

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2021 via ZOOM**

1. The Consistory meeting was convened by Rev. Tony Villareal, Moderator, via Zoom at 9:02 AM.
2. The devotions were given by Donna Fried.
3. Those in attendance were:
 - a. Executive Members:
 - i. Rev. Tony Villareal, Moderator
 - ii. Rev. Robert Fogal, Treasurer
 - iii. Robin Hightower, Recording Secretary
 - b. Consistory Members:
 - i. Rev. Bonnie Dalious
 - ii. Mr. Tom Wright
 - iii. Rev. Elaine Ely
 - iv. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl
 - v. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green
 - vi. Ms. Donna Fried
 - vii. Ms. Beth Walker
 - viii. Rev. Ken McDowell
 - ix. Rev. Elaine Ely
 - x. Rev. Jeff Wargo
 - c. Staff:
 - i. Rev William Worley
 - ii. Rev. Susan Minasian
 - iii. Rev. Cean James
4. Donna Fried moved that the meeting agenda be approved. Beth Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. The minutes of July 31st were approved as presented. They will be filed.
6. The minutes of August 26th special meeting minutes were approved with correction. Donna Fried was in attendance. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green made the motion; Donna Fried seconded.
7. No communications were received.
8. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer.
 - i. The **Finance** Reports were reviewed by Rev. Fogal. The Financial Report as of August 31st demonstrates that the Conference is overall in good condition. There were no questions about the reports. They will be filed as presented.
 - ii. The **Budget** was presented by Rev. Fogal. Climate Change, Addiction and Recovery, and Racial Equity do not have lines in the budget. How the Conference is supporting ministries was questioned. A Time Allocation Audit will be initiated at the beginning of 2022. The purpose of the audit is to determine how much time staff spend in relation to their assigned duties. It was noted there is no increase in the national OCWM.
 - b. The **2022 Conference Spending Plan** was accepted unanimously.
 - c. **Personnel Committee**. No report.

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- d. **ACM Search Committee Report.** No report.
 - e. **Disaster Ministry Coordinator Report.** There were no questions and it was accepted as presented. A successor needs to be identified so that he/she can work with Rev. Jones. Rev. Jones will step down from Penn Northeast at the end of 2021, but will stay with Penn Southeast. Funding for the individual needs to be explored. Rev. Jones is not reimbursed for mileage. Rev. Villareal will talk to Rev. Worley and Rev. Jones. This may be addressed at the Fall meeting.
 - f. **Stewardship Committee Report.** Received as written. Will be filed.
 - g. **Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call Report.** Concern was expressed about polarization. Talk about the election being stolen and being against BLM. It is an ongoing issue and was discussed at length. A conversation needs to be had to look for ways to address these issues.
 - h. **Conference Minister Report.** Gratitude was expressed to Rev. Minasian for her work at the Conference. The question was asked: Did the committee feel it had a strong pool of candidates? The answer was affirmative.
- 9. Old Business.**
- a. **Compensation Guidelines Evaluation Taskforce.** The Compensation Guidelines group has not met. Rev. Worley will schedule a meeting.
 - b. **Strategic Planning Taskforce.** Same response as above.
 - c. **Zachariah Walker Symposium.** This symposium is being promoted outside of the conference.
- 10. New Business.**
- a. **Agenda for the Fall meeting.** There are three items which will be discussed.
 - i. 2022 Spending Plan
 - ii. ACM SC Candidate
 - iii. Report from UCC Global Missionary. Nishawn and Maria were last in Beirut. They will talk about their work on our behalf in the Middle East.
 - iv. Beth Walker wants to make a report. She was asked to create a written report prior to the Fall meeting.
 - v. Introduction of ACM SC Candidate. Several members of the search committee joined our meeting: Rev. Jason Stump, Rev. Mark Stryjak, Rev. Melissa Burkhart, and Rev. Ken McDowell. The name of the candidate is Rev. Kevin McLemore. Rev. McDowell described the search process and named some of Rev. McLemore's characteristics. He is 52 years old and his husband, Douglas, is a teacher. He will be at the Fall meeting. Rev. Worley will email all association moderators as to how he may be introduced. The call agreement will be negotiated with the Personnel Committee.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm with prayer.

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Robin A. Hightower
Recording Secretary

For Nov. 20th meeting: Devotions—Rev. Suzanne Schwartz-Green