

PSEC Consistory Meeting
Via Zoom
May 16, 2020

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

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

Consistory Members Excused: Rev. Bonnie Dalious, Mr. Kyle Sakamoto

Jennie Strauch called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes from the following meetings were approved:

March 14 - Regularly scheduled meeting of the Consistory

March 30 - Joint meeting of Executive Committee, Budget and Finance, Endowment recommending sending \$1,000 to each of the 160 PSEC churches and increasing the Conference Minister's discretionary fund by \$20,000

April 2 - Special Consistory meeting approving the above recommendations

April 23 - Special Consistory meeting changing the dates for 2020 conference-wide meetings to Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, November 15

May 6 - Joint meeting of Executive Committee, Budget and Finance, Endowment recommending participation in the Cornerstone Relief Act and retaining the Payroll Protection Plan money we received

There were no communications to share.

Reports

Mr. Ray Edwards provided the Finance Committee report. As investments are down 7% year to date, the Endowment committee recommends not taking the draw from these funds early in the year in favor of using cash on hand for now. The financial report reflects the \$90K PPP loan we received, which will offset approximately 2.5 months of payroll.

OCWM giving is down about 16.3% year to date. The national church recommends buffering for a 30% shortfall. We continue to give OCWM 10% as scheduled to model the stewardship we would like from our churches. We have considerable savings in expenses due to the stay at home orders.

Ray reported that the audit went very well and recognized the outstanding work of Tammie Wisniewski.

The Consistory unanimously accepted the treasurer's report. (Motion: Tony Villareal; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

There was no report for the Personnel Committee.

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 shared that Rev. Megan McCloud has decided to move forward with officially registering her online ministry with the UCC. Interest in online giving is growing.

Ray Edwards characterized online ministry as a form of emergent church and asked if there was funding available; he encouraged us to support these initiatives.

Rev. Susan Minasian, Interim Associate Conference Minister of Search and Call, presented her report. In the list of churches in transition she has identified the skill sets and struggles at each of the churches and created a triage system. There was discussion about who needs to know this information beyond search and call. Also, the question was raised of what it means for a church to have standing in our conference. Note that a UCC Manual on Church is being created. The formation of an advisory group of association moderators was discussed.

Rev. Bill Worley reminded us that the Consistory was to create a series of benchmarks for the interim minister position. Also, the Consistory needs to capture what Susan has learned so far about her role for consideration in defining the ACM of Search and Call position moving forward.

The Conference Minister's report was received. Rev. Worley called our attention to the Berks County community fund to support Mensch Mill, which is still paying money (approximately \$400 income on \$14,000 investment) to that camp which is now owned by a Buddhist community. He recommended having a lawyer look at the situation and the Consistory agreed.

Rev. Worley also shared what the staff has learned working remotely regarding a mobile office platform. They will create best, moderate and worst-case scenarios for the next few months as they consider the continued impact of pandemic.

Ms. Jennie Strauch presented the Safe Conference policy revisions. Edits were suggested by the Consistory and accepted by Jennie. A motion to accept the revised policy passed unanimously. (Motion: Tim Kissling; 2nd: Lee Metzger)

The Consistory decided that the offering from the August special meeting will be split between the conference disaster ministries and the national church OCWM. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Bill Middleton). The meeting is being planned for Zwingli UCC or, if needed, a large-scale online meeting.

Rev. Cean James offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Smith, Secretary