

**PSEC Consistory Meeting
Meeting March 16, 2019
St. James UCC, Limerick PA**

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

Consistory Members Excused: Ms. Kathleen Stump, Ms. Anaiya Huertas

Consistory Staff Excused: Rev. Sharon Morris

Jennie Strauch called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Tim Kissling provided an opening prayer and a devotion.

The minutes from the January 19 meeting were approved with the addition of Rev. Anne Cormier as excused. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Craig Zimmerman) There were no communications to share.

Work of God's People: Reports

Treasurer

Ray Edwards provided the Budget and Finance Committee report. Preparations are underway for the audit. Calls for OCWM pledges resulted in a positive impact. Also, pledges are coming in for the Generations of Service Campaign. Ray asked that we highlight this campaign at our spring association meetings. A workshop on stewardship is upcoming. The first quarter giving by churches looks good. A motion to accept the report passed. (Motion: Tim Kissling, 2nd: Ed Livingston)

Personnel

Ed Livingston provided the Personnel Committee report. They have been trying to reconcile differences between conference policy and the previous recommendation for merit pay. This was to be brought to the Spring meeting, but the Personnel Committee recommends against this. The amount in question is approximately \$2200. The recommendation to not bring the matter to the Spring meeting was voted on and accepted.

IT and document retention policies are being drafted for review by the committee.

Disaster Minister

Karl Jones' Disaster Minister report was received. Per the committee's recommendations, the Consistory voted to add Joe Scianda, Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy and Ray Riegel as members to the Disaster Ministry Team, to approve travel expenses for Joe Sciandra to attend the CDC Gathering and travel expenses for Karl Jones to attend the MWVOD Conference. (Motion: Lee Metzger, 2nd: Ed Livingston)

ACM Congregational Development

Cean James' report was received.

ACM-Search and Call

Sharon Morris' report was received. She received a vote of affirmation and thanks for her dedication and work even as she recovers from multiple surgeries.

Conference Minister

Bill Worley's report was received. Since he prepared his report, he has heard back from PNEC regarding the JCVDT letter and proposed united conference vote. They would be interested in having a service of healing at some point in the future. We continue to work jointly on the upcoming clergy convocation and mission trip. Jennie Strauch will remain in periodic contact with the PNEC moderator.

Bill expressed concern that two congregations have refused to report their financial information as part of the annual church report and asked how the conference staff is to respond to this. Note that this is a matter of public record for 501(c)3 organizations. We need to understand why they are reluctant to share this information with us.

Bill summarized an amicus brief that has been filed in Pennsylvania which opposes the removal of government funding to pay for employee medical insurance where companies refuse to pay it on religious grounds. A motion to sign on passed; Mark Roberts abstained due to having a family member who works for the courts. (Motion: Bob Stewart, 2nd: Sara Barra)

It was noted the courts have ruled that the clergy housing allowance is constitutional.

Items for Discussion

Generation of Service Campaign

Consistory members can send their contributions toward the stated total goal of \$1,000 to Tammie at the Conference office. Tim Kissling will fill the opening left by Rhonda Matlack as coordinator for this PSEC Pension Board campaign.

Follow up from Retreat

At the retreat we tried to get at the "Why" for uniting with PNEC. What next? Do we need to focus on who we are and where we want to go before we address the question of who we want to go with us? What pain has the action of our conference caused PNEC; how can we help heal this?

Three Great Loves

We need to name a coordinator for this campaign. The role is to liaison with the National church and other campaign coordinators and to communicate with local churches about the campaign to increase awareness and participation. There was discussion of how the campaign is being received by congregations and suggestions were offered on possible candidates for the position.

Annual Spring Meeting

A proposed agenda for the meeting was reviewed. The key speaker, Brian McLaren, has provided a vision for what the emergent Christian church will look like. His most recent book is *The Great Spiritual Migration*. Cean James is preaching at the opening worship. Suggestions were made for the conferring agenda. Bob Stewart agreed to be the speak-out coordinator. Sue Creswell will be seeking volunteers for additional tasks.

Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting will be Sunday, November 17. Location has not yet been determined. Possible agenda topics were discussed along with the idea of conducting the meeting simultaneously at multiple sites using technology to connect the sites.

Sharell Shippen offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at noon. Our next meeting is May 18. Bill Middleton is scheduled to bring refreshments and Lee Metzger has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jenny Smith, Secretary