LAY LEADERSHIP SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 6-17, 7-15, and 8-26 (on ZOOM)

Attendees: Donna Freed (New Goshenhoppen UCC), Robin Hightower (Zion UCC), Pat Konigsbauer, Trish Rathbun, Diana Schoch, Rosemary Derstine (St. Peter's Tohickon UCC), Carl Alderfer (Emmanuel UCC), Dawn Blessing (St. Luke's UCC), Alec Hoffman (Friedan's UCC), Matt Harrington (Valley Forge UCC), Carol Sterner (St. Paul's UCC Amityville), Michael (Pennsburg UCC), Denice Fulmer

Topics Discussed:

Congregation News

- Small attendance; beginning to explore options of shared services/shared Pastors
- Little to no Sunday school participation; some churches are offering it online
- Two congregations without a Pastor are using Search & Call process; completing profiles can be complex (easier with use of previously completed profile)
- Use of supply Pastors when necessary
- Discussion about the importance of families and children joining the church
- Growing LGBTQIA+ attendance
- Possible property sale before end of the year
- Beginning process of moving from FT to PT Pastor
- Lay leaders stepping up to preach and share their faith testament/stories (women needed to lead sermons)
- Elders being asked to support worship
- Ample opportunities to serve PT; Kevin McLemore is working on providing PT opportunities
- Mention of using commissioned ministers rather than supply Pastors – contact Brea Rarick for list (Chair of Committee on Ministry)
- Many resources are available – service planning, sermon courses, worship ways, health of your church workshops, etc.
- Discussion about Family Promise which allows a family to live in church for a week (no jobs or living situations)
- Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence is offering visual memorials to churches interested
- Concentration on tech upgrades (when possible)

Keystone Project

- Discussion about becoming one conference and the idea of "better together"
- Consultant working with our four conference ministers that meet once a month
- Noted that a UCC map is available at ucc.org that shows all conferences within the US
- East is heavy but dwindles toward Central and West PA (4 UCC conferences to 1)
- What is the plan to support Central and West PA?
- Need for organization chart of the churches
- Package planned to be ready to present to General Synod 2025

Future Plans

- Discussion with our churches for ideas about how our association and conference can support us – workshops on conflict resolution within the church
- Offer sermons during worship to teach us responsibilities of the association and conference
- Peach festival 8/19

- Community Day 9/9 New Goshenhoppen
- Rally Day Potluck Picinic 9/10 St. Peter's Tohickon
- 100th Anniversary Park Picnic
- Vitality training days
- Breakfast program
- Free meals to the public
- Trunk or Treat
- Mention of several local Facebook community groups for advertisement of church events (Perkasie Community Page, Patch.com, and Residents of Upper Perk)

Meetings ended with closing prayer

Next Meeting – October 21st