

**PSEC Conference Consistory  
Meeting November 19, 2016  
St. James UCC, Limerick, PA**

**Consistory Members Present:** Rev. Bill Worley (Conference Minister), Rev. Barbara Pence (Moderator), Harold Albitz, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Ray Edwards, Elaine Ely, Regina Floyd, Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle, Barbara Guido, Anaiya Huertas, Rev. Cean James, Lee Metzger, Fred Schuetz, Rev. Jenny Smith, Rob Stilwell, Jennie Strauch

**Consistory Members Absent:** Rev. Terry McNamara

**Consistory Staff Present:** Rev. Sharon Morris

The meeting was opened shortly after 9:00. Rob Stilwell offered an opening prayer.

The minutes for the September 17, 2016 meeting were approved (Motion: Fred Schuetz; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Regina Floyd).

Ray Edwards has agreed to serve as treasurer. We also have two youth delegates: Aniya Huertas and Max Ruemiller. The Consistory approved a motion to accept these appointments. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lee Metzger; Ray Edwards abstaining).

### **Communications**

Jenny Smith read two letters, one from Rev. Dr. Scott Brooks-Cope of Phoebe Ministries requesting a donation for the new Endowment for Clinical Pastoral Care Education and a thank you letter from Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger at Heidelberg UCC thanking the Consistory for the new ministry grant.

Barbara Guido moved, Cean James 2<sup>nd</sup> to make donation to Phoebe CPE Endowment. Note that we did over \$17,000 in pass-through monies from our churches to Phoebe. Bill suggested that we designate \$500 and challenge those churches who gave to match that, perhaps as a way to honor a current or past chaplain. The motion passed (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Barb Pence; Jenny Smith abstaining).

Bill Worley shared that Terry McNamara submitted a letter resigning from the Consistory. Bill asked her to reconsider, we await her decision.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Treasurer**

Rob Stilwell's report was received.

Rob reviewed the assets and liabilities on the balance sheet, the income and expenses as compared to the budget and the financial snapshot as of the end of October, with the endowment report as of the end of September. We are expecting to be close to budget at the end of the year. No major changes have occurred. We are continuing to draw down 5% where permitted.

OCWM did not have a great month. It is under by \$40,000, approximately 8%. Rob mentioned the new fundraising committee that is being worked on now that will try to keep the money coming in.

There were no questions and a motion accepting all reports was passed (Motion: Jennie Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harold Albitz).

Rob requested housing allowances for Rev. Sharon Morris (\$15,000) and Rev. Bill Worley (\$25,000); both increased slightly over last year. The allowances were approved (Motion: Jon Fogle; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cean James).

### **Personnel Committee**

Barbara Guido's report was received.

She reviewed the slide set that Rev. Worley presented at the PSEC Fall meeting including the purpose, responsibilities and requirements of the position and the steps taken to date. The Personnel Committee has selected a candidate, Rev. Cean James, who was presented to the Consistory.

Cean spoke briefly about his interest in the position and fielded questions from Consistory members. The Consistory unanimously approved the candidate for Minister for Congregational Development (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rob Stilwell; Cean James not present for the vote). Cean will be presented as a candidate for the position at the PSEC special meeting on January 21, 2017.

Bill Worley presented the Call Agreement between PSEC and Cean. A motion to accept the call agreement was approved (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ray Edwards; Cean James not present for the vote). To introduce Cean to the conference there will be meet-and-greet events. Community UCC, Reading volunteered to host one on Saturday, January 6, 2017 at 10:00 AM. The other locations will be First UCC, Schuylkill Haven or St. Marks, Cressona (on Wednesday, January 11 at 7 PM) and St. Andrews, Perkasio (on Monday evening, January 9 at 7 PM). It was suggested that Cean do a mini-workshop on Evangelism at the special meeting in January.

### **Associate Conference Minister**

Rev. Morris' report was received.

She will be managing her calendar to take care of herself. A motion to accept the report was approved (Motion: Cean James; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Barb Guido).

### **Conference Minister**

Rev. Worley's report was received.

Bill thanked Rob for serving as treasurer and welcomed Anaiya, one of the youth representatives, encouraging her to ask questions and share her perspective.

Bill has been nominated to serve a 2-year term on the National Board which meets quarterly, with National paying travel expenses. He noted that his work on the MOM

revision is ending, and he sought authorization from Consistory to participate in that effort. By consensus we affirmed Bill's nomination.

Bill reported that we will have a delegation attending the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of reformation celebration with our partner conference in Germany.

Bill will be bringing a policy proposal regarding churches who do not give anything to OCWM, suggesting Conference ask them to pay a fee for services.

A motion to accept the report was carried. (Motion: Barb Guido; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cean James).

Bill will email his statistical report and entertain questions at our next meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Annual Fall Meeting**

Survey monkey was sent out to gather feedback.

Comments from consistory members:

- Longer table with more stations and signage for registration.
- Method for electronic voting. Would need standing rules on how to do e-ballots. Could we have proxy ballots when quorum is a problem?

The 2017 Fall meeting is planned for November 19. We are considering moving the meeting to different associations each year.

### **PNEC and PSEC Proposed Merger**

We set up a transition team at the retreat, but some volunteers had to reconsider participation on that. Lee Metzger, Regina Floyd and Maureen Duffy-Guy volunteered to participate.

### **PSEC Consistory Retreat**

The planned date for the Consistory retreat is Friday and Saturday, January 27-28, 2017 at Mariawald. Dale Davis, who will lead the retreat, spoke to the Consistory to give a sense of what to expect. We'll take a look at our history, what we have done well and where we have struggled, in addition to how we are living into our vision. Also, we'll look at how to organize, make decisions and manage resources to meet our vision. As we determine what we can carry, what is precious and what is expendable? Homework assignments for the retreat include creating a timeline, responding to Rob's preparatory questions and talking to some churches looking for insights. Sue Creswell will be collection point for the assignments and also bring them to the next meeting on January 21, 2017. Note that we do not yet have the cost per person for attending the retreat.

### **Disaster Ministry**

Barb introduced Karl Jones who presented a position description for Conference Disaster Coordinator. This volunteer position is highly recommended by the national church and candidates for the position need to be vetted by them. Karl builds relationships with the other UCC Conference disaster coordinators in Pennsylvania as

well as some from other denominations. We will have to rethink some disaster policies to bring them in line with this position. Motion was passed to accept the new position description (Motion: Rob Stillwell; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lee Metzger). Motion to appoint Karl to the position was also passed (Motion: Rob Stilwell; 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Fogle).

### **Association Merger**

Three associations, East Berks, Heidelberg, Reading, voted to merge and form the Covenant Association. Schuylkill Association will continue to operate independently. There are 54 churches in this new association; Ursinus is next with 35 churches. Do we continue to have 2 representatives or find a way to increase the representation for this larger association? Do we continue with 2, but not necessarily moderator and vice moderator?

There was discussion around changing the composition of Consistory, with some regional representatives and others, at-large, selected based on skill. This could be part of what we look at during the upcoming retreat.

We will need to change the bylaws regarding the new association. A committee to address this will be formed and will include both consistory and non-consistory folks. Joe Motz and Nancy Krody were suggested as members of the committee and will be contacted. Ray Edwards and Barb Pence volunteered to serve.

A motion to adjourn was passed (Motion: Jon Fogle; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Regina Floyd).

The next Consistory meeting is on January 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Paul's, Amityville at 9 AM. Lunch will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Smith