

PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting May 20, 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, Mr. Fred Schuetz, Mr. Rob Stilwell, Rev. Jenny Smith, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy

Consistory Members Absent: Mr. Max Ruemmeler, Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Additional Attendees: Melissa "Liz" Lichtenwalner

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and thanked Barb Guido for providing refreshments. Elaine Ely offered a devotion. A moment of silence was observed for former Consistory member Regina Floyd.

Cards were signed for NY associate conference minister Marshall Williams who is recovering from cancer surgery and former consistory member Regina Floyd who passed away.

The minutes were approved. (Motion: Fred Schuetz; 2nd Lee Metzger)

A letter from Harold Albitz was read thanking the Consistory for the opportunity to serve.

Treasurer

Ray Edward's report was received. He explained that the OCWM income is a snapshot and does not reflect monies not yet deposited. Work continues on communicating with churches about the need to support OCWM.

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

Personnel Committee

Barb Guido's report was received. In May, the Personnel Committee will be meeting to talk about salary guidelines for the coming year. She also noted that they will be meeting with the staff in July.

The report was approved. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Fred Schuetz)

Disaster Coordinator

Karl Jones' report was received and accepted.

ACM for Congregational Development

Cean James' written report was received. He has led multiple workshops in the conference, with topics ranging from church conflict, congregational health, and family systems theory.

Cean's report was approved. (Motion: Barb Guido; 2nd: Jennie Strauch)

ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received.

Sharon met with the church closure resource team and continues to work with churches in the search and call process. She provided notice of sabbatical in 2019, two years ahead as required.

Sharon's report was approved. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2nd: Fred Schuetz)

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's report was received.

He reported that at least 225 have registered for the annual meeting. Bill has held two pre conference meetings; attendance was light.

He will be going to Germany to celebrate the Reformation. Ray voiced encouragement for local churches to like and follow Bill's trip on Facebook.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Fred Schuetz; 2nd: Rob Stilwell)

Spring Meeting

The agenda and reports are on the conference website. A list of volunteer positions, especially greeters, will be emailed for Consistory members to sign up. It was suggested that a new ministry grant recipient do a speak out at the Spring meeting. The key agenda items are the changes to the constitution and bylaws, the resolution regarding PSEC/PNEC merger, and approval of the slate of nominees for next year for conference committees and teams. It was noted that Liz will be joining as a representative of the covenant association.

Key changes to the bylaws include:

- Tenure of office ceases when active membership in local church ceases where active membership is defined by the local church.
- People under age of 18 are not legally allowed to vote on non-profit boards.
- Change to the quorum for consistory from a specific number to 2/3rds. If quorum is not met, the executive committee can conduct business on behalf of the Consistory with those members present directing what items to address.
- The number of Consistory members goes from 14 to 10; it is still 2 delegates per association. Church and Ministry Council goes to 12 from 16 members.

The meeting agenda was approved. (Motion: Jennie Strauch; 2nd: Rob Stilwell)

PNEC/PSEC Conference Merger

Barb and Bill attended PNEC meeting where a resolution to form a merger transition team to create a model was adopted unanimously.

It was suggested that during the Spring Meeting conferring session, we break into small groups and discuss the following questions: What are you afraid to lose if the conferences merge and what are you excited to gain? The purpose is to allow people to be heard. Time would be 15 minutes for discussion, 15 minutes for sharing, and 15 minutes for additional comments.

During pre-conference meetings, the concern has been raised that small churches are afraid they will get lost in a bigger conference. The combined size would be 293 churches (127 PNEC + 166 PSEC). There is concern about the location of the office(s) and organization of staff in a merged conference, but it is too early for those decisions. Having a map showing the distribution/geography of the two conferences would be helpful. It was noted that the merger is not just about administrative dollars and staff but ministry and vision.

We will also need a list of names for the transition team. There is a need for people with vision as well as specific skill sets, e.g., financial. We need an application and to set expectations in terms of commitment. The transition team should include the conference minister and moderator.

The offering designation for Friday night will be the social justice ministries of the UCC. (Motion: Rob Stilwell; 2nd: Elaine Ely). The Sunday service will be for the creation of a new Cornerstone fund restricted to PSEC for either new church start or new ministry at an existing church. (Motion: Barbara Guido; 2nd: Fred Schuetz)

PNEC Conference Minister Retirement

July 24 is the retirement party for Alan Miller, PNEC Conference Minister. We will take a group photo (wear a funny hat) at our next Consistory Meeting on July 15.

20/20 Vision Priorities

At one of the pre-meetings someone asked if there was a strategic plan to go along with 20/20 Vision Plan. Bill is not seeing forward progress on the vision and feels that it relies too much on him and conference staff, which makes him uncomfortable. Some of the objectives are contingent upon having funds and we need to make sure these are funded.

It was noted that at our March meetings we did delegate some of the vision objectives to the Church and Ministry Council, the Member in Discernment team, and the ACM for Congregational Development.

Seeking a way to be held accountable and to measure our progress, it was suggested we set up a scoreboard/dashboard. It would need specific and measureable items and

a timeline. Bill suggested asking Bill Metzger for input; Jenny agreed to reach out to him for input.

Office Space

We are in a 5-year lease for the Conference office. The landlord needs to know if we plan to renew by January 1, 2018. Can we go year to year? Will revisit at our July meeting once we know outcome of merger resolution.

Electronic Voting Policy

It would be helpful to be able to vote electronically when a decision is needed quickly. Ray drafted a policy for this purpose. The proposed voting protocol was modified to allow the moderator or a designee/other officer of the Executive Council to initiate the ballot. The Consistory secretary would email the ballot and copy Sue at the Conference office. The modified policy was approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Fred Schuetz). Ray will send Jenny a sample email ballot and tally form.

Bill noted that this is the last meeting for Rob Stilwell and Fred Schuetz, and thanked them for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. (Motion: Fred Schuetz; 2nd: Rob Stilwell)

The next meeting Consistory meeting is July 15th at this location. We need someone for hospitality and for devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Smith