

PSEC Conference
Spring 2017 Meeting
June 10, 2017

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Rev. Bill Worley welcomed the attendees and invited them to share the peace of Christ with one another. He extended welcome and thanks to first time attendees, PNEC attendees, and a number of special guests: Rev. Hayes (the former pastor Old First and former Rhode Island conference minister), UCC Insurance representative Gabe Michaels, Paul Eyre from Lancaster Seminary, and Rev. Kim Kendrick from Bethany Children's Home. Rev. Worley recognized the 65th ordination anniversary of Lawrence G. Horn. He also introduced members of the Conference staff and thanked them for their work.

The moderators from the associations were thanked as were the officers and members of Consistory. Rev. Worley acknowledged the contributions of former Consistory member Regina Floyd who passed away recently.

CALL TO ORDER

The moderator, Rev. Barbara Pence, welcomed Parliamentarian, Beth Walker, and Barbara Hanks, PNEC moderator, and Helena Lindquist, their secretary. Ms. Hanks offered her greetings to the assembly.

Rev. Pence thanked the musicians from Ascension UCC in Norristown, Rev. Steve Ohnsman, Calvary UCC in Reading, and those who planned and organized the worship services, as well as Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger and her team who planned the meeting.

Anyone interested was invited people to sign up for speakouts later today.

Rev. Worley offered opening prayer. Rev. Pence called the business meeting to order.

Appointments/Credentials Report

Ms. Beth Walker was appointed as Parliamentarian and Ms. Jennie Strauch as head of credentials. Ms. Strauch reported that 166 voting delegates are needed for a quorum. The 189 registered voting members constitutes a quorum.

Rev. Pence defined the bar of the house as the Sykes Union building and defined the voting members.

Accept Standing Rules

A motion was passed to adopt the standing rules. (Motion: Rev. Darryl Cruz, Trinity Telford; 2nd: Rev. Ann Few, Linfield)

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes for fall meeting 2016 were accepted. (Motion: Rev. Steve Hamilton, St. Peters; 2nd: Rev. Ann Few, Linfield)

REPORTS

Nominating Committee Report

Chair of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Angelee C. Benner-Smith, asked that all authorized ministers of standing be part of committees. The slate of people to serve on committees was presented. With no further nominations from the floor, the slate was approved. (Motion: Rev. Steve Ohnsman, Calvary Reading; 2nd: Dave Heckler, Christ Trumbauersville)

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Ray Edwards spoke about the concern regarding OCWM giving, indicating that Consistory has assembled a committee to address this with churches. The 2016 Auditor's report was spectacular in that it had nothing to say, which is best thing we could hear. Mr. Edwards thanked Tammy for her outstanding job as Finance Operations Manager. A motion to receive the report was passed. (Motion: Rev. Ann Few, Linfield UCC; Sarah Hertzog, New Goshenhoppen)

A motion was passed to accept the audit report. (Motion: Terry McNamara, St. Lukes Philadelphia; 2nd: Rev. Dorothy Shelly, Solomon UCC)

Acknowledge Five for Five Churches

Rev. Pence noted an increase in the number of churches meeting the Five for Five criteria, fully supporting OCWM, including basic support and all four special offerings.

Moderator's Report

Rev. Pence attended each of the meetings for which she serves as ex officio member; she commended the work they do and thanked the members of those committees. She also attended the meetings of the groups working on the bylaws, OCWM giving and the PSEC/PNEC merger exploration.

Acceptance of All Other Reports

A motion was made and passed to accept all other reports. (Motion: Rev. Tyson Fry, Friedens UCC; 2nd: Rev. Martha Kriebel, Trinity Collegeville)

State of the Conference

Rev. Worley spoke about the MOM revision, which will not be on the GS docket of resolutions and the reasons for this.

He described the giving pledge letters, part of the Warren Buffet giving campaign. What motivates givers? What would you do if you had a billion dollars? He sees our most important task as repairing the social fabric. Is your congregation worth the investment of a billion dollars? What transformative things would you do with it?

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Revised Constitution and Bylaws

Rev. Pence reviewed the changes to the documents which largely fix typos, add punctuation, and make corrections to grammar. Also, there are changes resulting from the merger of associations. Redundancies were removed and active membership qualification and definition (by local church) was added. The nominating committee information was moved. Only those 18 and older may have a vote per PA laws of incorporation. There was a change in quorum to 2/3rd of voting members. The use of regular and special meetings terminology is now more consistent throughout document. Changed the membership for various committees. The salary team was removed; this will be addressed by the personnel committee. There is now a provision for the ability to create additional ministry teams.

A motion adopting the revised documents passed. (Rev. Steve Hamilton, St. Peters; 2nd: Rev. Fran Merkle, Leesport) This required a 2/3rd vote: 196 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Note that more voting delegates arrived since the credentials report was given.

Adoption of a Vision for a New Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UCC

Ms. Barbara Guido provided an overview of the activities and discussions leading up to this motion from the Consistory.

Attendees broke into small groups to discuss 3 questions:

1. What would be gained by entering into this conversation?
2. What do you fear most about the merger conversation?
3. What might God be calling us to do together?

A representative from each small group reported out and responses were displayed on the overhead screen. Additional comments and questions were received at the microphones.

The adoption of the vision passed by a simple majority vote with 184 in favor, 3 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Rev. Pence invited those who are interested in serving on this transition team to submit an application.

The business of the conference being concluded, a motion to adjourn was passed.
(Motion: Darryl Cruz, Trinity Telford; 2nd Max Ruemmler, St. Paul's Fleetwood)

There was a brief installation service for the executive officers and members of consistory.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Jenny Smith, Secretary