

PSEC Conference Consistory
Meeting February 6, 2016
Mariawald Renewal Center

Consistory members present: Rev. Bill Worley (Conference Minister), Rev. Selina Hamilton (Secretary), Rev. Teresa McNamara, Rev. Darryl Cruz, Rob Stilwell, Fred Schuetz, Rev. Steven Hamilton (Moderator), Rev. Kris Hayden, Jennie Strauch, Sam Brackeen, Rev. Jon Fogle, Rev. Elaine Ely

Consistory members excused: Rev. Barb Pence, Rev. Cean James, Harold Albitz, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

The meeting was opened with prayer at 1:15 PM.

The PSEC Consistory met for a time of retreat and renewal at Mariawald Renewal Center in Reading, PA.

The minutes from the January 23 Conference Call were approved with a motion by Rev. Terry McNamara, second by Rob Stilwell.

Personnel Committee:

The Personnel Committee has finished the process of reviewing the current policy and have agreed on their first round of changes. What is needed is a new secretary for the Personnel Committee. Once the new policies are fully typed and prepared, they can be presented for approval. Michelle Witmyer is working on this process.

Appointments:

Rev. Elaine Ely has been approved to serve as representative for the North Penn Conference with a vote taken via email.

Communications:

PSEC has been released from the lawsuit related to Harold O. Davis Church in Philadelphia.

Reports:

Minister of Spiritual Nurture:

Rev. Wanda Craner's letter of resignation effective March 1 was received on our conference call on January 23 and has been distributed to the Conference.

Associate Conference Minister:

There are currently 24 churches actively in the search process, 1 church has just elected a pastor, 5 churches are stalled or are making no movement in the search process, and 5 churches are not doing any search at all.

Member in Discernment Day is scheduled for April 2. The theme is Staying Connected.

Four dates have been scheduled for Committee on Ministry training.

Center for Progressive Renewal has offered a proposal for Next Level: Building Strong Churches, a next step series of training events. They propose that we either nominate or open applications for 5 congregations, and CPR would help those congregations assess what's going on, coach a small team (including the pastor) of each church with monthly coaching calls, connect the pastors of the churches, the coach would make a non-Sunday visit to each church, and access for the entire congregation to one online course from CPR. In the first two months, the congregation sets goals and the consultant follows up on those goals throughout the process. Conference would pay travel expenses for the coaches. The cost of the program is \$30,000 (\$6,000 per church). Sharon suggests that if we do this, each church would have to pay in \$3,000-\$4,000 and PSEC would invest \$2,000-\$3,000 for each church.

Rev. Kris Hayden made a motion to approve moving forward with CPR, Rev. Darryl Cruz seconded, to move forward in working with CPR with the caveat that we'd like some feedback and follow-up from CPR at the end of the coaching year and requiring that the congregations partner with another congregation after their year of coaching to begin training for the next congregation; if the congregations don't do their work, they will owe the Conference's investment back to the Conference. Rev. Worley would like to talk with CPR to find out what they expect the outcomes to be. He will have that conversation within the next couple of weeks. A vote will be taken electronically following that conversation, so the motion is tabled for the time being.

Conference Minister:

Rev. Worley's report was received. Rev. Dorhauer's installation is at Riverside Church in NYC on April 15. Steve Hamilton will contact Homer Royer about hiring a bus to take PSEC and PNEC people to the installation service. The Nominating Team is up and running. The letter drafted by Rev. Worley about application for the New Ministry Funds will be distributed.

Financial:

Balance sheet, income statement, and snapshot have been received. Rob reports that the OCWM shortfall is declining annually. Requests have been sent to all Association members to help Tammie reach out to congregations that are not giving.

The financial reports were approved and all reports were accepted with a motion by Rev. Jon Fogle, second by Fred Schuetz.

Discussion between PSEC and PNEC:

Consistory discussed the meeting during our retreat time. This was not a meeting proposing that we merge, it was a meeting opening a conversation about how our two conferences might be able to be in ministry together moving forward.

Constitution and Bylaw Revision:

The Constitution and Bylaw Revision process is complete and needs to be brought into our Associations and Conferences. Rev. Worley will plan to spend some time at our Association Spring Meetings to present and discuss the changes. Bill sees five major changes in the Bylaws that will need to be especially uplifted: 1) change in quorum, 2) change from Outdoor Ministry Team to Youth Ministry Team, 3) change to Annual Meeting rather than Spring and Fall, 4) changes in the Church and Ministry Council, and 5) change in the number composition of the ministry teams.

Spring Meeting:

The agenda draft has been distributed to Consistory. The Planning Team will know what kind of help is needed from Consistory and local church members by May. Consistory is asked to block out time when we will be available to help with logistics during the meeting.

The Conferring Session agenda for Saturday morning has been drafted.

Weekend with Rev. John Dorhauer

Rev. Dorhauer will arrive Friday, May 13 in the evening, attend LTS graduation on Saturday, and then be at Bethany Children's Home for a workshop on white privilege. Sunday he will present at the Philadelphia Association Meeting before returning to Cleveland.

Fall Meeting—Sunday November 13, 2016

A location is needed.

The meeting was closed with a motion by Rev. Kris Hayden, second by Rev. Elaine Ely. The meeting was closed in prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 12 at 9:00 AM. Donna will confirm the location in email.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Selina Hamilton
PSEC Consistory Secretary