

Report from the PSEC Moderator
The Rev. Steven Hamilton
April 24, 2015

Diverse and Divine *Galatians 3:23-28*

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ!

We are in the time of Easter. Our scriptures from the Gospels recently centered on the disciples who really didn't seem very sure about what was happening around and with them. I hear in the words, expressions of fear, confusion, wonder, awe, thankfulness, and excitement, in anticipation of what is yet to bloom. Perhaps, we, the body of Christ expressed here as the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) of the United Church of Christ, aren't so far removed from the disciples.

Following a brief opportunity to review, comment, and discuss the consideration of becoming a co-sponsor of the United Church of Christ General Synod Resolution: *DISMANTLING DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEMS OF MASS INCARCERATION IN THE UNITED STATES*, our Consistory affirmed our co-sponsorship. While we would have preferred to have had more time to discern our decision, the short timeframe for response prevented this from happening. Following an opportunity for members of the conference to respond to an on-line survey and a conference-wide meeting, the Consistory affirmed our co-sponsorship. Life is sometimes messy and the Spirit unexpectedly calls for us to speak and act prophetically. This was just such a time.

We are seeking ways of growing the breadth of ideas and considerations flowing between our Conference and our Associations. One such way is through increasing Association Moderators' Consistory representation.

Some of our faith communities are led by the Spirit to a time of ending what has been. May our prayers hold each one as they discern what the Spirit is calling them to become in this time of new life; and how we are being called, not only the Conference Minister, but as the body of Christ to care for each other during times such as this.

I give thanks to God and our staff for the incredible work of bringing many of us the opportunity to attend the church vitality workshops provided through the Center for Progressive Renewal. During January, the Rev. Cameron Trimble, Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, brought forward the idea that perhaps, rather than following trends, the time has arrived for the Church to establish the trend lines. The energy was palpable in the room.

Following the workshop, our Consistory experienced the gift of continuing with Cameron through Saturday. Flowing out from our time together was an initial draft of a Conference five-year "2020 Vision." Our draft goals are being shared and discussed during spring Association meetings and additional forums. They are dynamic and will continue to evolve.

The Living Christ is present among us. We are in a wondrous time of resurrection! May God's grace, mercy, and love enfold us and the Spirit guide us always.

Blessings,
Rev. Steven Hamilton
PSEC Moderator

The Administrative Center of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
is located at:

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100 Pottstown, PA 19464
Phone: 484-949-8774, FAX: 484-949-8784