

PSEC Consistory Meeting

Via Zoom

July 18, 2020

Consistory Members Present: Rev. Jenny Smith, Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Bill Middleton, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Beth Lyon, Mr. John Jones, Rev. Tony Villareal, Rev. Ann-Therese Ortiz, Mr. Tim Kissling, Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Rev. Mark Roberts, Rev. Bonnie Dalious, Mr. Kyle Sakamoto

Conference Staff Present: Rev. Cean James, Rev. Susan Minasian

Consistory Members Excused: Rev. Anne Cormier and Mr. Lee Metzger

Ms. Jennie Strauch called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Rev. Bonnie Dalious led a devotion, reading a scripture of Jesus' healing ministry, and sharing experiences she has had as a hospital chaplain.

The minutes from the May 16 and July 6 Zoom meetings were accepted and approved as received.

There were no communications to share.

Reports

Mr. Ray Edwards provided the Finance Committee report. He believes that we have met all of the requirements to have our PPP loan forgiven. Expenses are down, but so is income. It is difficult to predict what will happen given the instability in the current situation. We have not taken a draw from the Endowment, which is down but Ray believes will recover. He noted that we have received correspondence from some churches thanking the conference and indicating how they have used the funds given them. Ray was disappointed that more churches have not expressed thanks and recommends we continue to emphasize generosity.

The Consistory unanimously accepted the treasurer's report. (Motion: Bonnie Dalious; 2nd: Tim Kissling)

Rev. Tony Villareal presented the report for the Personnel Committee. He reminded everyone of the difference between cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases. The COVID 19 pandemic is a mitigating factor the committee considered. They recommend a 3% increase for staff in 2021. The Consistory approved the recommended salary increase.

Rev. Karl Jones' Disaster Coordinator written report was received.

Rev. Cean James, ACM for Congregational Development, gave his report as Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development. He is planning a workshop on how to transition from virtual to in-person worship and how to maintain both. Cean hosted a meeting of African American clergy; participants voiced the challenges of serving in predominantly white congregations.

Rev. Susan Minasian, Interim Associate Conference Minister of Search and Call, presented her report. Note that she has organized her report grouping churches by those in search and call and those in transition. Susan worked with Brea Rarick to revise the search and call materials so they coordinate with the poster. She recently held a computer-side chat for congregations in the search and call process. Susan emphasized how central relationships are to this work.

The Conference Minister's report was received. There are three new ministry requests and the subcommittee will be meeting to review these. Rev. Worley reported that he and Susan Creswell are helping four churches that are closing.

Grace Alsace UCC closed and is donating \$6,000 to the Conference to be used for paying seminary debt. The Consistory approved a motion to utilize the donation in entirety. (Motion: Kevin Fruchtl; 2nd: John Jones) A process for applying and disbursing the funds is needed. Ray Edwards and Mark Roberts volunteered to assist with that. It was suggested that we explore options for increasing the funds available for paying down seminary debt, possibly using money from the new ministry fund. The Consistory passed a motion charging the group working on the donation distribution process with identifying other sources of funds. (Motion: Beth Lyon; 2nd Tim Kissling)

Rev. Worley provided a draft description of what we are looking for in a conference attorney. He also shared a liability sheet from the national church on hosting online meetings and having groups meet in their buildings.

The association moderators have been meeting.

General Synod will be a virtual meeting. Some of our delegates have dropped off and other individuals have expressed interest in attending.

The Nominating Committee report was reviewed and accepted. It was noted that there are still openings to be filled.

There was an update on the mobile office initiative. The group is exploring ways to increase online meeting capacity and looking at decreasing the size of the current office space. Estimated costs are being compiled for having staff work offsite.

We reviewed the suggested agenda for the upcoming special meeting on August 15 and a timeline of preparations leading up to the meeting. Registrations will be required for voting and roll call will include going through the list of registrants. The standing rules have been modified to fit the online format of the meeting. The agenda will include a report from the Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative group. It was agreed that breakout sessions are not needed for the vote to reelect the conference minister. (Motion: Beth Lyon; 2nd: Tim Kissling) Reports are due by July 27.

This is Jennie Strauch's last consistory meeting. She expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve and we thanked her. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer at 12:08 PM. The next Consistory meeting is September 19.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Smith, Secretary