

PSEC Conference Consistory
Meeting April 30, 2016
St. James UCC, Limerick, PA

Consistory members present: Rev. Bill Worley (Conference Minister), Rev. Selina Hamilton (Secretary), Rev. Teresa McNamara, Rob Stilwell, Fred Scheutz, Rev. Steven Hamilton (Moderator), Jennie Strauch, Elaine Ely, Barbara Guido, Rev. Barb Pence, Regina Floyd, Rev. Cean James, Rev. Darryl Cruz, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy

Consistory members excused: Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

The meeting was opened with prayer at 9:15 AM.

Financial Reports prepared for the March 12, 2016 PSEC Consistory meeting have been approved via email. Barbara Guido was affirmed as the new Conference Vice Moderator and Personnel Committee Chair via email. Dr. John Fogal was affirmed as the NorthPenn Association Representative to the PSEC Personnel Committee via email.

Appointments:

Bob Fogle has been appointed to the Personnel Committee. Barb Pence has agreed to become the Moderator of the Conference Consistory, approved by a motion made by Fred Scheutz, second by Rev. Terry McNamara, motion carried. Her term will begin at the end of the Spring Meeting.

Communications:

PSEC has received a letter from the UCC Historical Council requesting a donation of \$75. Fred Scheutz made a motion to donate \$75, second by Rob Stilwell. Motion carried.

Reports:

Personnel Committee

Work has been done updating the employee handbook for the Conference. Candidates have been interviewed for the two open positions at the conference office, Conference Registrar and Assistant for Search and Call; Executive Administrator for Conference Communications and the Conference Minister. Job descriptions for those positions have been written. Both positions have been filled.

The Personnel Policy Revision Draft dated April 5, 2016 was discussed. A motion to accept the Personnel Policy and was made by Rev. Darryl Cruz, second by Rob Stilwell. Motion carried.

The PSEC New Staff Salary Package Proposal dated 4/13/2016 was discussed and affirmed with a motion by Rev. Cean James, second by Rev. Darryl Cru, with the change of "Sick Days" to "Personal Days." Motion carried.

Associate Conference Minister:

Rev. Morris' report was received.

The Center for Progressive Renewal Next Level Coaching funding has been approved via email. We are hoping to get our five congregations and pastors who will be involved in this program started by the fall and the program will last one year. We will watch the process and the outcomes closely to determine whether we will continue this program in the future.

There are 35 churches in the Conference that are currently in transition.

Rev. Morris and Rev. Worley will do a Mentor Training for MID Mentors on August 27.

Conference Minister:

Rev. Worley's report was received. Association Meetings have included conversations about the Bylaw revisions. Annual Meeting registration has reached a quorum. Rev. John Dorhauer will be in the Conference on May 13, 14, and 15 and is offering a workshop on White Privilege at Bethany Children's Home on May 14 and preaching at Ascension UCC on May 15. Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy attended the Pennsylvania Council of Churches on behalf of Rev. Worley. She reports that they are planning a Peace Conference and a program for churches to help people returning to society from prison.

Rev. Worley suggests that Association Meeting locations be assigned by Moderators and center the meetings around a time of worship, as many have been doing. The purpose of Association Meetings is to get to know one another within our Associations, and Rev. Worley recommends that more of this work be done at the meetings. The gathering can also be used to discuss pressing issues within the local region. Association Meetings don't need to be held in churches, they can be held in places where ministry and education opportunities exist (hospitals, VA's, etc). Associations can also commit themselves to noticing and reaching out to the people who are missing. Rev. Morris suggests that Associations take deliberate time to talk about the future of the church and what we can be doing to prepare and work toward it.

Financial:

The 2015 Audit Report has been received. Budget and Finance Committee has unanimously approved the Report. Bylaws require that the Audit Report be posted on the PSEC website 30 days before the Annual Meeting. A motion to post the Report was made by Rev. Darryl Cruz and seconded by Rev. Terry McNamara, motion carried.

The 2-month financial report is not available because this Consistory Meeting is being held early to accommodate the 30-day requirement for the Audit Report.

Annual Meeting Consistory Support

When Rev. Steve Hamilton knows the needs for the Annual Meeting, Consistory will be asked to cover the various needs for support and hospitality throughout the meeting. During our conferring session we will need tellers to collect and count the voting cards to make sure we have a quorum for the credentials report. Rev. Darryl Cruz and Regina Floyd will present the credentials report.

PSEC and PNEC Conversations

These conversations have centered around discovering what the two Conferences can be working on together. It's a period of discerning and dreaming.

General Synod 2017

The slate of PSEC Nominations dated 2/19/2016 was presented and affirmed with a motion by Rev. Cean James and second by Rev. Darryl Cruz, motion carried.

Four Association Merger

The Reading, East Berks, Schuylkill, and Heidelberg Associations have been in discussions regarding the intent to merge into one Association. These Associations have been voting at their Spring Meetings whether to continue the conversations. Reading, East Berks, and Heidelberg have affirmed their intention to continue these conversations with work toward discerning the form that the new Association would take (including Constitution and Bylaws work). Schuylkill Association meets on May 1 to vote on the intent to merge.

The Purpose, Mission, and Vision of the United Church of Christ

This document has been prepared by the national church to chart the course of the denomination in the near and distant future. The question has been raised "What is the Beloved Community?" PSEC is already doing some of the work in this document, especially within the section on Capacity Building.

Renewal of Office Contract

The Conference Office lease contract comes to an end in 2017. The discussion about this will be deferred until after the Annual Meeting.

Conference Vision

Rev. Dale Davies will be working with the Conference Consistory on how we work as a board and some suggestions for how we could move forward. This work will help us live into the 2020 Vision plan and will begin after the Annual Meeting.

Fall Meeting—Sunday November 13, 2016

The meeting will be held at St. Paul's UCC, Amityville at 3:00 PM.

The Consistory meeting was closed with a motion by Rev. Darryl Cruz and second by Regina Floyd. We closed in prayer at 12:00 PM.

The next Consistory meeting will be held on July 16.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Selina Hamilton
PSEC Consistory Secretary