

PSEC Spring Meeting
June 2, 2018
West Chester University

Following opening worship, Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister, welcomed and introduced several visitors including Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister PNEC, moderators of the Associations and members of the Consistory.

Conference staff member Brea Rarick was recognized for her work on reporting; PSEC received an award from the national church for our increase in statistical reporting.

Rev. Worley thanked and gave a certificate of appreciation to Elaine Ely, Maureen Duffy-Guy and Barb Guido who are ending their terms on Consistory. He also thanked Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger, who chairs the meeting planning committee.

Rev. Barbara Pence, Moderator, called the meeting to order. Beth Walker was appointed as Parliamentarian and Ms. Jennie Strauch was put in charge of credentials. Ms. Strauch reported that 164 voting delegates are needed for a quorum. There are 179 registered attendees consisting of 100 clergy, 74 church delegates, 4 consistory lay members and 1 lay moderator. This constitutes a quorum. There are also 9 visitors. Rev. Pence set the bar as the building.

A motion was made by Rev. Darryl Cruz, seconded by Gary Kern to accept the standing rules. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Rev. Tyson Frey, seconded by Rev. Darryl Cruz, to adopt the minutes from the fall meeting. The motion was carried.

Reports

Nominating - Rev. Angelee Benner Smith

Attendees were referred to the committee's report for a list of nominees and open positions. From the North Penn Association, the new representative of Church and Ministry Council is Rev. Adelaide Stong. Rev. Ann-Therese Ortiz is added to the Consistory from the Philadelphia Association. The nominating committee continues to look for youth to serve in our conference.

Rev Worley reviewed the delegates for General Synod 2019 which will be held in Milwaukee, WI. By association, the delegates allocated are 6 for Covenant, 7 for North Penn, 6 for Philadelphia, 6 for Ursinus, and 4 for Schuylkill. There are still 2 openings for delegates from the Schuylkill Association. The names of the delegates are posted on the conference website. The list of delegates was presented for approval. Rev. Pence asked for, but received no additional nominations from floor. Nominations were closed. A motion to accept the delegates was made by Rev. Steve Hamilton and seconded by Rev. Anne Cormier. The motion carried.

Treasurer - Ray Edwards

At the present time there are 5 churches with no OCWM pledge. The goal is 100% of churches pledging.

The Finance committee wants to better structure cash holdings so they are laddered for both security and liquidity.

There were no significant findings in auditors report. Ray offered congratulations to Ms. Tammie Wisniewski, the conference financial operations manager, for her excellent work.

During a moment of personal privilege, Ray explained that he wore orange today to signify the plague of gun violence. He encouraged congregations to be centers for conversation on this topic as well as domestic violence, street violence and suicide.

Rev. John Hogue moved to accept the treasurer's report and Rev. Edward Livingston provided the second. The motion passed.

Rev. Bob Stewart moved to accept the audit report, and Mr. Edward Kern seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rev. Pence recognized 62 churches who received 5 for 5 in 2017.

A motion was made by Rev. Anne Cormier and seconded by Rev. Patti Thomas to accept the remaining reports. The motion carried.

Rev. Bill Worley shared his state of the conference report. He spoke about the theme for the conference, Be Reconciled, and the artwork showing two adults with their backs to each other, while inside little children are looking for ways to connect. Rev. Worley asked how we can find ways to be the uniting church of Christ. He recognized the work of Justice and Witness in reconciling us around issues of racism and economic justice, and the Disaster Ministry work of Rev. Karl Jones. Rev. Worley noted that the Ecumenical Ministry Team will be traveling to Germany this summer. He recognized our youth ministry team and mentioned the National Youth Event in 2020.

Rev. Worley spoke about the role of the Committees on Ministry and the challenge of reconciling autonomy and freedom with the covenantal responsibility to be accountable to one another and to God. He offered a thank you to conference staff as they reconcile different perspectives to be a united team to help us be a united conference.

Rev. Worley acknowledged we have more reconciliation work to do: the way we have done church to new ways, the way to be UCC in post-denominational world, the old and new MOMs, the lives of two conferences so that our differences won't get in way of our dreams/visions. Reconciliation is a powerful human influence and walls will never make a people great. Christ gave us a mission of reconciliation, hanging on a

cross between two thieves, between heaven and earth, reconciling his divinity and humanity.

Old Business

Rev. Barb Pence reported on the work of the JCVDT. She thanked the PSEC and PNEC members of the team for their work in developing a vision for a new conference identity. The draft Vision, Mission, Purpose and Values document has been presented at the association spring meetings and feedback is being incorporated. Subcommittees have been created to look at staffing and location possibilities. They have set up three online ZOOM meetings to engage others on ideas for the new conference regarding wants/needs/expectations, inclusivity, and diversity; dates are June 18, July 17, and August 22. Attendees were asked to participate in a breakout session to vision ministry priorities for an anticipated combined \$1.5 million joint conference budget.

New Business

Rev. Bill Worley summarized some of the demographic statistics regarding the aging of our conference clergy, then introduced Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Lee, the Philanthropy Officer of The Pension Boards - UCC. PSEC has been challenged to participate in a capital campaign by The Pension Boards to train new leaders and support retiring pastors.

Rev. Lee described the UCBMA support provided in the form of direct ministerial assistance grants across the U.S., including Pennsylvania. The UCBMA also has three leadership initiatives including the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, MFVI (Ministers Financial Vitality Initiative addressing financial education and debt reduction) and Credo (directed toward mid-career clergy). Funding for UCBMA comes from gifts through the special mission offering and an annual grant from OCWM. He noted the challenges of many "baby boomers" retiring and the number of second career clergy. The Generations of Service campaign is designed to address the needs of UCBMA in the coming decade and beyond. Rev. Lee provided a breakdown of how the \$20 million goal would sustain their critical work.

Rev. Worley asked attendees to discuss whether or not PSEC wants to commit to becoming a partner in this campaign, if we want to meet or surpass the 5-year \$50,000 goal set before us, and will we trust the Conference Consistory Budget and Finance Committee and Endowment team to lead us. Basically, we need to determine whether or not to support the campaign, the level of commitment, and any plan for implementation of the campaign.

Kate Hoffman made a motion to participate in the campaign, which was seconded by Rev. Steve Hamilton. Following a breakout and discussion time, the question was called and those present voted to vote on the issue.

A motion on the level of support was made by Rev. Geneva Butz and seconded by Rev. Suzanne Spaulding. The question was called. The original motion to support the campaign at a level of \$50,000 carried.

A motion by Rev. Tony Villareal, seconded by Rev. Dwayne Mosier was made to come back to the fall meeting with plan. The question was called and the motion for a plan was carried.

Installation of Officers

Following speak-outs and announcements, Rev. Dave Heckler made a motion to adjourn following the installation of conference consistory members. Rev. Elaine Ely seconded the motion, which was subsequently voted and passed.

The conference officers and consistory members were installed. Rev. Worley thanked Rev. Barb Pence for serving as Conference Moderator.

Clergy with milestone anniversaries were recognized by the attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jenny Smith, Secretary