

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
Fall Meeting, November 8, 2014
Minutes

The Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference was held on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at St. Paul's (Amityville) UCC in Douglassville, PA. The meeting began with worship and prayer led by Rev. Bill Worley.

Rev. Steven Hamilton, Moderator, offered a welcome and introduced guests of the conference. Churches celebrating anniversaries were also celebrated.

Rev. Steven Simpson, pastor of St. Paul's UCC, offered a welcome to the conference.

Rev. Steven Hamilton added the adoption of ministerial salary guidelines to the agenda. The meeting was called to order at 9:25 AM.

Rev. Michael Evans, conference consistory member, provided the credentials report. There are 239 conferring members present this morning, this does constitute a quorum (which is 200).

The standing rules were adopted with motion by Rev. Shawn Van Dyke, second by Phyllis Carrol.

The minutes from the Spring meeting are received as a matter of record with a motion by Rev. Joe Motz second by Rev. Linda Higgins.

Adoption of Changes to the Organizational Structure as voted upon at the 2009 Fall Meeting. Mr. Douglas Fraley presented the details of the proposed changes. This work has been in progress for the past 5 years, today we are seeking approval. Doug Fraley made the motion that the conference adopt the document titled "Changes to the Organizational Structure of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference November 8, 2014." Prayer offered by Rev. Wanda Craner. Second by Bill Pifer-Foote. David Balmer reports that the body does have the authority to amend the motion introduced.

After discussion, Rev. Pricilla McDougal called the question to adopt the "Changes to the Organizational Structure of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference November 8, 2014" and the amendment to the bylaws to support the structural change. The body voted to call the question. A 2/3 majority is needed for the motion to pass. Vote: 201 YES; 36 NO; 8 ABSTAIN. Motion carries and the proposal and amendment are accepted and adopted.

Rev. Steven Hamilton offered thanks to Bob Fogal for all of his work in the process of the sale of Mensch Mill. Rob Stilwell shared that the sale of Mensch Mill was finalized on Sept 23. Sold \$1,125,000, all conference loans were paid off by the sales of Mensch Mill and the Church House. The buyer will maintain the form and function of the property and PSEC churches will be able to use the property in the future. Rev. Bill Worley shares that he is looking forward to working with the buyer in our continued relationship with them and the property.

Rev. Sharon Morris presented the PSEC Ministerial Salary Guidelines and offered a reminder that they are guidelines and the churches and ministers should work together to determine the salary and benefits that will be offered. Motion to accept the guidelines made by Rev. Beth Lyon, second by Rev. Dorothy Borden. Motion carried.

Rob Stilwell presented the 2015 PSEC Budget. The revenue proposal is a 4% reduction from prior year's OCWM receipts. The expenses constitute a 10% reduction from the prior year's budget and a 30% reduction from 2012. Major reductions are seen in insurance costs, Mensch Mill operating costs, and interest on the conference's loans which have been paid in full. Consistory has reviewed this plan and proposes it for approval today. Rob Stilwell made the motion to approve the spending plan, because it comes from the financial committee and consistory it does not require a second. Time was allowed for discussion. Tammy Wisniewski reports that the "Building and Grounds" line item covers the cost of the janitor and recycling. Motion carried.

Rev. Steven Hamilton offered gratitude for those conference leaders, Diane Peppel, Donna Tomlinson, Rev. Sharon Morris, Tammie Wisniewski, Marge Stadnycki and Rev. Wanda Craner who have guided the conference throughout the years, especially through the past few years of transition.

The morning's business complete, the conference moved into a time of worship and the installation of the Rev. William P. Worley as the Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

The afternoon's session was opened with Speak Outs at 1:00 PM.

Rev. Dr. Susan Bertolette led the gathered body in Bible Study.

Rev. Bill Worley led the gathered body in a discussion of what it would look like to change to a weekend long annual conference meeting and what other dreams could help us to work on our connectedness.

Rev. Charlotte Gosselink moved to close the meeting, Sam Brackeen seconded, motion carried. The Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference was closed at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Selina Hamilton
PSEC Consistory Secretary