

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
Spring Meeting**

June 11, 2016

West Chester University

West Chester, PA

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ gathered for a three-day Spring Meeting at West Chester University.

Rev. Steven Hamilton welcomed the gathered body and made announcements and introductions. Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger shared announcements about the workshops scheduled for the afternoon.

Rev. Bill Worley led the gathered body in prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by Rev. Steven Hamilton.

Mr. David Baumer, Esq. has agreed to be the parliamentarian for the meeting today.

Rob Stilwell presented the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report includes an audit report, done by Herbein & Co. We have been given a clean audit, the highest possible rating. The treasurer's report has been available on the PSEC website in preparation for this meeting. Spending is very close to within budget. OCWM giving is ahead of 2015 giving at this point.

Barbara Guido gave a report on behalf of the Personnel Committee. Over the past year they have gone over the Employee Handbook and updated it. They have overseen the hiring of Sue Creswell and Brea Rarick.

Rev. Kris Heyden gave a report from the Church and Ministry Council. They have developed a Ministry Formation Plan to guide the work of our Associations' MID programs.

Rev. Martha Kriebel offered a report on behalf of the Ecumenical Mission Team.

Rev. Karl Jones offered a report on behalf of the Disaster Relief Ministry Team. They are always looking for volunteers and local church coordinators.

Rev. Daryl Cruz gave the credentials report. 200 voting delegates are needed for a quorum. There are 200 voting delegates present, which constitutes a quorum.

The standing rules were accepted with a motion by Rev. Ann Few, second by Rev. Bob Stewart.

The minutes from the PSEC Fall Meeting were accepted with a motion by Becca Stevens, second by Regina Floyd.

Rev. Bill Worley offered his gratitude for the leadership of Consistory, those who planned our meeting and worship for the weekend, and conference staff. He shared some observations about his first two years as Conference Minister. One challenge is that much of his attention is focused on those churches that are struggling and dying; we need to figure out how the Conference can also invest more time and energy into those churches that are growing and doing new and innovative work. We need to find new ways to train people for Authorized Ministry. We also need to find new, faster ways to do Search and Call.

Rev. Steve Hamilton acknowledged the 57 churches in the Conference that are 5 for 5 Churches. These churches give to OCWM and to four special mission offerings: Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Strengthen the Church.

Speak Outs were moderated by Rob Stilwell.

The Constitution and Bylaw revision were put forward by the Consistory, seconded by Rev. Ann Few. There was an opportunity for discussion.

Rev. Joe Motz made a motion to make the following changes:

1. (Article VIII, 5b) The Committee shall develop and recommend personnel policies, conduct all staff evaluations in collaboration with the Conference minister, and recommend nominees for called staff positions to the Conference Consistory.
2. (Article X, 3) The Personnel Committee, in collaboration with the Conference Minister, shall have the authority to employ persons for all Conference business and administrative staff positions.
3. (Article X, 4) All Conference staff, including Called Staff, shall be accountable to the Conference Ministry for day to day matters. Using a format approved by the Conference Consistory, all Conference staff shall be subject to periodic evaluation of the performance of their assigned duties by the Personnel Committee in collaboration with the Conference Minister.
4. (Article X, 5) Individual staff compensation shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure equity and fairness in compensation for all staff. If inequities exist, it is the responsibility of the Personnel Committee, in collaboration with the Conference Minister, to recommend appropriate adjustments. Recommendations for the Conference Minister's compensation shall be provided by the Moderator and Personnel Committee.

This motion was seconded by Barbara Hughs.

Michael Cain moved to call the question, Bob Fogle second. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Results of the vote on the proposed amendment:

Yes:27, No: 143, Abstain: 12; Amendment failed.

Rev. Joe Motz made a motion to make the following change:

To use the same language in Article X, 2 as is found in Article VI, 4 when indicating the call process of called staff other than the Conference Minister, striking the language that says, "to serve a term of six years and be eligible for one or more additional terms."

The motion was seconded by Ann Cormier.

Steven Hamilton moved to call the question, Ann Boleck seconded. Motion carried.

Results of the vote on the proposed amendment:

Yes: 133, No: 31, Abstain: 18; Amendment carried.

Rev. Joe Motz made a motion to make the following change:

(Article XV, 3) The regular interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference shall be the responsibility of the Conference Consistory, and can be subject to review of the Conference at a regular or special meeting.

The motion was seconded by Steve Flannigan (St. Paul's UCC Birdsboro).

Steven Hamilton moved to call the question, Bonnie Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Results of the vote on the proposed amendment:

Yes: 152, No: 17, Abstain: 13; Amendment carried.

Rev. Joe Motz made a motion to make the following change:

1. (Constitution Third, 4) to extend the covenantal ministry, witness and outreach of the United Church of Christ in the work of the Christian Church, and to cooperate with other denominations and religious agencies.
2. (Article III, 3) to further the covenantal life, work, witness, and fellowship of the United Church of Christ in the Conference in the work of the Christian Church.
3. (Article III, 4) to cooperate with other denominations and religious agencies.

The motion was seconded by Rev. Steve Ohnsman.

Steven Hamilton moved to call the question, Bernice Baxter seconded. Motion carried.

Results of the vote on the proposed amendment:

Yes: 156, No: 8, Abstain: 14; Amendment carried.

Rev. Joe Motz made a motion to make the following change:

(Article V, 1) Regular and special meetings of the Conference shall be held at such time and place as the Conference Consistory shall determine, with at least one regular meeting occurring each year.

The motion was seconded by Bonnie Moore. The question was called by Steven Hamilton Mary Lou Echols. Motion carried.

Results of the vote on the proposed amendment:
Motion carried.

Nancy Krody made an amendment to XI, 11 to add the word “active” before the word “membership.” This amendment has been tabled.

Beth Lyon moved to call the question on the Constitution and Bylaw Revisions, seconded by Bernice Baxter. Motion carried.

A 2/3 majority is needed to approve the Constitution and Bylaw Revisions. The results of the vote on the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws:
Yes 170, No

The reports of treasurer, moderator, personnel, church and ministry council, and secretary were accepted with a voice vote.

The slate of candidates for Consistory and General Synod presented by the Nominating Committee was seconded by Michael Cain. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Selina Hamilton
Consistory Secretary