

**PSEC Consistory Meeting  
Meeting July 21, 2018  
St. James UCC Limerick, PA**

**Consistory Members Present:** Rev. Robert Stewart, Rev. Anne Cormier, Rev. Jenny Smith, Rev. Edward Livingston, Mr. Tim Kissling, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Mark Roberts, Ms. Sara Barra, Rev. Craig Zimmerman, Rev. Sharell Shippen, Rev. Ann-Therese Ortiz

**Consistory Members Absent:** Mr. Ray Edwards, Ms. Ananya Huertas, Mr. Lee Metzger, Rev. Bill Middleton

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

Jennie Strauch called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Edward Livingston provided an opening devotion and prayer. Introductions were made for the benefit of new members.

The minutes from the May 19 meeting were accepted. Jennie noted that we received a letter via Karl Jones from the APM long-term recovery committee thanking us for our contribution. We also received a certificate of appreciation from the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management for our support.

**Treasurer**

Ray Edward's report was received with Tim Kissling presenting the report. We are in a very strong cash position. As is typical for this time of year, expenses exceeded income by \$32,824; no action is needed at this time although the continuing trend of decreasing contributions to OCWM is concerning. The committee is following up on a lead for a consultant who can help us communicate the message of the relationship between the churches and the conferences, what the conference provides, and an overall stewardship message. There is no endowment report at the present time. The Treasurer's report was approved. (Motion: Edward Livingston; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sharell Shippen)

Based on a recommendation from our accountants and the Budget & Finance Committee, a motion was passed to increase the capitalization for equipment and fixed assets from \$1,000 to \$2,500. (Motion: Tim Kissling; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Anne Cormier)

Tim recapped the committee's discussion on switching the budget from a calendar year to a fiscal year. Due to the possible merger with PNEC, which is on a calendar year, the recommendation was to table the idea for the present time. The consistory accepted this recommendation.

**Personnel Committee**

Barbara Guido's written report was received; Edward Livingston presented the report. He noted the concern that approximately 75% of the churches in our conference do not meet the minimum salary guidelines. The committee is looking at compensation

policies. They will address the request for medical benefits for the ACM of Congregational Development at the time of his evaluation in October.

### **Disaster Coordinator**

Karl Jones' written report was received. He asked for \$1,000 to help provide household goods to families through Hispano Centro. A motion granting this request was approved. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Edward Livingston)

### **ACM for Congregational Development**

Cean James' written report was received.

### **ACM of Search and Call**

Sharon Morris' written report was received. Very soon they are planning to wrap up their conversations around helping lay people understand and evaluate the marks for effective ministry. Bill reminded everyone that Sharon's sabbatical is coming up in 2019.

There was discussion of how the associations could participate in dialogue with local churches to facilitate their sense of connection and covenant, and when they are closing, to help them consider the distribution of their assets. Some associations visit each local church on a regular basis to enhance communication; they also provide a monthly update to the churches.

### **Conference Minister**

Bill Worley's written report was received. He attended the Eastern Regional Youth Event and had positive feedback about the leadership role of our conference.

All reports were accepted.

### **Joint Conference Vision and Development Team**

Barb Pence's written report was received. Their ZOOM meetings are continuing. The association subcommittee has invited association executive committees and area mission council conveners to meet on July 28 to discuss the role of associations in the new conference.

### **20/20 Vision Update**

Moving forward, we will do updates every other month on progress on the vision. Also, we will need to revisit the designated focus points and the consistory members designated to each.

### **Pension Board Campaign**

Regarding this 5-year campaign, the Budget & Finance Committee plans to send a letter to local churches asking for pledges. PSEC will pledge \$5,000 and also match up to an additional maximum of \$30,000 in local church pledges, with the money coming from the Endowment Funds. The consistory accepted the recommendations.

The committee will review progress after one year. Note that the Pension Board is directly contacting some local churches; there is coordination with the PSEC regarding

this contact. Tim and Ray are already involved in the campaign; Jennie asked for additional volunteers.

### **Annual Conference**

Feedback from attendees was positive particularly regarding attendee engagement and participation in the small group discussions at the Spring meeting.

### **General Synod Delegates**

The Credentials Committee has notified us of variances in our delegation pertaining to age (we need more delegates under 30), lay/clergy proportion (we need more lay people), and diversity (racial and ethnic mix). To be compliant we need to shift our delegates. Openings within each association should target this.

### **New Ministries Fund**

Ann-Therese is joining Ed, Elaine, Ray and the conference minister to evaluate the applications.

### **Youth Delegate New Ministries Fund**

Kathleen Stump was approved as a youth delegate to Consistory. (Motion: Bob Stewart; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tim Kissling)

### **Consistory Meeting Dates**

Discussion of future meeting dates - usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every other month - considered the timeframe and availability of finance reports. There was consensus to continue with the existing meeting dates.

Our next meeting is September 15. Jennie Strauch has refreshments and Sharon Morris has devotions. We will need a substitute for the secretary as Jenny will be away.

### **Fall Meeting Agenda**

The fall meeting will be held November 10 at Church of the Good Shepherd in Boyertown. Agenda items include the conference merger, budget, GS, and follow up on the pension campaign. We will finalize the agenda and the offering designation at our next meeting.

Bill Worley offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. New consistory members stayed for an orientation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Jenny Smith