

## **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Fall Meeting, November 15, 2015**

The Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference was held on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at St. Paul's (Amityville) UCC in Douglassville, PA. The meeting began with worship at 3:00 PM. 2016 pledges were collected and blessed.

Rev. Steven Hamilton, Moderator, offered a welcome and introduced the following:

- Rev. Steven Simpson, Pastor of St. Paul's UCC, offered a welcome to the Conference.
- David Balmer, Esq. was appointed as parliamentarian.
- Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger, Chair, Conference Meeting Program Mission Team, offered announcements regarding the voting process and a reminder that all ordained ministers are able to vote, every church is entitled to send two adult delegates and a youth delegate, and congregations of 800 or more are entitled to a third adult delegate. Nametag holders will be collected at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 PM. Rev. Wanda Craner opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Greg Kammann, Conference Consistory member, provided the credentials report. There are 221 conferring members present this afternoon; this does constitute a quorum (which is 200).

The standing rules were adopted with motion by Rev. Ann Few, second by Harold Albitz.

The minutes from the Spring 2015 meeting were received as a matter of record with a motion by Rev. Nate Shaw, second by Rev. Greg Kammann.

Rev. Christian Creyer, Conference Treasurer presented the 2016 PSEC Budget. We have not reduced the anticipated amount of OCWM giving from our member congregations this year, based upon the past 12 months of giving. The commitment to the National OCWM is 10% of our anticipated receipts, sent in 12 monthly increments. The increase in Administrative Expenses is related to our three-day Spring Meeting. We anticipate a surplus for 2016. Our goal is to continually increase member congregations' OCWM commitments over the next 5 years. Our budget reflects a reduction in endowment draws from 6% to 5%. The Personnel Committee recommended a 2% increase in staff salaries for 2016, which has been approved by Conference Consistory. Healthcare costs will increase by ~5% in 2016.

New expenses for 2016: we have committed \$3,000 to go to Bethany Children's Home. PSEC currently has 18 MIDs (nearly half of all MIDs within the entire denomination). To support them, we are committing to a new ministry to provide training and support to the MIDs. We anticipate spending more on the National Youth Event this year because it's in Disney World. The Conference would like to provide 1/3 of the cost for the youth who will be attending.

The Conference has replaced ½ of the office computers in 2015 and plans to replace the other ½ in 2016.

PSEC is no longer in debt, so every dollar received in 2016 will go to current expenses and none will be spent paying interest.

Time for reflection to discuss the questions:

Does the budget reflect the faithful expression and intention of the Conference?

Does it reflect our vision and how we express ourselves as the body of Christ?

If it does not, how can we make it so?

Is there anything missing from the budget?

What will we do in 2016 that excites you?

The 2016 budget was approved with a motion by Rev. Darryl Cruz. Coming from Budget and Finance and approved by Conference Consistory, it needs no second. Carries, with two abstentions.

\$150,000 has been set aside from the sales of the Conference's two properties. A form is available online to request financial support from this New Ministry Fund, with a maximum request of \$15,000. Hard copies are available with Donna. A matrix for approving these requests has been approved by Conference Consistory.

During worship this afternoon, the offering will be dedicated to scholarships for the Spring Meeting.

Speak Outs were held at 3:50 PM.

The meeting was closed with a motion made by Rev. Nate Shaw, second by Rev. Ann Few, motion carried. The Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference was closed at 4:02 PM.

The afternoon's business complete, the Conference moved into a time of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Selina Hamilton  
PSEC Consistory Secretary