

PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting July 15, 2017
St. James UCC Limerick, PA

Consistory Members Present: Mr. Lee Metzger, Rev. Elaine Ely, Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Barbara Pence, Ms. Barbara Guido, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Rev. Jenny Smith, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Edward Livingston, Rev. Anne Cormier, Ms. Lis Lichtenwalner, Rev. Bill Middleton

Consistory Members Absent: Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Rev. Robert Stewart, Mr. Max Ruemmler, Ms. Sharell Shippen

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM and offered a devotion on leadership. There being several new members, we introduced ourselves. Bill Worley offered a prayer for Eddie, a member of Sharon Morris' family who is in need of healing.

Two corrections were offered to the May 20 minutes. Under communications, the card sent to Marcia, not Marshall, Williams. Also, the minutes should read Lis, not Liz, Lichtenwalner. The corrected minutes were approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd Ed Livingston)

A card for retiring PNEC Conference Minister Alan Miller was circulated for signatures and a photo was taken of Consistory members wearing funny hats.

Treasurer

Ray Edward's report was received. He reported that the endowment is down and income is behind projections, but the spending is in line. He sees no need for concern.

The Treasurer's report was approved. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Jennie Strauch)

Considerable time has been spent on an OCWM development plan, including video testimonials on how the conference has had a positive influence. Teams are being formed to visit individual consistories and educate them.

Personnel Committee

Barb Guido's report was received. The committee will be meeting with the conference staff next week.

The report was approved. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2nd: Elaine Ely)

Disaster Coordinator

Karl Jones' written report was received.

ACM for Congregational Development

Cean James' written report was received.

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

ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received. She offered thanks to Rev. Dale Davis and Rev. Anne Hoffmann for their assistance. Sharon is working on a resource for local churches regarding the new local church profile. Churches are encouraged to use the profile as an assessment tool, and to speed the search process when looking for a pastor. She is trying to bring more spirituality and prayer into the discernment process. Bill Worley noted that pastor tenure continues to decline, increasing the number of open positions while the number of applicants for open positions declines. The average age of pastors serving in our conference is around 62.

General Synod passed a non-binding resolution requiring all pastors to attend annual diversity training to maintain standing. Local associations will need to take this up, but the conference is already trying to provide training opportunities. The desire for local churches to receive diversity training was expressed at the same time the inability to require this was noted, due to the "tyranny of local church autonomy." Discussions ensued on how to prepare churches to accept an increasingly diverse set of pastors. Ed suggested that the title, Reverend or Pastor, be consistently included with the names listed in the ACM report.

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

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's report was received.

He spoke about his recent trip to Germany and relayed discussions about ecumenical relations with churches in Germany and Cuba.

Bill had a list of churches and attendees for Spring Meeting; 106 of our 166 churches were in attendance, leaving 35% of the churches not represented by either pastors or lay delegates.

Bill expressed concern about the lack of dissenting voices regarding the resolutions at GS. He also commented on his sense that the national gathering of a church committed to social justice lacked the felt presence of Jesus Christ.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2nd: Ray Edwards)

20/20 Vision Priorities

Bill W. gave an overview of the progress on the 5 top 2020 Vision priorities. Jenny presented a draft dashboard framework for consideration, noting the lack of designated "owners" for several objectives. It was decided to have each Consistory

member sign up to act as a catalyst for one of the top 5 objectives. (See the table that follows).

See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life	Associations Jennie Strauch Ed Livingston
Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders & partner churches, raise funding	ACM Congregational Development Lis Lichtenwalner Ray Edwards
Connect local congregations to training, experiences, networking and coaches to increase active participation in 80 churches by 10%	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	Church & Ministry Council/MID – Kris Hayden Elaine Ely Barbara Pence
Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training	Church & Ministry Council/MID ACM Bill Middleton Lee Metzger

UCC Capital Campaign

Shaping Our Future is a 3-year initiative designed to fund the Three Great Loves marketing campaign and provide technical support for the ministry of the General Conference Minister.

PNEC/PSEC Conference Merger

PNEC hired Rev. Bonnie Bates as the PNEC Conference Minister commencing September 1, 2017.

We reviewed the applications we received for the merger team. Each conference will have 6 representatives on the team. We selected Ed Bibic, Michael Bush, John Dawson, Denise Statham, Shawn Van Dyke, and Beth Walker. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2nd: Elaine Ely) Barb will contact the applicants to let them know of the selection.

Conference office staff have asked to have a representative on the merger discussion team. We discussed various ways to include their input. This will be taken to the merger team for a decision.

New Ministries Fund

Applications will be reviewed by Elaine, Ray, Ed and Bill W.

Office Space

Bill W. will confirm that we can go to a year-to-year lease.

New Business

Ray asked for compensation to Bree Rarick of up to \$450 for the OCWM video creation. This action was approved by the Consistory. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Barbara Guido)

There is a conflict with the next scheduled Consistory meeting date for September. A motion was passed to change the date to September 30. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Barbara Guido) The November Consistory meeting conflicts with the Fall meeting. A motion was passed to change the date to November 11. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2nd: Elaine Ely)

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Smith