

Moderator's Report
The Rev. Barbara Pence
18 April 2018

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Conference Consistory has been focusing much of its conversation around how to help our churches recognize and reconcile themselves to the present reality of being church today and how to be intentional about our ministry together moving into God's future. Therefore we have been working towards moving our Conference in this direction so we can support and resource our churches in this work.

As mentioned in last year's report, the Conference Consistory, at our retreat in January 2017, chose five objectives from our 20/20 Vision to focus our work on. Members of Consistory volunteered to work on these objectives outside of Consistory and share their work at Consistory.

- * See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life: Working on ways to measure how communities are being transformed by church ministries and report which ministries seem to be most effective.

- * Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders and partner churches, fund raising: Our ACM Cean James has taken the lead on this. He has begun working with leadership and churches interested in being about this ministry.

- * Connect local congregations to training, experiences, networking and coaches to increase active participation in 80% of churches by 10%: The Conference is holding more events for congregations and pastors to participate in to discern and strengthen their ministry. These events are offered through the PSEC website, e-blasts, and the *Communitas* as well as word of mouth. Metrics for measuring participation in the local congregation are being researched and shared with congregations.

- * Develop expectation of pastoral excellence among authorized pastors by providing clergy coach for 1st year and every pastor in accountability and support group with 3 other clergy: Consistory empowered the Ministry Council to work on guidelines. Churches are being encouraged to set aside funds to help finance a clergy coach for 1st year. The Ministry Council decided that Committees on Ministries are responsible for defining what constitutes an accountability group. We have 60 clergy participating in Communities of Practice with trained facilitators.

- * Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training: An academy has been created and Members in Discernment will meet this summer for a training event.

We continue to support churches who are engaging in new ministries and apply to our New Ministries Fund for financial support. Applications are received twice a year, Consistory subcommittee reviews the applications and determines how funds are going to be distributed according to a set rubric, and funds are then distributed to the churches. This past year we had six churches receive grants totaling \$50,000 to support their new ministries. For an application and more information, please check out the New Ministries Fund page on the PSEC website.

Consistory regularly hears reports from the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team (JCVDT). From these updates it was decided to hold a joint retreat with the JCVDT, PNEC

Board of Directors and the JCVDT. The retreat was held on March 2-3, but due to a major snow storm, only about half of the people were able to attend. In spite of this, we were able to have in depth conversations about our hopes for a new conference and discern how we are being called to be church together in Eastern Pennsylvania. The PNE Board and PSEC Consistory gave a lot of guidance to JCVDT as their work continues to vision and develop a new conference in Eastern Pennsylvania.

It has been an honor to serve with the members of Conference Consistory and I thank them for their time and diligence. They have been faithfully working together to support the work and ministry of our Conference and Conference staff. The members have volunteered their time to not only the meetings but also to giving their time outside of the meetings to be sure our work can be done well. They are an amazing group of people and I have been blessed to work alongside of them.

Thank you to our Conference staff and support staff who even as we tried to support their ministry also gave support to our Consistory. They listened and guided and challenged us in our work and we were better for it. They are marvelous and I thank God for calling them to minister with us.

Thank you to all of you, too. Your support, encouragement and challenges over the last two years that I have been moderator has been invaluable and very much appreciated. I am grateful for the opportunity you gave me to serve you as Moderator of our PSEC. Thank you for the experience and may God bless you.

In humble service of Christ,
Peace, Love and Joy,
Rev. Barbara Pence,
PSEC Moderator