

PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting January 21, 2017
St. Paul's UCC Amityville, PA

Consistory Members Present: Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle, Mr. Lee Metzger, Rev. Elaine Ely, Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Barbara Pence, Ms. Barbara Guido, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Cean James, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Mr. Fred Schuetz, Mr. Rob Stilwell, Mr. Harold Albitz, Rev. Jenny Smith, Ms. Jennie Strauch

Consistory Members Absent: Mr. Max Ruemmeler, Ms. Nya Huertas, Ms. Regina Floyd

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM. Lee offered a devotion with a reading from Revelation.

Barb pointed out a correction to the minutes to the list of attendees from November meeting: should read Rev. Elaine Ely. The minutes were approved as amended. (Motion: Fred Schuetz; 2nd: Elaine Ely)

Communications

Jenny read a letter from Bethany Children's Home thanking the PSEC for encouraging local church support through the Church's Wider Mission.

REPORTS

Treasurer

Ray Edward's report was received. He announced that we have honored our OCM commitment to national. The report was accepted. (Motion: Rob Stilwell; 2nd: Cean James)

Personnel Committee

Barbara Guido's report was received. They have a meeting upcoming to review annual performance reviews. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Fred Schuetz)

Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Morris' report was received. Set goals for coming year, list of churches in search. Had a lot of elections in Dec/Jan so there will be many installations upcoming.

Fielded a question about how long it takes to fill a vacancy. Concern voiced that we are not searching for the skills in a pastor that will aid transformation. (Motion: Jon Fogle; 2nd: Rob Stilwell)

Conference Minister

Rev. Worley's report was received. Registration for annual meeting will go up this week. (Motion: Lee Metzger, 2nd: Barb Guido)

Bill shared a PSEC statistical report created from local church annual report data showing demographics for membership, attendance, pastors, etc. The number of fulltime ministry positions is going to continue to decrease. It was suggested that this presentation be shared at the Spring meeting and be encouraged as a topic of discussion, and hopefully action, within the associations.

DISCUSSION

Covenant Association

The by-laws group needs to begin work in order to be able to share changes in advance of the Spring meeting. Concern was voiced about the number of representatives on the Consistory shrinking from 6 to 2. It was suggested that we also have at-large members not based on geography, but based on skill sets or passions, from Justice & Witness, etc.

Consistory Retreat

It is this next weekend! Barb reminded everyone to respond to the preparatory questions and get input to Sue Creswell as soon as possible. Remember to bring payment.

PNEC - PSEC Proposed Merger

Rev. Miller is resigning due to health issues. PNEC will begin the search for an interim. We are requested to keep them and especially Rev. Miller in prayer.

OCWM Proposal

This policy statement would ask those churches who have a pattern of not contributing to OCWM to enter into a "fee-for-service" arrangement regarding local pastor transition, search support, conflict resolution and other support. The exact fee is not specified and could be a set amount, an hourly rate, based as a percentage of their budget (perhaps 3%), or tied to church size. The goal is not so much the cost, as the money would be directed to OCWM, but encouraging churches to be in covenantal relationship with PSEC and the wider church ministry and mission. We need to acknowledge and thank those churches who are making contributions as well as challenge those who are not.

A motion was passed for Bill to write a cover letter and share it and the policy with local congregations, as well as address the policy at the Spring meeting; an amendment to the motion set the effective date for the policy as July 1, 2017. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2nd: Jon Fogle)

An additional motion was passed for the fee to be 3% of operating costs for the current year. (Motion: Jon Fogle; 2nd: Rob Stilwell)

Historically, we had a Conference stewardship committee that provided churches with a record of past giving and a target for OCWM. Rob shared that at the most recent Budget and Finance meeting, they passed a motion to authorize and establish a team

to bring the message of OCWM to local churches. Discussion ensued on how this would be accomplished. It would be an education and marketing-oriented approach, not an enforcement team. The Consistory approved this action.

New Ministries Fund Requests

There are four new requests for funding. Rob, Elaine, Fred and Bill will review these and make recommendations using the same criteria as were applied to previous applications.

UCC Shaping Our Future Campaign

An announcement of a capital campaign by National. Discussion tabled until our next meeting.

Disaster Coordinator Reports

The reports were accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM. (Motion: Jon Fogle; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

Barb offered a closing prayer. The next regular meeting of the Consistory is scheduled for March 18, 2017 at St. James in Limerick.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Smith