

2016 Annual Meeting Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Consistory Secretary's Report

Dear Kindred in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God! On behalf of the Consistory of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Consistory, I would like to thank you for your prayers and support throughout this past year, as the Conference continues working in faith and putting Jesus first. Our work together has focused on the future of the Conference as we seek ways to continue to strengthen our congregations, train and support strong leaders, and build connections among the churches and people of the Conference.

This past March, the Conference accepted the resignation of the Rev. Wanda Craner with deep gratitude for her ministry. Members of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference have faithfully taken on some of her responsibilities for organizing events like the Women's Retreats, Ventures Groups, Quiet Days, and the Spiritual Life Task Force.

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference sent 30 delegates, along with the Revs. Bill Worley, Sharon Morris, and Wanda Craner, to General Synod 30 in Cleveland, Ohio. As we look toward General Synod 31, which will be held in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017, we are delighted to report that we have a full and diverse slate of delegates to represent our Conference.

This coming year, the Conference is partnering with the Center for Progressive Renewal to offer training for some of our churches and pastors through the program Next Level: Building Strong Congregations. We have also set aside some of the profit from the sale of the Conference's two properties to create the New Ministry Fund, from which congregations in the Conference can request financial support. We look forward to learning how these initiatives will become a blessing in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Throughout the past year, the Conference Consistory has drafted a revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference to better reflect how we are currently doing ministry together. The changes will be brought to the Conference for a vote at this year's Annual Meeting. The Personnel Committee has worked on revisions of the Personnel Policy, and those changes were approved by the Conference Consistory.

As we look into the future of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, for our national church, and for the church universal, let us give thanks for the blessings and the calling that God has given to us. Let us continue to work in faith, putting Jesus first. Let us give thanks always for one another. God has called, gathered, and sent us out in the name of Jesus Christ; may God continue to bless the work we do together.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Selina Hamilton, Conference Consistory Secretary