

**Report of the Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region 2
To the Annual Meeting of the Keystone Conference
Rev. Dr. Nora Foust - January 1, 2026 through June 5, 2026**

There are days when serving as your Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region 2 of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ when I have felt the breath of the lions and the pressure of the circling bulls (Psa 22), but I find comfort in other words of the psalmist that ground me in the work and ministry to which I am called. ***“Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.”*** (Psalm 16: 5-6)



At First Congregational, Harford

Some of the travel and administration have distanced me from the pastoral ways I hear my call, but getting to know new congregations, associations, and individuals across the new-to-me areas has been rewarding. I am also reminded that relationships with God's people are an important part of why I love this work and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our Keystone Conference in this way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to schedule me for a worship or fellowship visit with your congregation!

These first 6-months have seen challenges as we learn together how to become the Keystone Conference, and I have appreciated the grace and perseverance of many along the way as we endeavor together with God's help. I have worked on the following in line with my position description. **Thank you all again for this opportunity to serve!**

Pastor & Spiritual Leader: I have attended or led worship with 20 congregations, attended a couple ecclesiastical councils, ordinations, and installations. Additionally, I have participated in the Spring Meetings of Schuylkill Association and Harrisburg Association. Mountain Valley Association (MVA) did not have a Spring Meeting and Central Association held a Pastor's Breakfast which I attended. I have also spent time with several retired clergy groups and ministeriums, eating breakfast or lunch with them and often leading a boundary awareness session.

I use phone calls, zooms, coffee meet-ups, and other in-person and digital means for meeting with MIDs, pastors, and others who are in various places in their vocational discernment.

Administrative Leadership: The administrative work has been challenging for me in these early months. Staff meetings, both full and ministerial, are long and tedious as we work through small and large details of bringing this new Conference together. I worked with Patty Rehrig and Barbara Jennings in the historic Penn Northeast Conference to finish cleaning and packing the offices there and brought two and a half car loads of boxes back to the Harrisburg office. I worked with Barbara, Patty, and others to get the financials of PNEC closed for 2025 and accounts moved from PNEC to Keystone. I have attended meetings of the Annual Meeting Planning Team, Commission on Ministry (KeyCOM), Association Presidents, Search & Call Team, Clergy Convocation Planning Team (which

was held April 14-16), Member in Discernment Retreat Planning Team (which was held March 27-28), and Board of Directors. The work has been formidable as we craft the foundation for Keystone. It is this foundation building that makes the work vital and rewarding as well.

Congregational & Association Support: I meet regularly with churches (about 15 or so) in transition supporting their needs in Search and Call. I have met with about 7 consistories/councils around conflict and/or understanding Keystone and its impact on them.

I meet with the MVA board, executive committees of Harrisburg and Central Associations regularly, and consult with Schuylkill Association executive committee as needed. I meet regularly with the Committees on Ministry and Working Groups of Region 2 and have offered trainings for portfolio assessment of Members in Discernment using the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers.



Pastors Breakfast, Central Association

Representational Duties: I serve on the executive committee of the Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers and serve as secretary for that body. We have begun hosting learning bites for ACMs to keep us connected, supported, and as up-to-date as possible with resources needed for our work with congregations. I am also serving on the planning team for the National Settings AM21 (Authorizing Ministry for the 21st Century) Conference that will be held in December this year. This is a training and networking event for conference staff that supports the work of Committees on Ministry and Search and Call. I continue my work with the Anti-Bias in Fitness Reviews Task Force for the national setting and look forward to our language change recommendations in the ministerial code and process changes for fitness reviews to be finalized over the next few months. I was both privileged and incredibly humbled to preach for the Scranton Diocese Week of Christian Unity service that was held at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

Leadership Development: Teaching is my passion and I am excited to share the leadership development brainstorming and facilitation with Dwight and the ministerial staff. I enjoy leading training opportunities as well. I am planning more COM trainings and a video series over the summer and into the fall.

-Nora



Preaching at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton