

February 25, 2010

## **Changes to the Penn Northeast Conference Constitution & Bylaws to be Considered at the April 24, 2010 Annual Meeting**

Dear Friends,

Greetings! It has been at least eight years since we have updated the Constitution & Bylaws of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thus working with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, we recommended a number of changes which were approved by the Board of Directors at their January 27, 2010 meeting, to be presented to the Conference for adoption at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

A copy of the Constitution & Bylaws, along with the recommended changes (highlighted in yellow and in bold print), are on our website: [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org).

You will note that there are virtually no structural, policy, or governance changes. Almost all of the recommended changes reflect language changes at either the national setting of the church or within our own Conference. For example: we now used the term *authorized ministers* to refer to ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers and we no longer use the terms *professional* and *support staff* to refer to the Office Staff, instead we use *programmatic* and *administrative staff*. Also, since our last update we have renamed, added, and deleted a number of committees and teams within the Conference.

Prior to the April 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Northampton Community Center, we are offering two opportunities to attend a pre-Annual Meeting hearing to discuss both the 2011 Proposed Budget and the recommended Constitution & Bylaw changes (go to [www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org) to download both documents). **The date is Tuesday, April 13, 2010.** One of these opportunities will be offered during the day – 2:00 p.m. and the other during the evening – 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Office.

With my wishes for a blessed Lent and Easter –

Peace,

Alan C. Miller, Conference Minister