissa Mendiolina, 362 Hawthorne Lane, Whitehall, PA 18052
_____ Rev. Becky Sausser, 514 Briar Circle South, Kutztown, PA 19530
PNEC Bylaws Revision and Addition

An Explanation:

The PNEC Committee on Ministry has requested a change to our PNEC Bylaws. The current Bylaw, Article VIII, Section 805, indicates a quorum for Conference Meetings:

At any meeting of the Conference 100 persons entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. If there is the lack of a quorum, members present at any scheduled meeting of the Conference may hear and receive reports without taking actions thereon and may adjourn the meeting to such a time and place as a majority of those who are present and entitled to vote shall determine.

While this quorum is effective and manageable for meetings of the Conference, this quorum becomes challenging for Ecclesiastical Councils, gatherings of the Committee on Ministry, delegates and pastors of churches, and guests for the purposes of approving a candidate for Ordination as an Authorized Minister. Without an addition and revision to the Bylaws, it might be difficult to assure a quorum for Ecclesiastical Councils.

The proposed revision as written below indicates the presence of a majority of 35 members of the Committee on Ministry, which through its working groups and efforts, have moved with a Member in Discernment through the process toward ordination. Additional ministers and delegates are also eligible to vote, but the reduction in the quorum assures the Conference can act in its responsibility to affirm the work of the Committee on Ministry.

The Committee on Ministry recommends approval of this addition and revision to the Bylaws. This addition and revision are supported by the Conference Board (7/22/20 meeting).

Recommended Bylaws Revision from the Committee on Ministry

(Delegates to the Fall Meeting will be asked to vote on the following)

Article VIII

806. For purposes of an Ecclesiastical Council, an official meeting of the Conference, all delegates and authorized ministers of the Conference are eligible to vote. The quorum for Ecclesiastical Councils is established as 75% of the actively serving Committee on Ministry members. If there is the lack of a quorum, members present at any scheduled Ecclesiastical Council may hear and receive information from the Member in Discernment, but may not take actions thereon and may adjourn the Ecclesiastical Council to such a time and place as a majority of those who are present and entitled to vote shall determine.
Celebrating Their Anniversary

We congratulate the following PNEC Pastors who will celebrate a Special Anniversary of Ordination in 2020

1/30/2020

65th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. William Ellsworth (6/5/55) – Retired

55th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Don Quayle (6/6/1965) – Retired

50th Anniversary of Ordination

45th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Dean Frey (6/1/1975) – Pastor, Emmanuel, Bowmanstown & Zion, Lehighton
Rev. Richard Guhl (10/01/1975) – Retired

40th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Todd Fennell (7/26/1980) – Pastor, Bethany, Bethlehem

35th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Katherine Brearley (6/1/1985) – Pastor, Longswamp, Mertztown
Rev. Jeffery Brinks (7/7/1985) – Pastor, St. John’s, Nazareth
Rev. Bruce Stevenson (8/11/1985) – Pastor, Faith, Center Valley
Rev. Wendy Williams (7/14/1985)

25th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. David Schnaars (7/15/1995) – Pastor, St. Paul’s, Northampton

15th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates (5/29/2005) – Conference Minister, PNEC

10th Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. Lunnett Hilliard (11/14/2010) – Retired
Rev. Emily Garcia Livingston (11/14/2010) – Pastor, St. John’s, Allentown

Licensed Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries

10th Anniversary of Licensing
Mr. Robert Mease – Supply Pastor
PNEC Congregational Giving in 2019

OCWM Donations over $10,000
1. St. John’s UCC, Allentown
2. St. John’s UCC Fullerton, Whitehall
3. Christ UCC, Bethlehem
4. Union UCC, Neffs
5. Emmanuel UCC, Allentown
6. St. John’s UCC, Nazareth
7. St. Paul’s UCC, Northampton

Top Ten per Capita OCWM Congregations
1. St. Peter’s UCC Shumans, Bloomsburg
2. St. John’s UCC, Allentown
3. Emmanuel UCC, Nuremberg
4. Orangeville UCC, Orangeville
5. Emmanuel, Allentown
6. Trinity UCC, Pleasant Valley
7. Hope UCC, Allentown
8. St. James UCC, Stillwater
9. UCC Greenawalds, Allentown
10. Christ UCC Schoenersville, Allentown

5 for 5 Congregations *(contributed to OCWM and the four special offerings: One Great Hour Sharing, Christmas Fund, Strengthen the Church, and Neighbors in Need)*

Church of the Good Shepherd, Alburtis
Christ UCC Schoenersville, Allentown
Emmanuel UCC, Allentown
Grace UCC, Allentown
UCC Greenawalds, Allentown
Jerusalem W. Salisbury UCC, Allentown
Jordan UCC, Allentown
Resurrected Life UCC, Allentown
St. John’s, Allentown
Zion UCC, Allentown
Ben Salem UCC, Andreas
Salem UCC, Moorestown, Bath
Bethany UCC, Bethlehem
Christ UCC, Bethlehem
Faith UCC, Center Valley
Chestnut Hill UCC, Coopersburg
St. Paul’s UCC Indianland, Cherryville
Christ UCC Little Moore, Danielsville
St. John’s UCC, Emmaus
St. John’s UCC, Fogelsville
Faith UCC, Hazleton

Lower Saucon UCC, Hellertown
Christ UCC, Jim Thorpe
St. John’s UCC, Laurys Station
St. Peter’s UCC, Mantzville, Tamaqua
Dille Parish UCC, LeRaysville/Potterville
Trinity UCC, Mt. Bethel
Grace UCC, Northampton
St. John’s UCC Howertown, Northampton
Zion UCC, Orangeville
Jerusalem UCC Trachsville, Palmerton
Trinity UCC, Pleasant Valley
St. John UCC, Riegelsville
St. John’s UCC, St. Johns
Trinity Cong. UCC, Scranton
Heidelberg UCC, Slatington
Good Shepherd, Slatington
Forks UCC, Stockertown
Zion UCC, Stroudsburg
St. Paul’s UCC, Swiftwater
Salem UCC, Weatherly
St. John’s UCC Fullerton, Whitehall
## Ministry Teams in PNEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Ministry Team</th>
<th>Convener(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amigos de Guatemala</td>
<td>Karen Heim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorization Working Group</td>
<td>Cecilia Baxter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching Team</td>
<td>Heather Kurtz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Ministry</td>
<td>Jeff Brinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Meeting Planning Team</td>
<td>Joanne Marchetto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Vitality</td>
<td>Judy Brandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Response</td>
<td>Karl Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Relations Mission</td>
<td>Homer Royer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Formation</td>
<td>Janet Newett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEM Fund</td>
<td>Barbara Hanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwilym T. Williams (GTW) Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Janet Newett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Congregational Support Working Group</td>
<td>Jeff Carlton and Rich Teitsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversight Working Group</td>
<td>James Robison and Bruce Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial Justice</td>
<td>Bob Gutekunst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search and Call</td>
<td>Doug Lander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEA Fund</td>
<td>Suzanne Brooks Cope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adult</td>
<td>Kayli Freeman</td>
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October 2020
PNEC Racial Justice Commitment Resolution

October 2020

We believe that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.¹

Amos 5

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
    and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
    I will not accept them;
    and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
    I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
    I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
    and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We, the members of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, commit to the work of becoming a Racial Justice Conference. Our hope is that the culmination of our efforts will lead to a formal declaration of our intention to live into this identity. We also acknowledge that this will take time, and we are committed to this work, as long as it takes.

We commit to educating ourselves, our authorized ministers, and our congregations about racial justice, and will work to provide resources in this regard.

We commit to working together with interfaith, ecumenical, and community partners in this endeavor.

We acknowledge the demographics of our conference as predominantly white. The burden of dismantling systems of white supremacy is the responsibility of people of privilege. We are calling all white clergy and faith leaders to join us in uprooting theologies and practices that accommodate interpersonal, structural, and systemic racism and replace them with life-giving ways of making meaning, building relationships, and reconstructing just systems and structures.

We commit to truth-telling and risk-taking. We commit to naming white supremacy and racist ideologies, whenever and wherever we experience them.

We understand that some of our members, authorized ministers, and congregations may be uncomfortable with this work. We will act by leading our congregations to confront racism and privilege.

We accept that our culture and traditions, our practices and leadership may be impacted because of this work. We acknowledge our complicity in maintaining these systems and affirm our commitment to change.

We commit to working together with a spirit of courage and compassion bringing our prophetic voices forward.

¹ Rev. Dr. King in relationship with Frederick Douglass, Theodore Parker, and the Abolitionist Movement
We pray that God will guide us in our work, and bless our efforts.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Penn Northeast Conference commits itself to action, regularly assessing our work, and noting the progress of our members, authorized ministers, and congregations. We will celebrate our accomplishments and admit our failures.

Submitted by the PNEC Racial Justice Ministry Team

Bob Gutekunst, Chair
Mia White
Mandy Muschett
Joanne Marchetto
Ron Smith
Emily Garcia Livingston
Edward Livingston

Installation of Conference Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, and General Synod Delegates at the 2020 Fall Conference Meeting

Bonnie announces that all who were appointed or elected today, including General Synod Delegates, and those currently serving on positions within the Penn Northeast to stand in their places

Bonnie: Friends in the Risen Christ, you stand before God and this faith community in answer to your call to serve among us. Speak now your promises to us.

Elected Leaders: We accept the call of God to serve among you as leaders of the Penn Northeast Conference. We are prepared to exercise our ministry diligently and faithfully showing forth the love of the Risen Christ.

Bonnie: Members and Friends of the Penn Northeast Conference speak your covenant promises to our sisters and brothers before you.

Members of the Penn Northeast Conference: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful Conference of Jesus Christ.

Bonnie: Friends, you are now our covenanted leaders. Be merciful in all your ways, kind in heart, and humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another. Forgive us freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be truly loving. Let the peace of the Risen Christ rule in your hearts, remembering that you are called to live in harmony and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you. Let us pray these words:
All: Almighty God, who through baptism received these Your servants into the church, increase in them the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in service, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self control in all things. We celebrate our covenanted leadership, the heroes of a history yet to be made. Amen and Amen.

Bonnie: Let us seek the grace, which moves to overwhelm us, trusting a Power greater than our own.

All: God sends us now into the future’s wake, loved – as we are – through challenge and mistake. We follow yet the path all saints have trod, sure of one thing:

*the Ever-Speaking God!*

October 2020
Advance Reports

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates’ Annual Report
January 1 – December 31, 2019

As 2019 came to a close and I thought back about the year’s experiences, it felt important to share a few pieces of information about the progress we have made and the challenges still before us. This report will be a little longer and look a little different from last year’s report. I want you to understand how your Our Churches Wider Mission dollars are reflected in the work we do. Please understand that the numbers shared are approximate based on the allocation of staff and volunteer time, a division of the administrative costs of the conference and the actual program expenses.

Our Staff
All that is accomplished in the Penn Northeast Conference could not be possible without a dedicated, committed, and competent staff. The work we do can be challenging but each of them bring their gifts and their whole selves to this work. Patty, Barbara, Gilberto, Christian and I devote our work time to serving you to the best of our abilities. Nothing is accomplished alone and we truly function as a staff team. I hope you will share your appreciation of their efforts with them.

Governance and Ministry - <4% of OCWM supports the Conference Board’s work & staff support to it. The Governance and Ministry structure has now become a familiar way of work with the conference. To be sure we still have some challenges with part of the model, but the Conference Board has embraced the Governance role and is moving forward. This year we revised policies, developed a gift policy (still in draft at the end of 2019 but moving toward completion), developed ad hoc working groups which completed 2019 program evaluations of our Ministry Teams, looked at OCWM giving and ways to celebrate generosity, developed Ways of Work for the Conference Board, and assured our understanding of the Governance and Ministry Model implementation. To be sure the Governance portion of our work is steadily moving forward. The Conference Board members volunteer their time and their resources. The Conference Board supported OCWM through their gifts to local congregations and individual gifts as well.

Ministry Teams – various amounts of OCWM Support per team; overall OCWM: 30% to Ministry Teams; 14% to Committee on Ministry & Member in Discernment Support; < 2% supports extra costs for Congregational Programs; about 30% support ongoing Congregational and Pastoral Support. As you review the Ministry Team reports, look closely at the amount of work that has been completed on behalf of the conference. The Authorization Working Group has assisted individuals in their development and education toward authorized ministry. The Authorization Working Group has also supported ministers from other denominations who have sought to serve in our churches through Dual Standing and Privilege of Call. Authorized ministers have been support through triennial conversations for support, continuing education offerings, communities of practice, and coaching through the Oversight Working Group. The Oversight Working Group also works with Area Mission Councils to provide ongoing support. Congregational lay leaders have received training and support through the full implementation of our Local Congregational Support Working Group, including the provision of a Lay Worship Leadership training to support churches who are in pastoral search or need Sunday worship Support.
Congregational support is offered through the Congregational Vitality, the Coaching, PNEC Faith Formers, Three Great Loves, Youth and Young Adult Teams. The Faith Formation Ministry Team offers sharing opportunities for Christian Educators and with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team continue to support the Sleep out for Homelessness and our conference, regional and national youth event participation.

**Disaster Response and Mission Outreach Response are self-supporting except for administrative support** and have been offered through the education and resourcing of our programs supporting Amigos de Guatemala, rebuilding in Puerto Rico, connections with the church in Cuba, ongoing support of our relationships with the German Church and a newer partnership with the Church of South India. We completed our Vitality Days program with Michael Piazza and continued coaching congregational teams to help them further develop and hone their skills in worship leadership, outreach, structure and financing and building on the strengths of the local church. We offered a workshop by Tod Bolsinger based on his book, Canoeing the Mountains, designed to help congregations weather our changing culture.

**GEM, YEA and GTW Teams are funded through endowment funds** and have supported congregational programs, youth and adult outreach activities, and scholarships for students in medical, education, and seminary educational institutions.

**The Search and Call Team is supported through 20% of OCWM Funds** and continues to support our congregations in transition, working to train Search Committees so they can effectively interview and call new pastors. New pastors for Nazareth, Allentown and Bethlehem churches have been called. We still have thirteen (13) open churches as of the end of 2019 and anticipate several additional retirements in 2019/2020.

**What’s Next?**
In 2020, we will be hosting my installation as the fourth called Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. I am both honored and humbled to have been called and look forward to continuing my work with you. We will hold a Service of Installation in 2020 and be able to celebrate together our ongoing partnership and work.

With our Vision and Mission statements developed and approved in 2018-2019, the Conference Board, Ministry Teams and their chairs, and I have been working on goals for the conference for 2020-2022. Watch for information about these in 2020.

We will continue to reflect on the essential supports we give congregations and pastors as we move into 2020 and what are sure to continue to be challenging days for the Church and for our individual congregations.

The Committee on Ministry and I continue to look at continuing education opportunities, support consultation and support for ministers and congregations, and to work with students and individuals discerning a call to ministry. There will likely be additional ecclesiastical councils in 2020 as our Members in Discernment move through their preparation. The Local Congregational Support Working Group continues to design and implement training for our lay leaders. They also are available to provide ongoing support and consultation with congregations experiencing conflicts and difficulties.

Our Christian Coaches are working with congregations in transition, those working on revitalization, those redesigning governance, staff and ministry functions and structures, as well as the revision of constitutions and bylaws. This work will continue.
Communities of Practice for authorized ministers are continuing in 2020 with additional and refocused groups forming. This resource for our ministers assures they have a support system, an ongoing community with whom to learn and share knowledge and experience. This program is supported by the fees charged to participants, but ongoing training and support for facilitators is supported by the conference budget.

Search and Call will continue to be a key focus of support for our congregations in transition. The Search and Call Team is actively recruiting new members to provide this support. The numbers of churches seeking pastors continues to rise and the need for less than full time pastors is expanding. As congregations become smaller and their budgets decrease, the need for ministers who can be bi-vocational or work only part time increases. Coupled with the growing number of pastors reaching retirement age we have a real shortage. We also have a shortage of Intentional Interim Ministers and are working on implementing an Interim Consultant Model which would allow congregations to utilize a pulpit supply minister to provide ongoing pastoral support, while the Interim Consultant works with the congregation to move through their transition tasks so they prepared to call their next settled pastor.

Through a grant from the Council of Conference Ministers Essential Conference Ministry Fund, we have been working on ways to streamline the search process for smaller congregations. We have been informed that an additional year of the grant for 2020 will be received. Our Search and Call Associate, Rev. Christian Creyer, has taken the lead on conducting the research for this grant.

**In conclusion**

We have accomplished a lot, yet we still have a lot to do until all our congregations have spiritual leadership, our program meets the growing needs of authorized ministers and congregations, and we are able to fully fund our programs without worrying about cutting programs, salaries, or staff. I know that 2020 will be another year of progress and I look forward to working with you to accomplish our vision, mission and goals.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister
Committee on Ministry Report

The C.O.M. is made up of thirty-nine members of the Conference who each serve on one of three Working Groups of the committee in addition to meeting as a committee of the whole three to four times a year (more often if needed). The three working groups are Authorization, Oversight and Local Congregational Support. The Committee on Ministry is a team that provides oversight of Authorized Ministers; nurtures those seeking authorization to be ministers of the United Church of Christ; and resources and supports local congregations and pastors. This team works to provide, equip and support leadership in congregations so that we may bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world on behalf of the whole United Church of Christ.


We extend our sincere gratitude to those who have served and departed: Margie Good, Dave Schnaars, Lisa Weida, Dennis Schappell, Beth Sikorsky, Dawn Hummel, Becky Beckwith, Allan Kramer-Moyer, Teresa Martin, and Jim Stanley

The Committee met for its first formal meeting on September 29, 2018 at the Conference offices and First UCC in Palmerton. We discussed the parameters for an Ecclesiastical Council and prepared for our first Ecclesiastical Council at which we approved Karen Yonney for Ordination. Additionally we approved our ways of work and policies. Technically outside the scope of this report, we held our second meeting on January 5, 2019 and unanimously approved both Henry Distler and Bob Gutekunst for ordination pending an affirmation of call to their present ministry settings or a valid call to another ministry setting.

The Committee on Ministry meets as a whole three to four times a year (more if needed) for the purpose of acting on the recommendations of the working groups or when a larger group is needed for decisions that affect the standing of an Authorized Minister or Congregation. At our January 5, 2019 meeting we held and Ecclesiastical Councils for Henry Distler and Bob Gutekunst and approved both for Ordination; we received updates from each of our working groups; and a report from our Conference Minister, Bonnie Bates.

At our April 27 meeting, we formed a task force to address Continuing Education requirements and interpretation of those requirements, formed a Ministry Day Task Force and a Ministerial Compensation Recommendation Task Force. We also addressed how to allocate the Longsdorf Fund monies that are used to support our pastors and ministries. We received reports from each of our working groups and from our Conference Minister.

At our August 10 meeting we welcomed new members to the Committee and held an orientation to the work of the COM; we addressed the meaning of Exempt Standing and we received reports from each of the working groups and our Conference Minister.

Our September 21 meeting was canceled due to a lack of any pressing business.
Special thanks to the chairs and co-chairs of our working groups and to all who serve. Well Done! You are truly a blessing to our life together. Even more special thanks to the Reverend Dr. Bonnie Bates whose wisdom, humor and enthusiasm continues to encourage us.

Respectfully submitted and thankful for all of you!    Jeff Brinks, Chairperson

Oversight Working Group Report

The Oversight Working Group oversees individuals serving in a ministerial capacity as Authorized Ministers in Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) following the Manual on Ministry recommended by the Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Team of the United Church of Christ. One of the key responsibilities of this working group is to monitor adherence to the requirements to maintain standing as an Authorized Minister in the PNEC of the United Church of Christ. These requirements include 25 hours of continuing education ~ five (5) of which must be face-to-face contact hours, an annual Professional Portfolio Information Review, Boundary Training every three (3) years, Anti-Racism Training every three (3) years, Cultural Competence Training every three (3) years, and an annual Three- or Four-Way Covenant. In addition to the requirements, the Oversight Working Group maintains the transfers of standing, the granting of Exempt Standing and Leave of Absence, and conducting periodic situational support conversations with Authorized Ministers which also includes entrance and exit conversations. The Oversight Working Group also allocate monies for educational purposes from the Longsdorf Fund for Authorized Ministers. The Oversight Working Group also supports Authorized Ministers who are newly ordained or new to PNEC through Mentor/Collegial Partners and sponsoring a gathering for those new to PNEC as they begin their ministries among us and encourage all Authorized Ministers to participate in their local Area Mission Council and the PSEC/PNEC Clergy Convocation held each May. The Conference Minister and/or the Chairperson of the Oversight Working Group can receive concerns about the ministerial performance of Authorized Ministers. Our accomplishments from March 2019 through February 2020 include:

Clergy Conversations:

**Entrance Conversations**
- Janet Boyd, Interim work 4/9/19
- Janet Newett, St. John’s, Fogelsville 7/9/19
- Emily Garcia Livingston, St. John’s, Allentown 7/9/19
- Cathy Regush, Lehigh Valley Hospital 7/25/19
- Gregory Edwards, Resurrected Life, Allentown 9/10/19
- Deb Timmins, Great Swamp, Spinnerstown 9/10/19
- Kenneth Fuller, St. John, Riegelsville 9/10/19
- Lynn Shoemaker, Chaplaincy 10/23/19
- Becky Sausser, New Bethel, Kempton 11/12/19
- Edward Livingston, Dryland, Nazareth 11/12/19
- Emily Hall, Hope, Wind Gap 11/12/20
- Heather Hunnicutt, Salem, Pocono Pines 3/10/20

**Transition/Support Conversations**
- Ginny Heimer, St. Peter’s, Mantzville 7/9/19
- George Eckstein, St. Mark’s, Allentown 2/11/20
- Martin Nuscher, St. John’s, Howertown 3/10/20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exit Conversations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Sell</td>
<td>St. James, Allentown</td>
<td>5/14/19</td>
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<td>Rick Dennison</td>
<td>Nescopeck</td>
<td>5/14/19</td>
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<td>Lunette Hilliard</td>
<td>Friedens, Slatington</td>
<td>6/18/19</td>
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<td>Peter Unger</td>
<td>St. John’s, Howertown</td>
<td>7/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Burlington</td>
<td>Dille Parish, LeRay'sville</td>
<td>8/28/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Beckwith</td>
<td>St. John’s, Fullerton</td>
<td>11/12/19</td>
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<td>John Heeckt</td>
<td>St. John’s, Farmersville</td>
<td>paper</td>
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<td>Todd Fennel</td>
<td>St. Paul’s, Northampton</td>
<td>12/10/19</td>
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<td>Nancy Hardy</td>
<td>First Reformed, Berwick</td>
<td>12/10/19</td>
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<td>Wm. “Biff” Hayes</td>
<td>Grace, Tannersville</td>
<td>12/10/19</td>
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<td>Karen Yonney</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
<td>2/11/20</td>
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<td>Michelle Funk</td>
<td>St. John’s, Fullerton</td>
<td>3/10/20</td>
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<tr>
<th>Lay Ministerial Standing Support Conversations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Hobson</td>
<td>Zion, Stroudsburg</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Newett</td>
<td>St. John’s, Fogelsville</td>
<td>7/9/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaye Lentz</td>
<td>Salem, Moorestown</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<td>Bob Rapp</td>
<td>Christ, Bethlehem</td>
<td>1/23/20</td>
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<tr>
<th>Triannual Situational Support Conversations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louis Aita</td>
<td>Emmanuel, Mountaintop</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bannerman</td>
<td>interim</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Carol Bastin</td>
<td>Grace, Allentown</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnie Bates</td>
<td>Conference Minister</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darlene Blocker</td>
<td>interim</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Laurene Bowers</td>
<td>Christ, Bethlehem</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<td>Judy Brandon</td>
<td>Greenawalds, Allentown</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Brinks</td>
<td>St. John’s, Nazareth</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Suzanne Brooks-Cope</td>
<td>St. Matthew’s, Kunkletown</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Don Brown</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Western Salisbury</td>
<td>9/24/10</td>
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<td>Candi Cain-Borgman</td>
<td>Cedar, Allentown</td>
<td>9/24/10</td>
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<td>Russell Campbell</td>
<td>Zion’s Stone, New Ringgold</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<td>Christian Creyer</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill, Coopersburg</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Mike Eckroth</td>
<td>Christ, Bath</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Kathryn Foster</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Trachsville</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Kayli Freeman</td>
<td>Union, Neffs</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<td>Sharon Frye</td>
<td>Weatherly Charge</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Michelle Funk</td>
<td>St. John’s, Whitehall</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristina Geer</td>
<td>Kris Geer, Milford, NJ</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>James Gottwald</td>
<td>St. John’s, Laurys Station</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Nancy Hardy</td>
<td>First, Berwick</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<td>Debra Hess</td>
<td>St. Thomas, Macada</td>
<td>10/8/19</td>
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<td>Ken Hess</td>
<td>Flicksville, Bangor</td>
<td>11/12/19</td>
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<td>Hobson</td>
<td>Zion, Stroudsburg</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Hummel</td>
<td>Trinity, Bloomsburg</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Knappenberger</td>
<td>Zion, Allentown/Faith, Center Valley</td>
<td>9/24/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Kurtz</td>
<td>Grace, Northampton</td>
<td>9/30/19</td>
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Michael Landsman  Zion’s Stone, Kreidersville  10/8/19  
Kaye Lentz  Salem, Moorestown  9/30/19  
Teresa Martin  St. John’s, Coopersburg  10/8/19  
Mike McGowan  Ben Salem, Andreas  10/8/19  
Lynn Mikulak  Chaplaincy, St. Luke’s Hospital  10/8/19  
Rebekah Moyer  Emmanuel, Allentown/ Lower Saucon  9/30/19  
Sandy Murphy  Christ, Conyngham  10/8/19  
Larry Pickens  St. Peter’s, Seemsville  9/30/19  
Joel Risser  First, Hellertown  9/30/19  
James Robison  Good Shepherd, Slatedale  9/30/19  
Mark Rowell  Orangeville Charge  9/30/19  
Homer Royer  Good Shepherd, Alburtis  9/30/19  
Michael Smith  Salem, Catasauqua  10/8/19  
Kris Snyder-Samuelson  Union, Neffs  10/8/19  
Dale Sattizahn  St. Peter’s, Tatamy  9/30/19  
Dennis Schappell  Trinity, Bethlehem  9/30/19  
Virginia Schlegel  St. John’s, Mickleys  9/30/19  
Jim Stanley  St. John’s, Wapallop/ St. Peter’s, Hobbie  9/24/19  
Mia White  Hope, Allentown  10/8/19  

Mentors/Collegial Partners:  
- Judy Brandon  Gregory Edwards  
- Judy Brandon  Janet Newett  
- Christian Creyer  Deb Timmins  
- James Gottwald  Edward Livingston  
- Brian Haas  Kenneth Fuller  
- Cliff Herring  Heather Hunnicutt  
- JoAnne Marchetto  Emily Hall  
- Alan Kramer-Moyer  Bob Rapp  
- Patience Stevenson  Emily Garcia Livingston  
- James Robison  Becky Sausser  
- James Robison  Lynn Shoemaker  

Change in Standing:  
Transfer In:  
- Linda Lennon  4/9/19  from North Penn Assoc./PSEC  
- Emily Garcia Livingston  9/30/19  from Philadelphia Assoc./PSEC  
- Kenneth Fuller  11/12/19  from Catoctin Assoc./Central Atlantic  
Transfer Out:  
- Toby Holleman  12/10/19  to Eastern NC Assoc./Southern  
- Rodney Henrie  3/10/20  to Lebanon Assoc./Penn Central Conf.  
- Susan Ellis  3/10/20  to North Penn Assoc./PSEC  
- Rainelle Kimmel  3/10/20  to Florida Conference  
Standing Removed:  
- Fredericka Beuchard  6/11/19  Allen Richardson  2/11/20  
Exempt Standing:  
- Harry Keppley  4/9/19  John Dech  9/30/19  
- William Falla  7/9/19  Tom Burlington  9/30/19  

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Leave of Absence:
- Rebecca Broyan 6/15/16 renewed until 2/22/21
- Steve Shanaman 3/22/17 renewed until 9/30/20
- Emmajane Finney 3/10/20

Out-of-Compliance:
- No one at this time

The specifics of the Longsdorf Fund can be found in the Financial Report, but it is good to note that we have supported Clergy Convocation 2019 with a grant of $1,500 as well as numerous educational grants following the guidelines of the Longsdorf Fund.

There was a Welcome Gathering for new pastors in PNEC held January 9, 2020.

Thank you to those who serve on the Oversight Working Group of the Committee on Ministry:
- Class of 2020: Rev. Cliff Herring, Pastor Brian Haas, TBD
- Class of 2022: Ms. Barbara Hanks, Mr. Tom Moyer, Rev. James Robison, Mrs. Ruth Ann McCay, Rev. Bruce Stevenson, Rev. Judy Brandon

The following resigned during the past year from the working group: Lisa Weida, Marge Good, and Kris Snyder-Samuelson

And a special thank you to the following who have been trained and serve on the PNEC Fitness Review Response Team: Mark Griffith, Jeff Carlton, Dorothy Sechler, Linda Roosa, Lori Balliet, Maria Brace, Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman, Rev. Heather Kurtz, Pastor Dave Berryman, and Rev. David Schnaars.

Respectfully submitted,
James Robison, Chairperson; Bruce Stevenson, Vice Chairperson

Authorization Working Group Report

We met with the following MIDs and other candidates:
- The Rev. Greg Edwards was extended Privilege of Call to Greg.
- Janet Newett gave a progress report on her steps towards ordination.
- Andrea Lazicki was approved for licensing pending a call to paid position.
- Gary Barraco was accepted as a MID.
- Carter (Hannah) Snyder Samuelson was accepted as a MID.
- Sharon Frye was accepted as a MID.
- Michelle Funk was accepted as a MID.
- Rebecca Sausser was approved as a MID and granted lay ministerial standing contingent upon a call.
- Alex Rodriguez was accepted as a MID.
- Michael Landsman gave us a progress report towards ordination.
- Heather Hunnicut, Disciples of Christ pastor, was granted ordained ministerial partnership standing.
- Marian Johnson was granted dual standing.
- Wally Frisch was accepted as a MID.
Ashley Werkheiser was approved for an ecclesiastical council.
Sean Drummond was approved for an ecclesiastical council.
Michelle Funk was approved for an ecclesiastical council.
Mark Rowell had a first meeting with the committee.

Noteworthy, AWG
• Approved a PNEC contract with Physis Associates to handle MID psychological evaluations.
• Participated in a task force to evaluate procedures for the Longsdorf funds.
• Requested that Bonnie review for the committee the process for using the Marks and the Plan of Formation.
• Now uses Dropbox. Thanks to Patty for helping us go paperless
• Continues to review and critique the ordination process.
• Gratefully acknowledged those who no longer serving on the committee: Jim Knappenber, David Schnaars. Allan Kraemer Moyer, Teresa Martin.

Members of the committee:
Bonnie Bates, Cecilia Baxter (chair), Bill Ellsworth, Karen Ezzo, Ken Fuller, Linda Garber, Nancy Hardy, Sharon Harfman, Taryn Jory, Joyce Kohler, Amanda Muschett, Steve Myers, Joel Risser.

Current applicants and MIDs:
Lou Aita, Gary Barracco, Carrie Beleno, Darlene Blocker, Sean Drummond, Wally Frisch, Sharon Frye, Michele Funk, Kris Geern Eunice Hearn, Michael Landsman, Jane Matsinger, Tammy Miles, Janet Newett, Bob Rapp, Alex Rodriguez, Mark Rowell, Rebecca Sausser, Suzanne Schaeffer, Monte Schroeder, Carter (formerly Hannah) Snyder-Samuelson, Jim Stanley, Ashley Werkheiser

Dual Standing: Emily Hall, Michael Schaadt,

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Solt Harfman, Secretary

Local Congregational Support Working Group Report

Members of Local Congregational Support Working Group (in reverse alphabetical order!) Rich Teitsworth, Diane Schnaars, Bill Seaman, Mark Rowell, Brenda Hobson, Bob Gutekunst, Greg Edwards, Jeff Carlton

What did we do in 2019?
• We conducted a Lay Leadership Training Workshop which was very positively received.
• We sponsored a Ministry Blueprint workshop conducted by Dr. Jill Peters of Moravian Seminary and attended by five churches wishing to make active connections within their communities.
• We were involved with situational supports at churches, as needed.
• We recognized churches that celebrated achievements such as reaching the 5 for 5 goal, becoming Welcoming and Affirming and those celebrating significant anniversaries.
What were we planning on doing in 2020?

- Conducting additional Lay Worship Leadership Training
- Hosting a Sermon Preparation training session for small churches
- Developing videos that highlight how members of the conference have been affected by racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice, and
- Conducting a workshop for churches that are facing an uncertain future

What will we be doing?

Given the disruption caused by Covid and the later social unrest, we decided to put the Lay Leadership and other workshops on hold and focus on two areas. The first will be to accelerate our videos on racism. These will be made available to churches in the conference. We also decided to develop a set of online workshops that will provide Congregational Support in a Digital Age. These outlines of workshops will include

- Church Governance
- Generosity
- Church Mission
- Prayer
- Preaching
- Leadership
- Pastoral Care

This report is respectively submitted on behalf of the team by Rich Teitsworth & Jeff Carlton

GEM Fund Ministry Team Report
(Grants Energizing Mission)

The GEM (Grants Energizing Mission) Fund Ministry Team meets quarterly to consider grant requests for projects designed to enhance the mission of a congregation. The Team has awarded grants to the following since our last report:

- Solomon's UCC, Macungie - $625. for special worship experiences
- Trinity UCC, Mt. Bethel - $1,000. to establish Memory Cafe
- New Creation UCC, Easton - $2,000. for technology enhancements
- Old Zionsville UCC, Old Zionsville - $3,000. for Social Media Coordinator

The GEM Fund Ministry Team also voted to contribute $5,000 from the fund balance to the Cornerstone Fund to use for loans to congregations on the edge due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Team welcomed two new members: Rev. Catherine Strouse and Rev. Edward Livingston. We accepted the resignation of Phyllis Hamm and are grateful for her years of faithful service to the Team. Team members: Rev. Dale Sattizahn, Linda Lenhart, Pastor Sandy Murphy, Rev. Catherine Strouse, Rev. Edward Livingston, Barbara Hanks, and support staff: Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and Barbara Jennings.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hanks, Team Leader
The YEA Fund provides financial assistance for youth and adult educational events. As members of Christ’s Church, we advocate that every lay person be involved in the wider ministry which Jesus empowers among us. Educational opportunities are an important component of this wider ministry. These opportunities benefit our children, youth and lay adults of our local churches, the Penn Northeast Conference, and the United Church of Christ as a whole. Our goal is to provide financial assistance so that children, youth, and lay adults are not denied participation in denominationally endorsed events, camps, retreats or educational activities because of lack of financial resources. The YEA Fund is a reimbursement grant. After youth, youth leaders, and adults attend events, they may send in their completed applications by October 1 to the Conference Office. Applications and additional information are on the PNEC website: www.pnec.org. If the funds are available, we strive to help reimburse one third of the cost for the trip or event, hoping that the church can provide a third and the individual can provide the other one third.

We distributed a total of $4427 funds from the YEA Fund in the fall of 2019. $977 were disbursed to adults from two churches and $3450 were given for youth from three churches. In 2018, we decided to give a $1000 grant for the winter youth retreat which was also disbursed in 2019.

YEA Fund Members are: Suzanne Brooks Cope (Chair), Karen Heim, Joanne Marchetto, Jordan Smith, Barbara Davies and Barbara Hanks.

Coaching Report

The Coach Ministry Team meets on a quarterly basis. During 2019 we were able to train in Family Systems with Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevenson. We also reviewed our techniques in communication. On November 12th we had a Coach Retreat. Ray Schulte from the Center for Parish Development met with us to discuss resources that our Coaching Team could use for local congregations.

We have Coaches that continued to meet with churches in the past year to support them in areas such as Transitions, Legacy, Visioning, and Governance Coaching.

Churches can request a Coach in areas such as: Strategic Planning, Visioning, Mission Insite, Transition, Search Committee, Governance, Church Revitalization, Resisting Change, Conflict and Church Legacy.

I would like to thank Barbara Jennings for all her help as the support person for our team. I greatly appreciate all her help and time.

I would also like to thank Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates for her continued guidance and resources for Coaching.

Thank you to the coaches who continue to make a difference in our Conference through their skills and time. Thank you for volunteering and making a commitment to help the local churches.

Respectfully Submitted,  Heather Kurtz, Coach Coordinator
Disaster Ministry Report

What a difference a year can make. Last year we were reporting about:

- Reorganizing the Disaster Ministry Team
- The mission trips to Puerto Rico
- Providing grants for housing for evacuees from Puerto Rico in the Lehigh Valley
- Church preparedness programs.
- Putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits.

Last fall we were happy to report that:

- A home was completed in large part because of the help of the Conference.
- Many of the programs and projects that we mentioned earlier in the year were completed.
- The tool trailers we own have returned from their deployment. Thanks to Grant Field they stand ready for the next assignment.

Today we are reporting a few months later than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has changed completely how we worship and serve in our communities and in our Conference. This pandemic has brought changes to how we do disaster ministry. Here are some examples of our changed life due to COVID-19:

- Karl has been working from his home office. His travel has been limited. We have been learning how to use social media, dashboards, Zoom, and much more. Unfortunately, that has meant less in-person contact.
- We did not have any rebuild trips to Puerto Rico in 2020, mainly because the work sites were shut down.
- We have given away and now replaced the protective equipment from the tool trailers.
- We have been an active on the NEPA VOAD, Susquehanna, Bradford, and Columbia county COAD calls, coordinating with food banks, volunteer centers, and other agencies to collaborate with those who are providing needed services.
- We are participating with the national setting of the UCC in new ways:
  - The Conference Disaster Coordinators meet every other week to coordinate and share resources. The coordinating ministry setting in the national church is now called Global H.O.P.E. There have been many staff changes in that setting.
  - Karl is part of a working group – Recovery HOPE – whose purpose is to explore ways to resource our churches and pastors/leaders in this time of uncertainty, stress, grief, and trauma. He is working in the subgroup concerned with creating a dashboard of resources, which you can access at https://www.ucc.org/recovering_hope.
  - He is also part of a working group – the RED Team – that is charged with helping the church deal with racial and ethnic disparities, especially in health care during this pandemic.
- The national setting has several grant opportunities for the Conference, as well as for the churches. Lean more at www.ucc.org/disaster.
- Working with our PA VOAD partners we have been able to supply 24 gallons of hand sanitizer for the use of our churches.
- We have tried to keep the PNEC churches informed about our response and the ways they can safely re-open their churches and help their community. Our thanks to the Conference staff for all the ways they help us communicate with the churches.
At the state-wide level Karl continues to serve as the Secretary and Operation Lead for the PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (PAVOAD). He has been assisted by AmeriCorps volunteers whose assignments include communications and technical assistance. You can see an example of their work (and also keep up with COVID-19) at https://share.dhs.gov/pavoad.

The UCC and CWS stopped receiving clean-up buckets and hygiene kits for a short time. There is now a need for them. There is a list of the Conference’s collection sites at the Conference web site.

Work had stopped on the PA VALOR projects. However, it has now started again. There is a private bridge project (possibly two) in Bradford County, remaining from the 2018 flooding.

Some other items of note:

- The national UCC Disaster Ministry Executive position is vacant and will be posted soon. The position will be based in Cleveland.
- Karl continues to serve as the vice-chair of the National VOAD Community Preparedness Committee. His term ends in May 2021.
- We continue to plan and prepare for the hurricane and flooding season.
- We are participating with the other ministry teams in the Conference 2020-2022 goals setting process.

Thank you for your prayers and support in this unique and challenging time.

Submitted by,
Karl Jones
Team Members Karl Jones, Grant Field, Dawn Hummel, Mark Rowell, Robert Thetga

Ecumenical Relations Mission Team Report

The Ecumenical Relations Mission Team (ERMT) is delighted to share in the joyful labors of both the Penn Northeast (PNEC) and Pennsylvania Southeast Conferences (PSEC)! We are pleased to benefit from active support and participation of the leadership of both those Conferences. At the same time we recognize that the work in which we are involved is on behalf of those who believe in and share the ministry of the congregations of those Conferences.

The work of the ERMT revolves around maintaining and (as might be possible) expanding upon the connections between people from our conference churches, with persons of Christian faith around the world, as expressed through historic and developing church relationships. This takes place through longstanding and traditional partnerships we have received from the background through our beloved United Church of Christ (UCC), as well as vital experiences of exploring the faith with new partnerships which are made through the work of our congregations. This involves a step or more beyond our commitment to Our Church’s wider Mission. It really may mean getting involved in ways which can be so inspirational to the faith which speaks to us! We invite and challenge those who may read about the work of the team here to seek out opportunities to become a part of some aspects of the ERMT’s mission.
Below please find listed continuing aspects of our work:

1. Kirchengemeinshaft with German partners, specifically the Anhalt District Church in the former East Germany, but with a relationship to the larger UCC (USA)/UEK (Germany) Forum. During 2019, representatives of our two Conferences traveled to Cleveland for the UCC/UEK Annual meeting. A total of 13 Conferences of the UCC now participate in the Forum. We are pleased to report that the national UCC representative to the German Church is from our Team, the Rev Dr. David Charles Smith. Dr. Smith traveled to Hannover in Germany for Judicatory meetings there, as well as to Kirchentag (similar to our UCC General Synod, only with a MUCH larger attendance!) in Dortmund. A PSEC member of our Team, High School German Teacher Ms. Ashley Snyder, also represented us at the Kirchentag. Members of this Subcommittee prepared information to be used for Martin Luther King Day events in January (many of those in the United States do not realize the impact Dr. King had in Germany). In November, members of this subcommittee also coordinated events noting the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. At the end of 2019 we received greetings from the Berlin Mission, which we extend to the churches of our Conferences.

2. Cuban partnership – We continue to encourage this relationship formed with the Fraternity of Baptist Churches a number of years ago, but at this time there are no plans for travel to this island nation.

3. Amigos de Guatemala – Please refer elsewhere in these documents for a report from Amigos de Guatemala. We are thankful to PNEC for committing the Fall 2019 Meeting Offering to Amigos!

4. Shared Ministry Congregations between Eastern PA UCC and Lutheran congregations – This group continues to meet, and encourage the work of Shared Ministry Churches and Pastors. Our best wishes go to Lutheran Bishop Samuel Zeiser upon his plans for retirement!

5. Church of South India, Medak Diocese – Throughout 2019 we have been planning for a trip to the Medak Diocese, which we then expanded to include the Karnataka Central Diocese. Trip dates: February, 2020, with financial assistance toward travel costs from the national setting of the UCC as part of the current Southern Asia Initiative.

6. Japan Mission Partnership, with UCC Missionaries Jeffrey Mensendiek cooperating with PNEC and Martha Mensendiek with PSEC – We monitor correspondence from the Mensendieks, and with the leadership of Rev, Jeff encourage our Conference related congregations to take part in his yearly Christmas Card Exchange with Congregations of our tradition in Japan. Scholars from Tohoku Gakuin University (Founded by the German Reformed Church) visited sites in Pennsylvania during August, 2019.

Our Team meets quarterly, and as best as possible facilitates the work of constituent working groups which engage their work between Team meetings. We have traditionally conducted our work with the goal of two general meetings in each of our Conferences per year. The ERMT has continued its collaborative nature through the decision of the two Conferences to not merge. For more information on the work of the various subcommittees please contact the chair, or members of the Team as listed at the end of this report.

During 2019 the Team maintained its full complement of meetings, and welcomed two new members who came to the work of the Team from the perspective being interested in the general work of the Team rather than emerging from the subcommittees.

Original Plans for 2020:
- German American Pastoral Colloquy set for Elizabethtown College in July
- German Church representatives coming to the Colloquy would visit in PNEC & PSEC
- Fortieth anniversary of UCC/UEK relationships
- Increased development of partnership with our Cuban partners, if possible
- Further expansion of the program associated with Amigos de Guatemala
- Support the work of Shared Ministry in our region
- Information from February travels to India
- Continued prayerful support of congregations in Tohoku/ Sendai/Fukushima, Japan

Committee members: Bonnie Bates, Bill Worley, Darryl Cruz, Judith Fryer, Jerel Gade, Karen Heim, Roger Heim, Martha Kriebel, Charles Kuthuru, Russ Mittman, Frank Schaffer, David Charles Smith, Chandra Soans, Linda Lenhart, Ashley Snyder, Amelie Sell, Cydney Van Dyke; Homer Royer, Chair

Faith Formation Ministry Team Report

This last year was a year of re-forming for the Faith Formation Ministry Team. We took time to reach out to the local churches of the PNEC to get accurate names and contact information for those individuals responsible for the educational ministries of the church. We then reached out to the new group, which included plenty of people who we already had on our list, to educate them on what it is this Ministry Team is all about.

And what are we about?? Our mission is to connect the Faith Formers in the PNEC so that you feel supported and resourced, for no one should be left alone. Especially in this time of virtual worship, youth group and Sunday School, being able to have a sounding board of experience is valuable. We also recognize that the times are changing and we need to ask questions about why we do what we do and if that way is no longer working for the changing landscape of the church. In 2021, we plan to have a teacher training to address this very question.

If you would like to be included (and supported) by the FFMT and are not currently receiving communication, please contact me at the email address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Newett; Faith Formers Chair  
janetnewett@gmail.com
With team members- Kathy Bonsell, Marji Hughes, Staci Gower

Youth & Young Adult Report

The last meeting held by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team happened on July 17, 2019. In attendance was Kayli Freeman, Michelle Funk, James Robison, and Bonnie Bates.

Youth are still identified as middle thru high school (grades 6th thru 12th) with young adults starting at age 18 going thru 35.

Some of the events that have happened are:

- June 9, 2019: Young Adult Meet Up @ Weyerbacher Brewery in Easton, Pa (21+ older)
- September 28-29, 2019: Sleep Out for Homelessness @ New Creation UCC, Easton Pa
  o Collections for the Third Street Alliance—Easton, Pa
The Youth and Young Adult Ministry team is in a time of transition and reconfiguring how and what we do. But some truths remain. We are still committed to equip, connect, and transform youth and youth leaders throughout the PNEC conference. We also support PNEC local church ministries in the areas of youth and young adult ministry by learning and living out the Gospel, promoting life-long spiritual development, and encouraging growth in the Christian Faith for PNEC Youth and Young Adults.

In the process of writing this report a lot has changed throughout the country. Currently everything is in a State of Emergency, and gatherings of people are suspended for an unknown amount of time. That being said, gatherings such as the PNEC Annual youth retreat and National Youth Event are either cancelled or postponed. This time is uncertain and sometimes scary, but is an opportunity to allow for new ministries and outreach to occur. It’s through this time that we hope to rebuild and restructure our ministry team.

Any new ideas as well as new members to be a part of the ministry team.

Blessings,
Rev. Kayli Freeman—committee chair

Search & Call Team Report

With the approach of the PNEC Spring Meeting, our state, our nation, and our world has experienced significant change in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Normal activities, such as recurring meetings, have been cancelled in hopeful anticipation of a return to normal at a future time. Online video conferencing has become the alternative to in-person gatherings.

The Search and Call Team last gathered in mid-December of 2019, at which time there were 29 PNEC local churches engaged in pastoral search activities. In our prior year report, it was noted that the number of churches seeking less than full-time pastor leadership far outweighs the number of churches seeking full-time leadership. While this has been a trend, current uncertainty regarding the offering of in-person worship amid social distancing requirements, may result in additional uncertainties related to financial health, role in the community, and what worship will look like post-Covid.

At our December meeting, we reflected on the passing of one of our more recent members, Bill Wagstaff. As a member of Chestnut Hill Church UCC, Bill had participated in their most recent search process, and enthusiastically accepted the invitation to serve on the Search and Call Team. His thoughtful reflections and engaging questions will be missed.

Our team of Consultants remains committed to partnering with local church Search Committees engaged in the search process. Onsite meetings with Search Committees have been replaced by virtual updates, usually via email. We have responded to requests from Dr. Bonnie Bates and Rev. Christian Creyer for assistance with local churches, usually to oversee the election of a recommended candidate following their Trial Sermon.

We continue to benefit from the expertise shared by Bonnie and Christian as well as updates from the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization Team in Cleveland. The Search Process continues to
evolve, and it is our hope that we will aptly navigate change in our continuing efforts to assist local churches in PNEC.

Team Members: Cliff Herring, Doug Lander, Yvette Martina, Larry Oberly, Russ Roper, Ron Smith. PNEC Staff: Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister, and Rev. Christian Creyer, Associate for Search and Call.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas R. Lander, Chair

Gwilym T. Williams (GTW) Scholarship Fund Ministry Team Report

The GTW Scholarship Fund Ministry Team convened twice in 2019, which is customary since we have application deadlines of March 1 and October 1. We also met once so far in the spring of 2020.

In April 2019, there were 16 complete applications that received scholarships. Each applicant was granted $1479 to assist them with their educational needs. In October 2019, there were also 16 complete applications but 2 were denied. Of the remaining 14, 13 applicants received $1600. One applicant was only requesting $1500 and that is what they received.

The Team met VIA Zoom in April 2020 to review the applications received, which were previewed in March by a “preview team” which checks for completeness. Applications were scanned into a shared Google Drive so they could be reviewed by the team.

We also reviewed the scholarship guidelines and procedure, as well as, updated our Team contact sheet. It was decided that a scholarship of $2,000 would be granted to each applicant. One applicant only requested $1,500, but the other 17 qualifying applicants will receive the whole amount.

The Team also went back to an application that was denied in the fall of 2019 due to no balance being due to the school. What we realized is that the school received a grant/financial aid payment which was responsible for their zero balance. However, this is still a loan that the student is responsible for paying. Therefore, we reversed our fall 2019 grant denial and issued a check to the applicant for $1600 (which is what the other fall applicants received).

In total, between all of 2019 and ½ of 2020, the GTW MT was pleased to award a total of $83,064 to assist students who strive towards careers in the fields of medicine, teaching and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Newett, on behalf of the GTW Ministry Team:
Lori Balliet, Barbara Davies, Henry Distler, Bonnie Falla, Jillian Hensinger, Keith Lenhart, and Marilyn Steckel.
Amigos de Guatemala Report
Report on Activities in the year of our Lord 2019

The building is near completion. We need the appliances, furniture, generator installed, and water filtration systems installed, as well as a few minor construction items to be finished.

There was a bit of a set-back when our contractor had some tools stolen from the property. That should be resolved between the contractor and the community.

Our plans for a trip in May 2020 to officially open the facility and to send a medical team in fall of 2020 were put on hold because of the Covid-19 virus.

We continue to communicate with our friends in Guatemala. They are safe at this time. They, too, have to quarantine because of the virus. Construction has stopped. We do not know when it will resume.

When possible we will venture to Guatemala to open the facility.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen & Roger Heim, co-chairs

Pennsylvania Council of Churches Annual Report

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is church bodies and agencies representing Anabaptist, Episcopal, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania working together for Christian unity for the sake of the world. [John 17:23]

IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Looking Ahead. The Board of Directors made the determination to move ahead with a search for a new executive director. The Personnel Committee will be working to develop a job description and to conduct a search during 2020. Director of Finance and Facilities and Interim Executive Director Jan Gulick has announced that she plans to retire at the end of January 2021, and a search will also be taking place for this position later in 2020 to provide time for overlap/training before she retires. The Board has also authorized new contracts for Gulick and for Rev. Sandra Strauss, Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach, and Personnel Committee will be working to develop those contracts.

Conferences and Meetings. The Council did not hold a single statewide conference in 2019, but conducted workshops around the issues of criminal justice reform, gun violence, and public education funding.

The Council held a session in Lancaster in November 2019 called “Faithful Advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention: Principles and Practice,” following a similar but updated format to an initial session in 2018. The session focused on gun violence prevention legislation designed to remove guns from domestic
abusers and others who could be a danger to themselves or others (Extreme Risk Protection Orders, already law in a number of other states) and universal background checks. More workshops are planned for 2020.

Work has also proceeded on solitary confinement, funded by a grant from the Van Ameringen Foundation. The first was held in Harrisburg in June with the Abolitionist Law Center to introduce the audience to solitary confinement, how it is used in Pennsylvania, why it needs to be reduced, and why it is an issue for the faith community (it is viewed as torture as defined by the United Nations). This session included stories from individuals who had experienced solitary confinement and their families. A second and somewhat different approach was employed with a selected group of advocates in November, involving experiential techniques from “Theater of the Oppressed” that involved the audience in activities to help them understand incarceration and solitary confinement. It also included information with statistics and how solitary is used, as well as stories of several reentrants who had experienced solitary. A number of sessions are planned already for 2020, and more are in the works.

A joint session with POWER in Harrisburg in May helped to introduce participants to equitable public education funding, educating them about existing gross inequities in funding from the state and how this fuels vastly different outcomes for students based on where they live. They also learned that this is a justice issue for people of faith. They were introduced to legislation that would work to ensure that all state-based education funding (not just a small portion, as it is now) will be run through the state’s education funding formula to ensure more equitable funding in the future.

Council staff led two interfaith vigils at the Berks County Residential Center, an immigrant family detention facility that the Council and other coalition groups are seeing to have closed.

Finally, the Council conducted a Healing Communities training in Pittsburgh in October for over 20 participants from the region. Healing Communities aims to train congregations to be welcoming and supportive of formerly incarcerated persons.

Support for Collaborative Efforts. The Council has worked collaboratively with other organizations based on grant funding received.

- The Mennonite Central Committee’s grant to support advocacy in areas that are particularly important to Anabaptist traditions: criminal justice reform, immigration, gun violence, and education. The grant runs through March 2020. The MCC viewed their multi-year granting as an experiment in state-level advocacy, and has said it is unlikely to renew the funding for another year. On the other hand, they are eager to continue in partnership, and have expressed willingness to provide support for joint programs in the areas of mutual interest to ensure that they are able to continue.

- A grant of $16,000 from the William Penn Foundation (through POWER; $8,000/year for 2 years—an increase from the previous grant amount) continues to support the Council’s efforts to reform school funding in PA. The funds have been used to do basic education on equity and adequacy of public school funding in PA.

These grants have been used to support part-time efforts by John-Michael Cotignola-Pickens, former Advocacy Programs Coordinator (now working for the MCC), and for nearly full-time efforts (since September) by Emily Schmid, and Episcopal Service Corps Fellow in Harrisburg through Sycamore House, a project of St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Harrisburg and associated with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Emily will be with the Council through July 2020, and is eligible for renewal if desired.
A third grant from the Van Ameringen Foundation, received in late 2018, is shared with the Abolitionist Law Center to do work in the area of criminal justice reform, particularly with regard to the use of solitary confinement and treatment of incarcerated persons with mental health conditions. Some of the work underway has already been described above. This grant is supporting the lion’s share of Emily’s work.

Other Activities
- The Council offered official greetings to the Middle PA District of the Church of the Brethren.
- Both of the Council’s websites, www.pachurches.org and www.pachurchesadvocacy.org, have continued to evolve.
- The Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach was named to the Governor’s Census 2020 Complete Count Commission.

COUNCIL MINISTRIES
Commission on Public Witness & Public Witness Ministry. The Council’s advocacy efforts in 2019 focused on the following areas:
- Advocacy for a Pennsylvania budget with sufficient revenues that addresses the concerns of people of faith.
- Human needs/poverty-related work.
- Efforts to raise the minimum wage, primarily in coordination with the Raise the Wage PA Coalition.
- Public education funding, primarily in coordination with POWER.
- Criminal justice reform, primarily in coordination with the Abolitionist Law Center and other partners.
- Immigration, particularly around calling for the closure of the Berks County Family Detention Center that is holding refugee families for long periods of time, and for ending the separation of families at the border.
- Environment, primarily climate change and protecting water resources, in coordination with several organizations.

The Commission continues to work on efforts aimed at improving the lives of people on the margins, and addressing problems with our political system.

Commission on Unity & Relationships. The Council joined with other faith partners to present a session on Civil Conversations in Harrisburg in May, modeled on the Civil Conversations Project related to Krista Tippett and On Being.

Commission on Common Ministries. The Council has continued to provide support to its Trucker/Traveler Ministry, Campground Ministries, and Farmworker Ministries. Work continues on building a Healing Communities network in Pennsylvania.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Council staff continue to discuss activities and areas where the Council might engage to be of service to our members, the wider faith community.
Phoebe Ministries Annual Report

To the Penn Northeast Conference Board of Directors and Rev. Dr. Bates:

As the spring meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference has been cancelled, I would like to share Phoebe Ministries’ annual update with the Board of Directors as a way to continue our strong partnership. Our achievements over the past year were made possible through the support of our donors, including the churches of the Conference that so generously support our mission.

Inspired by our faith, Phoebe continues to lead the way in our industry by providing innovative care services and programs that promote fullness of life for older adults in the communities we serve. In 2019, Phoebe focused on consolidating resources, creating new revenue streams, and ensuring each Phoebe community is a vibrant, engaging and inviting place to live. Some of our most notable achievements include: providing $12 million in charitable care for our residents in need; the expansion of Phoebe Pharmacy, now serving 70 nursing, independent living and personal care facilities; the growth of Pathstones by Phoebe, our Continuing Care at Home program; securing 36% of pre-sales needed to break ground at our new independent living community, Chestnut Ridge at Rodale; and reaching record occupancy for personal care and independent living at Phoebe Wyncote.

In addition, Phoebe offered programs designed to enhance the spiritual and emotional health of our residents. At Phoebe Richland, Rev. Jamie Moyer offered a group program inspired by the 2011 documentary film “Happy.” Rev. Moyer used scenes from the film to prompt dialog about happiness, tragedy and gratitude to help residents cope with mood disorders and depression.

Spirit Alive, is a unique program designed by Phoebe’s Pastoral Care staff for residents with mid- to late-stage dementia. The program, featured in an article by The Washington Post in September, is a weekly multi-sensory Montessori method of worship, designed to nurture the spirituality of residents with cognitive limitations. To expand the program, our Spirit Alive team created an informational video available at Phoebe.org, trained eight new facilitators to lead Spirit Alive sessions at each Phoebe campus, and presented the program at the annual Association of Professional Chaplains Conference. Under Phoebe’s direction, Spirit Alive is now offered at other continuing care communities including ACTS Retirement-Life Communities and Living Branches.

Through the generosity of our donors, Phoebe continued to raise support for the Endowment for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). To date, we have raised more than $142,000 for the endowment that funded three full scholarships and one half scholarship for CPE students this past year. Funds also helped support an education student as they trained to be a certified CPE educator.

Exciting capital projects have also been underway at Phoebe. Improvements to the Harrity Community Center at our Berks campus are nearly complete. The renewed space will feature various dining options, a fitness center, movie theatre, locker rooms, game rooms and social spaces for 300 independent living residents. Phoebe Allentown also unveiled the renovated first floor of Miller Personal Care at 19th & Chew that includes a new lounge, fitness room, salon and upgraded porch.

Most recently, Phoebe implemented a swift and aggressive response to the COVID-19 outbreak, taking
every precaution to keep our residents safe and healthy. During this difficult time, we have received an outpouring of support from our volunteers, congregations, and donors. So many have given contributions, donated supplies, made protective masks from home, and sent messages of cheer to our residents. On behalf of our governing board, employees and residents, I extend my sincere gratitude to the faith community for its generosity and commitment to Phoebe Ministries.

With Christ’s blessings, Scott R. Stevenson, President & CEO