

**PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting May 19, 2018
St. James UCC Limerick, PA**

Consistory Members Present: Mr. Lee Metzger, Ms. Barbara Guido, Rev. Barbara Pence, Rev. Robert Stewart, Rev. Anne Cormier, Rev. Jenny Smith, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Rev. Edward Livingston, Mr. Tim Kissling, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Rev. Bill Middleton, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Elaine Ely

Consistory Members Absent: Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Sharell Shippen

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and thanked Lee Metzger for providing refreshments. Bill Middleton provided an opening devotion, and prayer. A moment of silence was observed for the school and community in Texas that was the location of the most recent shooting.

The minutes from the March 17 meeting were approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Nya Huertas)

Treasurer

Tim Kissling presented the report. OCWM is in a good position at this point in time, however we are overspent for the year-to-date-budget due largely to the timing of payment of benefits. The search continues for a consultant who can help us tell the story of the work and ministry of our conference.

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

Personnel Committee

Barb Guido's report was received. Rev. Sue Bertolette has joined the committee. Barb added to her report an outline for Personnel's approach to staff evaluations to be conducted this fall.

Barb's report was approved. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2nd: Edward Livingston)

Disaster Coordinator

Karl Jones' written report was received. Edward Livingston mentioned that he connected Karl with several congregations in the Philadelphia area who are helping with resources such as English language classes. Bill Worley recognized the work that Karl does and raised the importance of Karl mentoring future successors to his position.

Karl's report was approved. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2nd: Barb Guido)

ACM for Congregational Development

Cean James' written report was received and approved. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2nd: Bob Stewart)

ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received. There are currently 39 churches in the search and call process, with 4 doing elections in the near future and 3 doing interviews. She is currently looking for 7 part-time pastors. 2 churches are closing. Sharon and Bill led a "necessary endings" workshop with representatives from 5 churches attending. Bill observed that the number of graduates from seminary is very small and the number of applications for open positions is between 5 to 15.

Sharon shared a document that assesses the marks of ministry and suggested ways that congregations and committees on ministry can use this resource. We are moving from an ordination exam team for the conference to an ordination review team so that input can be given and received mid-way through the Member in Discernment process as opposed to the end of the process. There will be COM training available at the Annual Spring Conference Meeting. Boundary training was held on May 16. Note that the conference now keeps the training completion certificates and sends a list of attendees to the association COMs; individual pastors may request a copy of their certificate from the conference office.

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

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's written report was received. He attended all five spring association meetings. Bill reflected on a conversation on theological formation that he attended in Cleveland last month.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Bill Middleton; 2nd: Anne Cormier)

Joint Conference Vision and Development Team

Barb Pence reported that the draft mission, vision, purpose and values statement was shared with all of the associations at their spring meetings; they have received little feedback to date. This draft document and the reflection questions are available through the conference website. The PNEC co-chair to the JCVDT has changed.

Barbara Hanks is the new co-chair.

The JCVDT met with the Tri-Conference (RI, CT, MA) merger team to learn from their experiences.

20/20 Vision Update

See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life – <i>Received the survey that Justice & Witness conducted a few years ago and would like to update it.</i>	Associations Jennie Strauch Ed Livingston
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Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders & partner churches, raise funding – <i>Megan Mcloud identified as candidate for this.</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>Hoping Cean will identify candidate churches initiatives through his church development workshops.</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 put it to the association COMs to determine what it means to be a member of an accountability group. Need a line item in next year's budget for training support (e.g., retirees).</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID – Chris Hayden Elaine Ely Barbara Pence
Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training – <i>2nd weekend in July event.</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID ACM Bill Middleton Lee Metzger

ALICE Certified Trainer for Conference

Paul Hightower is now a certified ALICE trainer and will begin with a session for the conference staff in July.

Ministerial Assistance Campaign - Generations of Service

Pension Board campaign seeks PSEC endorsement to work toward suggested \$50,000 goal of support. Do we support this, at what level, and where does the money come from (e.g., endowment, matching gifts)? It was suggested that this be an agenda item for the 2018 Spring Annual Conference Meeting with someone from the Pension Board presenting it and using the gathering as an opportunity to gather input on level of monetary support. Ask Budget & Finance Committee to look at endowment for options in budget. Note that consistory members agreed to support this initiative by making a personal monetary contribution.

Justice & Witness

The group, using their agency to speak to, not for the church, unanimously decided to join POWER and POWER Metro.

PSEC Policies

We are looking at creating and adopting a number of policies around executive compensation, document retention, and social media as suggested by the generators of our audit report. The responsibility for that has been delegated to appropriate ministry teams and staff.

Christian Academy Lawsuit

A wrongful termination complaint names PSEC in a lawsuit filed against Grace Trinity UCC and Rev. Soans. The Conference Insurance Board representative, Gabe Michaels, has taken the case for action, has coordinated legal counsel and, in cooperation with UCC National Legal Counsel Heather Kimmel, is handling the lawsuit.

ACM Medical Coverage

Rev. Cean James, ACM for Congregational Development, has requested \$500 per month in lieu of health benefits; he and his family are covered under his wife's workplace policy. The issue was referred to the Personnel Committee for review and recommendation.

2018 Annual Spring Conference Meeting—Offering Designation

Friday night worship service offering is going to support the "Three Great Loves." Consistory voted to direct Sunday's worship offering to Philadelphia Long-Term Recovery Committee a partner with PSEC's Disaster Ministries. (Motion: Edward Livingston; 2nd: Anne Cormier)

Electricity Supplier

A proposal from Chuck Hollingsworth encourages churches to choose an electric supplier and save money. It was pointed out that some communities do not have that option. The proposal was referred to Budget and Finance for consideration.

Bill took a moment to recognize and thank those members of consistory who are completing their terms of service, and welcomed Tim Kissling to consistory.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Nya Huertas)

Our next meeting is July 21. Jenny has refreshments and Edward has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Smith