

**Report of the Transitional Conference Minister
for Region 1
Rev. Kevin McLemore
January 1, 2026, to June 5, 2026
Annual Meeting of the Keystone Conference**



Like my colleagues, I'm honored to have been asked to serve in this transitional role and to continue serving our churches, including many that I am now getting to know better. As Region 1 Transitional Regional Conference Minister, I cover the Covenant, Lancaster, Lebanon, North Penn, Philadelphia, Ursinus, and York Associations. Moving from a role that focused mostly on search and call and Committee on Ministry (COM) work in the former PSEC to one that is broader in scope has been challenging at times, but my hope is that I have met the challenge, in my best moment.

As I think all the ministerial staff will affirm, the best part of Conference work is working with the people of God scattered in different churches throughout the Commonwealth. Even as we struggle with some insurmountable (and surmountable) issues, the church remains faithful to the Good News of the Gospel in Word and Deed. Whenever I become discouraged, I look forward to the next gathering of the church in worship or meetings, knowing that God has remained faithful to the Church. Thanks be to God.

Pastor and Spiritual Leader



I've preached or been present at the worship service of fourteen different churches. I also preached at the installations of Rev. Steve Hamilton at St. Luke's Ottsville and Rev. Raymond Jachowski at Zion UCC (Pottstown), and brought greetings from the Conference at the installation of Rev. Domenik Ackerman at Maidencreek Church. I attended the retirement celebrations for Rev. Butch Kuykendall of Zwingli, including delivering the Conference's greetings at his final service. I have focused on preaching in three associations that are new to me and to those actively searching for a new pastor. I have spoken to pastors and lay leaders, as called upon, about various situations in their churches, providing support and, in my best moments, perhaps some wisdom born of my own pastoral experience.

Administrative Leadership

I've worked closely with Brea Rarick, who, along with Sue, Paul, and Andrea, is an excellent member of the administrative staff. We meet weekly to ensure we have connected on important issues, discuss possible search and call matches with available clergy, and think together about some of the recent ministerial profiles circulated to our Conference. I helped transfer funds from PSEC accounts to Keystone, with the help of a former

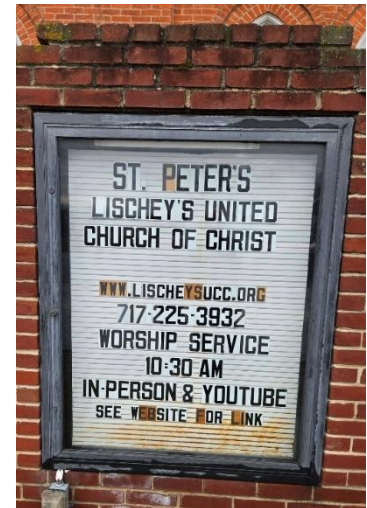
moderator. I attended Keystone meetings with the Commission on Ministry, Association Presidents, Clergy Convocation Planning Team, and the Board of Directors. I also worked regularly with our Region 1 Clergy Coaching representative to discuss potential candidates for those services.

Congregation and Association Support

I met with eight different churches at various points in the search and call process. I also met with all seven of the Region 1 Committees on Ministry monthly, missing only two due to conflicts or vacation. With COM leadership, I have also met three times with prospective MIDS since January. Additionally, I have met with multiple Association Executive Teams to provide updates on the Conference and/or to share my thoughts on various topics, as requested.

Leadership Development

I presented a workshop on becoming a “Healthy Congregation” at one church and led a session on the basics of Committee on Ministry work with the Lebanon, York, and Lancaster Associations. I offered support to a church seeking clarity about its Pastoral Relationships Committee. I also facilitated a boundary workshop on “AI Uses and Misuses” that was well attended and, I hope, well received. Like Nora and David, I work with Dwight to create leadership learning opportunities.



Representational Duties

I regularly collaborate with an ELCA Ministry Associate to identify potential candidates for our Berks churches, as well as with another Ecumenical team on search and call issues. In other ways, representing the Conference was not usually part of my responsibilities in the former PSEC, but I hope and expect that it will be expanded in the coming year.

Opportunities

My goal is to find a rhythm that has eluded me so far as new meetings and responsibilities come with this new position. Learning new people and new ways of being in our churches and associations is one of the more rewarding parts of a role like ours. Relationships matter to me, as much of the trust in a Conference often stems from those connections to staff. I look forward to working on them in the coming months.

A word of appreciation for all the staff I work with, especially our fearless leader Carrie, but especially Brea Rarick, the Regional 1 Admin, who is extremely patient with me, and is a gift to the larger Conference. Thank you.

Peace,
Kevin