

**PSEC Consistory Meeting**  
**Meeting November 11, 2017**  
**St. James UCC Limerick, PA**

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

**Consistory Members Absent:** Ms. Barbara Guido, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Rev. Bill Middleton, Ms. Lis Lichtenwalner, Mr. Max Ruemmler

**Consistory Staff Present:** Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:27 AM. Maureen Duffy-Guy provided a devotion on control and an opening prayer.

The minutes from the September 30 meeting were approved. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sharell Shippen)

**Treasurer**

Ray Edwards' report was received. He noted that the report does not reflect additional OCWM funds received since the report was printed on 11/1. He reported income is behind projections, and spending is up over last year at this time, reflecting the addition of the part-time ACM position. The budget for next year will be presented to the PSEC body next week at the fall meeting. Ray pointed out that the endowment fund is doing well under current market conditions.

The Treasurer's report was approved. (Motion: Ed Livingston; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lee Metzger)

**Personnel Committee**

Barb Guido's written report was received. The timetable for salary guidelines will be moved up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in July.

Barb's report was approved. (Motion: Elaine Ely; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jennie Strauch)

**Disaster Coordinator**

Karl Jones' written report was received. He has been working to help settle refugees from Puerto Rico in the Philadelphia area. He received a grant of \$6,000 from the national UCC Disaster Ministries to help with that effort. Karl took part in a training event for Disaster Spiritual Care.

Karl's report was approved. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Elaine Ely)

**ACM for Congregational Development**

Cean James' written report was received. It was noted that he attended the Ursinus, not Covenant, Association meeting on 10/22.

Cean's report was approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Livingston)

### ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received. She expressed her concern about helping churches find pastors for part-time positions, but noted that there are less than 30 churches in search at the present time. There was sharing of frustration about the challenge of finding positions for under-represented minorities, and leading churches to embrace a vision of the diverse beloved community.

Sharon is working on expanded boundary training for pastors. There was discussion about how to improve communication between the Conference Consistory and the association leadership and committees; a list of expectations and responsibilities would be helpful. Sharell, Anne and Ed will meet to come up with suggestions on communication and accountability. A communications team has helped the Schuylkill Association.

Sharon's report was approved. (Motion: Sharell Shippen; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lee Metzger)

### Conference Minister

Bill Worley's report was received. He met with the retired clergy about the Omega standing in the new manual on ministry. Conference-wide, approximately 40% of our clergy will be retiring in the next 4-5 years.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Stewart)

### Joint Conference Vision and Development Team

Survey response has been limited. A subcommittee met with staff from both PNEC and PSEC for their input. They are creating multiple mission days to help the conferences get to know one another. Also, two town hall meetings are planned as well as a Lenten study on what it means to be church.

### 20/20 Vision Priorities

|   |   |
|---|---|
| See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life – <i>There is alignment with the health.gov initiative Social Determinants of Health that can help with measuring this. Where are the clusters of UCC churches with openness to these?</i>              | Associations<br>Jennie Strauch<br>Ed Livingston                       |
| Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders & partner churches, raise funding – <i>Cean held a workshop in Valley Forge. There is energy around this. They looked at possible regions for church starts and resources to do this.</i>   | ACM Congregational<br>Development<br>Lis Lichtenwalner<br>Ray Edwards |
| Connect local congregations to training, experiences, networking and coaches to increase active participation in 80 churches by 10% - <i>Cean and Jenny presented information on metrics at the Ursinus Association. They will follow up with an email and resource link to the other associations.</i> | Associations<br>Barbara Guido<br>Jenny Smith                          |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Develop expectation of pastoral excellence among authorized pastors by providing clergy coach for 1<sup>st</sup> year and every pastor in accountability &amp; support group w/3 other clergy – <i>Elaine, Sharon and Barb met with C&amp;MC. Focus was on the local church providing a coach for a 1<sup>st</sup> year minister. What would be the nature of group to provide support? There are 10 groups already in place for pastoral excellence.</i></p> | <p>Church &amp; Ministry Council/MID<br/>– Chris Hayden<br/>Elaine Ely<br/>Barbara Pence</p> |
| <p>Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training – <i>MID Academy planned for July 2018. Next meeting of MID team is on 11/16.</i></p>  | <p>Church &amp; Ministry Council/MID<br/>ACM<br/>Bill Middleton<br/>Lee Metzger</p>          |

A motion was passed to contact those who participated in the Reaching New People workshop about their interest in Griffin coaching; any funds undesignated at the end of 2017 will be reassigned to coaching for clergy in 2018 with the priority for people new to ministry. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Livingston)

### **ALICE Certified Trainer for Conference**

Held church security training with 20 churches in attendance. The Insurance Board offered to train someone in the Conference to be our ALICE trainer. There would be a registration fee. Bill W. asked for suggestions of people who may be interested.

The Consistory approved sponsoring someone at a train the trainer session with ALICE, including funding up to \$2,000, pending funding approval by Tammie. (Motion: Jennie Strauch; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Livingston)

### **3 Great Loves Campaign**

Anne suggested asking Justice & Witness to spearhead the coordination of conference-wide events for the 3 Great Loves campaign. She will approach the team.

### **New Business**

Consistory Retreat - We agreed to extend an invitation to hold a joint retreat with PNEC during the first quarter of 2018. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Stewart)

Spring Meeting - The date and location has changed. We will be returning to West Chester University on June 1-3, 2018.

Fall Meeting -It will be held at First UCC in Schuylkill Haven on November 18. Volunteer sign-up sheet was emailed to Consistory members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ed Livingston)

Our next meeting is January 20. Ray has refreshments and Elaine has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Smith