

**PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting January 20, 2018
St. James UCC Limerick, PA**

Consistory Members Present: Mr. Lee Metzger, Rev. Elaine Ely, Ms. Barbara Guido, Rev. Barbara Pence, Rev. Robert Stewart, Rev. Anne Cormier, Rev. Jenny Smith, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Rev. Edward Livingston, Mr. Ray Edwards, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Rev. Bill Middleton, Rev. Sharell Shippen

Consistory Members Absent: Mr. Max Ruemmler, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:22 AM and thanked Ray Edwards for providing refreshments. Elaine Ely provided a devotion and an opening prayer.

The minutes from the November 11 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2nd: Edward Livingston)

E-Ballots

Two e-ballots were conducted. A motion that the housing allowances for Bill Worley and Sharon Morris remain the same for the coming year passed with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. A motion authorizing the staff to seek proposals to provide vision and action on sustainable giving through OCWM as well as planned giving and legacy giving passed with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Once such proposals are secured and reviewed the final plan will be brought back to Consistory for approval. Note that the two youth members were included in both email discussions but were ineligible to vote.

Treasurer

Ray Edwards' report was received. No update on the endowment as we have not yet received the quarterly report. Also, the development person is not yet on board.

The Treasurer's report was approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Barbara Guido)

Personnel Committee

Barb Guido's report was received. The committee will be looking at the recommendations from the staff at their next meeting.

Barb's report was approved. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2nd: Elaine Ely)

Disaster Coordinator

Karl Jones' written report was received.

Karl's report was approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Bob Stewart)

ACM for Congregational Development

Cean James' written report was received.

Cean's report was approved. (Motion: Barbara Guido; 2nd: Elaine Ely)

ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received. There are currently just over two dozen churches in the search and call process. Some of the small churches with less than half-time positions do not receive any applications. Sharon informed us of a couple of churches that are closing. Discussion about the challenges facing local churches and the denomination ensued.

Sharon's report was approved. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's written report was received. He is away at a personal growth workshop. Ray suggested ways of getting churches to sign up for the vision objective of increasing participation, such as including it in *Communitas* and following up with pastors/churches who seem likely prospects; these could be ones who attend Cean's workshops or who apply for new ministry grants. Jenny will follow up with Cean and also email the metrics document to the Consistory members.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Barbara Guido)

Joint Conference Vision and Development Team

Received about 45 surveys combined from the conferences; results are available online. They are moving forward with the information they collected to put together draft vision, mission, and purpose statements and a possible budget for a combined conference.

The JCVDT retreat is March 2-3 with our Conference Consistory and the PNEC Board of Directors. The JCVDT Lenten Devotional, "What is Covenant?" is available on the PSEC JCVDT webpage, along with the form for the Valentine's Day Match-Up to help churches get to know each other and build connections. The Healthcare Education and Action Mission Day is Saturday, February 10, from 9-12 at the Reformed Church of the Ascension.

20/20 Vision Priorities

See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life – <i>No update.</i>	Associations Jennie Strauch Ed Livingston
Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders & partner churches, raise funding – <i>See Cean's report. There is a meeting coming up on February 24.</i>	ACM Congregational Development Ray Edwards
Connect local congregations to training, experiences, networking and coaches to increase active participation in 80 churches by 10% - <i>The metrics document is being distributed via email.</i>	Associations Barbara Guido Jenny Smith

Develop expectation of pastoral excellence among authorized pastors by providing clergy coach for 1 st year and every pastor in accountability & support group w/3 other clergy – <i>Ministry Council met and discussed this; they are looking into coaching for 1st year clergy. Continuing to have pastors sign up for pastoral excellence/accountability programs.</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID – Chris Hayden Elaine Ely Barbara Pence
Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training – <i>Met in November and continue planning July retreat..</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID ACM Bill Middleton Lee Metzger

Sharon reported that a guide is being prepared to assist churches who are closing.

New Ministries Fund Applications

The subcommittee will meet to review the three new applications.

Ray suggested we might want to reconsider this fund and perhaps direct the money to new church starts.

Ministerial Assistance Campaign - Generations of Service

We received a request from the United Church Board to assist with a gift. Consistory members are to review the concept paper for discussion at our next meeting.

Change of OCWM Support

The Council of Conference Ministers has approved a proposal for giving protocols that allows for the sharing of donor information for cultivation and vetting. There was concern expressed about how giving to the national body will impact giving to the conferences and local churches, and the confidentiality of donor information.

A motion was passed to direct our conference to share no additional donor information with the national church body until we receive clarification on what donor information would be shared and how sharing would benefit the conference and local churches. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2nd: Bob Stewart)

Consistory Representatives

We are looking for replacements for Lis Lichtenwalner, who resigned, and Max Ruemmler, who is away at college. Nominations are being worked on.

Personnel Committee

Need an additional member for this committee. They are meeting January 31st and will consider names at that time.

OCWM Pledge Follow Up

Need volunteers to make follow up phone calls to those who did not hand in their pledge.

ALICE Certified Trainer for Conference

We are in conversation with someone to attend the train the trainer session for ALICE.

Fall Meetings

The fall meeting is typically held the 2nd Saturday in November. That is November 10, 2018, November 9, 2019, and November 14, 2020. The time for each of these gatherings would be 9 AM to 4 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM. (Motion: Sharell Shippen; 2nd: Anne Cormier)

Our next meeting is March 17. Elaine has refreshments and Ray has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Smith