

**PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting September 30, 2017
St. James UCC Limerick, PA**

Consistory Members Present: Mr. Lee Metzger, Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Barbara Pence, Ms. Barbara Guido, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Rev. Jenny Smith, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Anne Cormier, Rev. Bill Middleton, Rev. Robert Stewart, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, Ms. Sharell Shippen

Consistory Members Absent: Ms. Lis Lichtenwalner, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Mr. Max Ruemmler, Rev. Elaine Ely, Rev. Edward Livingston

Consistory Staff Present: Rev. Sharon Morris

Barb Pence called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM. Bill Worley offered a devotion asking each what feeds his/her soul.

The minutes from the July 15 meeting were approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd : Anne Cormier)

A letter from St. Peter's UCC in Pine Grove was received thanking the Consistory for the shared ministries grant they received and indicating that they will consider the feedback on their grant application for technology that was not approved.

Treasurer

Ray Edwards' report was received. He reported that in looking at OCWM over a 3-year period, the national church says PSEC is doing well. Tammie has no concerns regarding the budget and Ray is comfortable with where we are year-to-date. He also commended staff members for being good stewards of the funds.

The endowment draw stands at 5% per year; taken out twice each year.

The Budget & Finance and Endowment reports were approved. (Motion: Barb Guido; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

The proposed 2018 budget was reviewed with explanatory notes by Ray regarding:

- Where appropriate, PSEC 2020 Vision objectives have been assigned to a budget line which funds that specific objective. Also, Restricted Endowment Funds that support specific Annual Budget items are now indicated. For instance, Ursinus campus ministry monies will be directed to UCC-affiliated students attending the school.
- A reduction in the Endowment draw to 4% to help build up equity in the account and offset poor market years.
- 7% increase in dental insurance.
- Conference office rent for 2018.

- Half the amount for GS is allocated during 2018.
- Added a conference-sourced line item for Phoebe.
- Support is included for MIDs and pastoral development.
- The Personnel Committee recommended a 1.5% salary increase for Conference guidelines. This will be applied to Conference staff as well, with an additional .5% merit bonus for a total of 2%. There was a discussion of the process and timing for coming up with the guidelines. The need to improve that process will be determined and plan implemented at the next Consistory meeting. Along with that, the need to communicate with local churches about the factors considered in determining the guidelines.
- An explanation will be added of how the budget supports the 20/20 vision.

The 2018 budget proposal was approved. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Anne Cormier)
 The results of the electronic balloting on the selection of an auditor was read into the minutes by Jenny Smith. Herbein was approved for the next 3 years by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed and 4 no response.

Personnel Committee

Barb Guido's report was received. The committee recommends increasing the supply pastor compensation to \$200 per worship service (travel expenses included) with additional compensation for each additional service. Barb shared that feedback was collected on the conference minister which was uniformly positive.

The committee will be meeting on October 9.

The report was approved. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

Disaster Coordinator

Karl Jones' written report was approved. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2nd: Barb Guido)

ACM for Congregational Development

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

ACM of Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received.

Ray asked if we could come up with a definition of what it means for a church to be in "good standing." We will ask the ministry council for input.

Barb Pence asked the personnel committee to begin looking into coverage for when Sharon is on sabbatical in 2019.

Sharon's report was approved. (Motion: Sharell Shippen; 2nd: Anne Cormier)

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's report was received.

Bill shared that former PNEC conference minister Alan Miller developed a heart condition and now has a pacemaker.

Bill's report was approved. (Motion: Nya Huertas; 2nd: Barb Guido)**20/20 Vision Priorities**

Barb revisited the progress on the 5 top 2020 Vision priorities.

See 5 local communities transformed by presence of UCC congregation measured by quality of life – <i>No update</i>	Associations Jennie Strauch Ed Livingston
Prepare for birth of 6 spiritual communities; recruit leaders & partner churches, raise funding – <i>Cean James and the congregational development working group is holding a retreat; Cean/Bill will be attending the association meetings.</i>	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% - <i>Cean James is researching resources on setting metrics and how to increase participation, this information to share with the associations.</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>Have a meeting set up for October 11.</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID – Chris Hayden Elaine Ely Barbara Pence
Create Member in Discernment Academy to standardize training – <i>Bill will email information to the 2 consistory members on this objective</i>	Church & Ministry Council/MID CM Bill Middleton Lee Metzger

PNEC/PSEC Conference Merger

Through initial conversation the team determined it does not want to merge so much as create something new. They created a survey that will go out in October. They also formed a communications team to determine how best to share progress in a cohesive way.

New Ministries Fund

Ray noted that applications are constantly received and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

UCC Constitution and Bylaws

Changes to the constitution and bylaws move away from language of collegium and make a number of editorial changes.

The bylaws add information regarding ordained ministerial partner standing for ordained ministers from the United Church of Canada who serve a UCC calling body or ministry.

A motion was passed to approve the national church amendments. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2nd: Ray Edwards) Note these still need approval of the Conference Body at Annual Fall Conference Meeting.

UCC "3 Great Loves" Campaign

The toolkit is out and available. We need a coordinator for our conference to raise awareness and to serve as liaison with the national office.

Justice and Witness

A letter from Rev. Leslie Kearney asks for clarification on the role of this team. Do they lead or follow the local churches in terms of social issues? Can they, as a body, sign on to resolutions? What about partnerships with other social justice groups?

Ray sees Justice and Witness as responsible for education/awareness, prayer, as well as speaking up and showing up (advocacy). Jenny felt that the team should be able to advocate a position as long as they state that their position does not necessarily represent that of local churches or the conference as a whole. This was unanimously affirmed by the Consistory. In this manner, they can serve as a role model for local churches. Ray wondered if they should have their own letterhead to avoid confusion about who is advocating a given position. Consensus was to grant autonomy as well as responsibility.

2017 Fall Meeting

The meeting is November 18 from 10 to 3 at First UCC, Schuylkill Haven. A motion was approved to direct the collection from this meeting to UCC disaster relief. (Motion: Anne Cormier; 2nd: Barb Guido) We will address the need for offsetting the registration costs of retirees at our next meeting.

Office Space

A motion was approved to go to a year-to-year lease at the conference office. It is actually a 3-year contract with the option to cancel at the end of each year. (Motion: Barb Guido; 2nd: Anne Cormier)

2018 Spring Meeting

The dates are June 8-10 and negotiations are underway to hold it at Ursinus College.

Other

Ray pointed out that the Pension Boards insurance plan does not cover pre-existing conditions. He feels that we should be able to better direct people to their options when they are turned down by the Pension Boards.

The next meeting is November 11 in this same location.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM. (Motion: Nya Huertas; 2nd:
Lee Metzger)

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Smith