

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Consistory
November 21, 2015 at St. James United Church of Christ, Limerick

Attending: Bill Worley, Sharon Morris, Harold Albitz, Sam Brackeen, Christian Creyer, Darryl Cruz, Maureen Duffy-Guy, Jon Fogle, Steve Hamilton, Cean James, Teresa McNamara, Fred Schuetz, Rob Stilwell, Jennie Strauch, Kris Hayden

The meeting was called to order and Rob Stilwell offered a prayer.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Appointments were affirmed: Kris Hayden as a temporary representative from the Reading Association through April of 2016 for Regina Floyd, who is recovering from illness, the Nominating Committee's recommended list of people to serve on the Justice and Witness Mission Team, and Angelee Benner-Smith as Chairperson of the Conference Nominating Committee.

Reports from the Conference Staff were received. Concern for Sharon's workload was raised because of the number of churches in transition.

- The Consistory retreat will be held January 15-16. Members may email Steve with ideas regarding location, and Rob and Fred volunteered to help Steve with identifying the location for retreat.

The Personnel Committee continues to review policies and plans to have a final document completed by the January meeting of Consistory.

The Budget report included news that OCWM was catching up as we approach the end of the year. Steve, Darryl, Cean and Bill agreed to begin work on creating a better tool for communicating with our congregations regarding OCWM and the vision of the Conference to build our endowment. We recently received an unrestricted gift of \$15,000 inspired by the 2020 Vision.

The allocation for Housing Allowance was unanimously passed by Consistory: \$16,752 for Bill Worley, \$12,000 for Sharon Morris, \$10,000 for Wanda Craner.

The OCWM report created extensive discussion, including the following: The ongoing need for education about what it is and does, and sharing the vision of the Conference; continuing to lift up the intersection of OCWM with people's lives in local churches and communities; continuing to share pictures and videos that show what is happening; the recognition that changing our culture around OCWM is an incremental process; that we can move ahead with those who are excited and lift up churches committed to 2% increases, including parties! Association representatives will contact churches personally who have not yet given in 2015, and Cean will develop a script to guide the conversation.

The Spring Conference Meeting will be held at West Chester University, June 10-12. Creating a photo directory of clergy is planned for Friday. The following items are being considered for the Saturday business session: Re-draft of the Constitution and By-laws (with document to be submitted to the Secretary by March for review), Consistory change-over, General Synod delegates, General Synod issues (inequality of salaries within the United Church of Christ), Conference Office space, as lease ends in 2018.

Heidelberg, East Berks, Schuylkill, and Reading Associations are in conversation about becoming one Association. Meetings are scheduled to bring leaders of these churches together for discussion and discernment. It is hoped that a united Association can provide a Ministry Committee with working sub-committees, and relationships and partnerships between churches and pastors will be revitalized.

The Conference Staff plans to engage in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service project January 18, and the Conference Consistory agreed to join the project as it is identified.

The Fall Conference Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2016, and Good Shepherd, Boyertown will be contacted about hosting the meeting. Since the Spring meeting will be in the southern part of the Conference in West Chester, Boyertown offers a northern venue.

The 2020 Vision was accepted by vote in the Fall Association meetings, with the exception of Reading, which responded with recommendations. After much

discussion, the Consistory voted to empower Bill to communicate that the 2020 Vision will move forward with the support of the majority of the Conference, recognizing that with any such vision there will be ongoing dialogue and organic change as we live into it.

It was reported that the Conference is no longer named in a lawsuit concerning H.O. Davis.

Christian Creyer tendered his resignation as Conference Treasurer. It was accepted with regret and hesitation, recognizing the excellence with which Christian has fulfilled the responsibility.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Hayden