

PSEC Fall Meeting November 18, 2017

Barbara Pence introduced Conference Staff, Rev. Bonnie Bates Conference Minister of PNEC , and PNEC moderator Miss Barbara Hanks, Rev. Kris Hayden who is dean of Church and Ministry, Clerk of Church and Ministry Mary Ann Hayes, Moderators of the Five Associations, and the Conference Consistory.

Call to Order business session, Miss Beth Walker appointed Parliamentarian and Jennie Strauch: credentials.

Announcement by JoEllen Mauger. Reminder to turn in the pink Conferring Card, those not collected were collected.

Credentials report by Jennie Strauch. 166 voting delegates are needed. There are 190 registered, this number constitutes a quorum.

Motion was made to accept our standing rules by Kay Jones, second by Robert Ulrich. Motion carries.

Motion to adopt the minutes Ann Few seconded by Ann Cormier. Motion carries.

Presentation by Rev. Worley of changes to UCC Constitution and bylaws. On July 2-3, 2017 the General Synod adopted changes to constitution and bylaws. The 38 conferences are required to vote to accept these changes before they will be adopted. Four main areas of change were noted:

1. Amendment to the UCC board of directors and its structure.
2. General Synod 2015 voted to enter full communion with United Church of Canada.
3. Amendments related to the number and responsibilities of officers.
4. Proposed amendments to ordained ministry and ecclesiastical councils.

Rev. Worley Spoke about the UCC initiative the “Three Great Loves.” A video was shown of General Minister and President of the UCC: Rev. Dorhauer, speaking on the 3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation. This is a collective effort between July 2017 to General Synod in Minnesota in 2019. Throughout the two years stories will be collected from congregations on what they did for the Three Great Loves. They would like to nominate 300 Great Love Heroes. Love of Neighbor has already kicked off this Fall.

Rev. Joanne Marchetto, co chair with Barbara Pence on the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team, spoke. This PNEC and PSEC team has been meeting since September, and seek feedback from you; they are asking you to fill out a survey today or online. They are on Facebook as “Joint Conference Vision and Development Team for the UCC in Eastern PA.”

Rev. Worley spoke on our 2020 Vision Plan. We have accomplished a good deal. Conference Consistory had a retreat on the vision in January, and chose 5 objectives to focus on.

- Training and networking opportunities for congregations.
- Prepare for birth of six new congregations.
- Member in Discernment Academy
- 5 Cities or towns positively affected by the presence of a UCC congregation.
- Promoting pastoral excellence through clergy coaching and clergy support groups.

We are still working on parts of the vision. There is much to do.

Ray Edwards offered the treasurers report. He said the budget reflects our values. He asked that congregations keep us in prayer as we seek to meet our budget. Motion Martha Kriebel, second by Roger Ulrich. Motion carried.

Mr. Edwards offered the endowment report. We are taking a 5% draw on the endowment now, we will take a 4% draw in 2018. We seek to use socially responsible investments. Motion to receive the endowment report: Linda Kozlowski, second by Ann Few, motion carried.

Jon Fogel asked a question, a concern that we value our competent and hardworking staff. Concern about the only 1.5 % staff raise, with a potential of a .5% bonus later.

Mr. Edwards said we do have one of the best staffs in our Conference. He understands the realities that the budgets are what they are.

Rev. Hilary Barrett asked how many years have we been paying on the severance package for a former conference minister from many years ago. Tammie Wisniewski answered we have been paying since he left, and we are bound to it until he and his wife pass.

Rev. Sharon Morris offered committee on ministry updates. Committee on Ministry members were asked to stand. We are promoting the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers, which your association church and ministry is asked to adopt. She also held up the Ordained Minister's Code, which we are also asked by Church and Ministry committees to adopt. There is a brand new 2017 local church profile. This is used when looking for a pastor. But it can cut your congregation's search and call in half, if you fill it out now. She noted 43% of our pastors will retire in 5 years. Please ask Sharon to come see you and your congregation, in order to help you learn how to complete it.

Rev. JoEllen Mauger gave the location and date of the Spring Meeting 2018 of the PSEC: it will be held June 1-3, at West Chester University.

The business session recessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Duffy-Guy, substitute secretary

NOTE: There is a 1-page addendum to these minutes.

Addendum to the Minutes
PSEC Fall Meeting
November 18, 2017

Following lunch, Bill introduced The Leadership Project, an online classroom for volunteer leaders. Attendees were provided with a guided walkthrough of the classroom. It currently consists of four modules: Effectively Engaging a Project Team, Running an Effective Meeting, Listening Fully and Responding Intentionally, and From Conflict to Conversation. The first five churches who use the online classroom at psecleadership.expertlearning.net will receive a fabulous incentive. The leadership training site can also be made available to other non-profit and community organizations at no charge; they will need to get an access code from the conference. Bill thanked the people at First UCC in Royersford for their work on this resource.

Brea Rarick introduced the recently launched redesigned conference website pointing out the key features and the location of items such as the resource library, color-coded calendar, news page, association pages,

The business session was reconvened.

2018 Budget

Motion: Bob Stewart, St. John's (Hain's) Wernersville; 2nd: John Jones, St. John's Orwigsburg.

After clarifications to the way in which the salary increases for conference staff would be implemented and funded, those present voted to call the question. In a subsequent vote, the motion was passed with 2 opposed and no abstentions.

Ratify Changes to UCC Constitution and Bylaws

Requires a 2/3 vote. Motion: John Fogle, Zion Blue Mountain; 2nd: Nancy Krody, Collenbrook church?? The motion carried with 3 opposed 3 and 1 abstention.

A motion to adjourn after the closing worship was made and passed: Anne Cormier, St. James UCC Limerick; 2nd: Charlotte Gosselink, East Goshen.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Smith, Secretary