



**Lancaster
Association**

**Penn Central
Conference
United Church of Christ**



**MINUTES AND DIRECTORY
64th ANNUAL MEETING
May 4, 2025**

**SPRING MEETING OF THE
LANCASTER ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
St. Paul's U.C.C., Manheim
April 14, 2024 3:00 P.M.**

Lancaster Association President, Terry Black, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. He thanked Rev. Bill Long and members of St. Paul's UCC for their hospitality in hosting today's gathering. He also thanked the assembled group for their attendance as well as the members of the executive committee and committee chairpersons for all of their work throughout the year on behalf of the association.

Terry also encouraged the assembled group to contact Chris Rankin, Deb Miley or himself if they know of folks who have talents and abilities that the Association can use, reminding them of the covenantal relationship that we have among local churches and the wider church.

The following churches were represented by delegate(s) present:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| St. John's, Denver | Wisdom's Table, Lancaster |
| Trinity, East Petersburg | Salem, Rohrerstown |
| Christ, Elizabethtown | St. Luke's, Lititz |
| Bethany, Ephrata | Maytown Reformed, Maytown |
| Church of the Apostles, Lancaster | Trinity, Mountville |
| Faith, Lancaster | Peace, Swartzville |
| Hamilton Park, Lancaster | |

Rev. Bill Long, led the assembly in an opening prayer.

Installation of Officers and Committee Members

The slate of nominees were presented by Rev. Chris Rankin. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The slate was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

Fall Meeting Minutes

The president called for approval of the Fall Association Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote of those present.

Report from Lancaster Seminary

Daryl Stephens updated the assembled group on what is happening with the Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry. He encouraged interested persons to access the seminary's website for further information.

Penn Central Conference Report

The Rev. Dr. Nora Foust brought greetings from the conference.

She reported the following:

- President of the UCC, Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will be with us for our annual meeting in State College in June.
- President Thompson has reported to Carrie Call that the wider church is working on obtaining grants to allow for a local space in Cleveland to house historical documents from all sections of the church.
- **The Manual on Local Church is coming out soon. She encouraged everyone to read and, if possible, discuss it.**
- She also talked about the apparent necessary return of licensed ministry

- Nora also noted that she is serving on a national committee for bias and oversight. This committee is focusing on how Fitness Reviews are conducted and the different ways in which bias may appear in those circumstances.
- She also stated that she is currently working with CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Service).
- Keystone conversations are continuing with monthly meeting. They are currently working on what a combined budget might look like for 2026 as well as what a necessary Synod motion might look for this merger to happen.
- **She reminded everyone of our Conference Meeting at the Penn State in State College PA from June 7-9th. She encouraged people to attend and to ask for financial aid if needed. There will no Keystone vote at this meeting. Voting will take place via Zoom on November 9.**
- Liturgy and a sermon outline for Sunday morning will be provided to churches who would like to use it on June 9.
- She thanked Ronnette Comfort-Butler for her assistance with Search and Call and encouraged folks to take notice of others who may have gifts for ministry.
- She reported the following church transitions:
 - o St. Paul's Dallastown
 - o Myerstown, Lebanon Assn. has sold their building but will continue meeting;
 - o Wisdom and Grace are joining to create a new church in Lancaster.
- Committees in Ministry – working on merging documents among the four conferences
- Boundary Training continues for clergy, laypersons and churches.
- There are Clergy forums on the 1st Thursday nights of the month led by Carrie Call and Bill Worley.
- She encouraged the assembled group to take advantage of the Outdoor Ministry opportunities that are available in the conference.

Habitat for Humanity Presentation:

Andrew Szalay, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat CEO

Andrew Szalay updated the assembly on the current state of our local Habitat for Humanity. He noted that a big challenge today is how to make people first time homeowners due to the 40% increase in housing over the past several years.

He also stated that in supporting Habitat, we should recognize that homeownership affects families in many ways, especially children who tend to do better in school and meet their educational goals because of the decreased stress that moving from rental to rental creates over the years.

Income from mortgages as well as ReStore stores helps to offset some of the economic challenges. He encouraged us to get our congregations involved in donating and working at ReStore as well as the houses. They are currently trying to come up with about \$800,000. He concluded his presentation by providing an opportunity for questions and conversation.

Terry thanked Andrew for his presentation and reminded those present that when you help Habitat for Humanity, it is not working, it is serving. He challenged us to think about how our congregations might get involved. Chris Rankin suggested that we might want to think about an association project.

Terry adjourned the meeting at 4:20.

After a closing prayer by Rev. Bill Long, the assembly was encouraged to stay for refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Laverne DiNino Secretary/Registrar

**MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING OF THE
LANCASTER ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

St. John's Center UCC, East Earl

October 13, 2024

3:00 PM

**The following churches were represented by
one or more delegates:**

Salem, Columbia
St. John's, Denver
St. John's Center, East Earl
Trinity, East Petersburg
Christ, Elizabethtown
Church of the Apostles, Lancaster

Faith, Lancaster
First Reformed, Lancaster
LIFT, Lancaster
Salem (Rohrerstown), Lancaster
St. Luke's, Lititz
Maytown Reformed, Maytown
Peace, Swartzville

Association Vice-President, Katie Jackson, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Host Pastor, Ken Evitts, led the assembled group in worship with an opening prayer and hymn accompanied by three guitarists.

Vice-President Jackson called for the approval of the Spring Meeting Minutes of the Association. The minutes were approved by consensus.

ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- An announcement was made concerning the Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry at Lancaster seminary. The assembled group was encouraged to pick up information at the registration table and to visit the online link to discover more about the many offerings through the Academy.
- Chris Rankin reminded us that next Sunday is the Lancaster Crop Walk. He invited everyone who is able to participate and to donate. Chris noted that, as always, there is a need, but particularly at this time because of the recent devastating hurricanes.
- Brad Haws, Chairperson of the Ministry and Mission Committee, asked the assembled group to mark their calendars for the first Sunday of February for their winter event, which will be a repeat of last year's musical event. It will tentatively be held at Church of the Apostles.

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Dr. Lee Barrett

Dr. Barrett shared greetings from LTS and noted that the 200th anniversary of the seminary will take place next year. He reported that there will be a UCC track in the upcoming curriculum and that this will be taught in high-flex format, with both online and in-person classes being available. He also reported that the seminary is thriving and that enrollment is up. There are currently 11 DMin students and 22 MDiv students. This is the highest enrollment that the seminary has experienced since COVID.

GREETINGS FROM PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Nora reminded us that the vote on the proposed Keystone Conference will take place at 9:30 AM on November 9 via Zoom. Lancaster's joint gathering venue for this event is Bethany UCC, Ephrata.

There will be three items on the agenda:

1. The PCC budget for 2025
2. Presentation on a proposed new team creation for small town and rural churches
3. Formal motion on the Keystone merger that, if passed will be sent to General Synod for consideration and adoption.

She also reported the following:

- Continuing education continues through the conference that is available for anyone. She also encouraged us to check out the PA Academy of Ministry classes.
- Boundary training continues regularly
- She encouraged congregations to look into education around behavioral covenants before any problems arise.
- She noted that Betsy Bruaw is a facilitator for a class on global missions which will begin in January online.
- Disaster Ministries is busy supporting the hurricane victims. Hygiene kits are greatly needed.

LANCASTER ASSOCIATION CLERGY FAMILY MINISTRY PROGRAM

Rev. Bill LaSalle

Bill noted that the responsibilities of this committee are two-fold:

- To welcome new clergy and their families
- To provide social events for clergy and families

The committee is in its 4th year of existence and has had good response to the events provided. Bill thanked St. Luke's Lititz for their donated monies toward this committee's activities.

MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE Rev. Brad Haws

Brad noted that he had given his report under Association Announcements.

MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE Rev. Patty Dodds

Patty reported that there are two new Members in Discernment: Mark Harris, pastor of Salem UCC, Columbia and Mark Achterman, member of Church of the Apostles, Lancaster. She also encouraged the assembled group to take notice of particular gifts for ministry among their congregations and perhaps guide folks toward a discernment process.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY Rev. Fa Lane

Fa thanked everyone on the committee for their service. She then reported the following:

1. The committee recently approved John Rieker's relicensing.
2. The Manual for Local Churches has recently been made available through MESA. It is downloadable and comments can be made now until the end of December
3. She offered a motion from the committee that LIFT UCC, Lancaster, be granted standing in the Lancaster Association. Rev. Donte Jones, Pastor of LIFT, and Diane Koon, consistory president, answered questions about the newly formed congregation which is a merger of Grace UCC, Eden and Wisdom's Table UCC, Lancaster. **The motion to accept LIFT as a new congregation in the Lancaster Association was approved by unanimous vote of those present.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Chris reported that they need four more people to fill out the Nominating Committee and that he and Deb Miley are currently working on filling vacancies.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 BUDGET Linda Bushong, Association Treasurer

Linda presented the budget for 2025 and it was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

PROGRAM "Association Covenants in the UCC" Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Nora gave a brief update on how the work toward the Keystone Project is progressing. She then gave a presentation on the importance of covenant in the associations of the United Church of Christ. The slide presentation will be made available to all church and clergy soon.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, Vice-President Katie Jackson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.

CLOSING HYMN/BENEDICTION

Host pastor, Ken Evitts, led us in a hymn and closing prayer.

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENT IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Respectfully submitted,
Laverne DiNino
Secretary/Registrar

LANCASTER ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

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| 310 | COLUMBIA Salem 324 Walnut St POB 429 Columbia PA 17512 ++Mark Harris, P | https://www.historicsalemucc.org/ salemucc.columbia@gmail.com 717/684-6498 | 46 |
| 410 | DENVER St. John's 659 S Fourth St. Box 37 Denver PA 17517 Brad Haws, P | www.denverstjohns.org churchoffice@denverstjohns.org 717/336-7600 | 416 |
| 500 | EAST EARL St. John's Center 432 Reading Rd East Earl PA 17519 Ken Evitts, P | www.stjohnscenterucc.org office@stjohnscenterucc.org 717/445-5622 | 125 |

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|------|--|---|-----|
| 510 | EAST PETERSBURG Trinity 2340 State St East Petersburg PA 17520 Christopher Rankin, P | www.trinityeastpete.org secretary@trinityeastpete.org 717/569-1632 | 285 |
| 20 | ELIZABETHTOWN Christ Church 247 S Market St Elizabethtown PA 17022 Galen Russell, P | www.etownucc.org ChristChurch@etownucc.org 717/367-1208 Fax: 717/367-7025 | 382 |
| 560 | EPHRATA Bethany 140 E Main St Ephrata PA 17522 Katie Jackson, P | www.bethanyucc.com bethany@bethanyucc.com 717/733-9608 Fax:717/733-2934 | 271 |
| 1115 | LANCASTER Church of the Apostles 1850 Marietta Ave Lancaster PA 17603 Kathryn L. Kuhn, P | www.apostlesucc.org webmaster@apostlesucc.org 717/392-5718 | 335 |
| 1120 | LANCASTER Faith 1204 Wabank Rd Lancaster PA 17603 ++John Rieker, P | faithucclanc@comcast.net 717/393-3431 | 81 |
| 1130 | LANCASTER First Reformed 40 E Orange St Lancaster PA 17602 Dominique Denham | www.firstreformedlancaster.org FirstReformedLancaster@gmail.com 717/397-5149 Fax: 717/397-5305 | 93 |

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| 1150 | LANCASTER Hamilton Park 1210 Maple Ave Lancaster PA 17603 Dave Bushnell, BP | HamiltonParkUCC@gmail.com 717/397-9791 | 152 |
| 1200 | LANCASTER LIFT 540 West Walnut St. Lancaster PA 17603 Donte Jones, P | wisdomgraceucc@gmail.com 717/397-8912 | 121 |
| 1205 | LANCASTER Salem (Rohrerstown) 2312 Marietta Ave Lancaster PA 17603 *Bradley Rhine, BP | www.salemuccroh.org salemuccrohpa@gmail.com 717/397-0141 | 174 |
| 1380 | LITITZ St. Luke's 222 N Broad St Lititz PA 17543 Jeff Shanaberger, DP | www.stlukesucc.com secretary@stlukesucc.com 717/626-7100 Fax: 717/625-2654 | 151 |
| 1510 | MANHEIM St. Paul's 50 N Main St. POB 129 Manheim PA 17545 Bill Long, DP | www.stpauls-ucc.com stpaulsucc@dejazzd.com 717/665-2447 Fax: 717/664-2661 | 191 |
| 1520 | MARIETTA Zion 3 S. Waterford Ave Marietta, PA 17547 Dan Shahan, P | www.zions-uccmarietta.org zionchurch2011@gmail.com 717/426-1822 | 141 |

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