

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2022 Hybrid Meeting
PSEC Office and via Zoom**

Conference Vision— a unified body of Christ moving in one direction to effect for good and for God the lives of all people living in Southeast Pennsylvania.

Conference Mission— to strengthen local churches and pastors by making the five Associations of the Penn Southeast Conference agencies of connection and accountability.

Conference Goals— 2020 Vision Statement

Who is PSEC ?— PSEC is the link that connects our church's various and diverse ministries both locally and globally. Together, we provide our local churches, pastors and congregations with the training and inspiration they need to carry out our church's wider mission. We are stronger together; therefore, we embrace diversity, and above all, we spread God's love!

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1. Rev. Bob Fogal gave the devotions.
2. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev. Villareal at 10:14. The following members were in attendance: President Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Kevin McLemore, Rev. Cean James, Vice Moderator, Charles Kuthuru, Treasurer Rev. Bob Fogal, Rev. Francis Merkel, Rev. Jeff Wargo, Ms. Beth Walker, Ms. Mary Loiselle, Rev. Ken McDowell, Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Ms. Donna Fried, Mr. Tom Wright, and Rev. Alan Miles.
3. The Work of God's People
 - a. Rev. Villareal called for the approval of the agenda. Rev. Fogal made the motion and Rev. McDowell seconded it. The motion carried.
 - b. Rev. Villareal called for the approval of the March 19 minutes. Ms. Walker made the motion to approve the minutes with correction. The motion carried.
 - c. Ms. Loiselle attended the January meeting. Rev. Miles made the motion to correct the January meeting minutes; Ms. Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - d. Reports
 - i. Treasurer.
 1. Budget and Finance Reports. Rev. Fogal reviewed the reports. He provided an explanation of the numbers on the snapshot and the financials.
 2. The Conference is still ahead \$15,000 in OCWM monies.
 3. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Rev. Wargo and seconded by Rev. Merkel. The motion carried.
 4. Proposed Investment Policy. The Proposed Investment Policy will be on a 3-year cycle to review and to vote on it. It lays down how

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we want our funds invested. The motion to approve it came from the Budget and Finance Committee. The motion carried.

- ii. Personnel Committee Report. None
 - iii. Disaster Ministry Coordinator Report. None.
 - iv. Stewardship Task Force Report. Rev. Fogal motioned to approve the report and Rev. Schwarz-Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - v. Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development Report. Rev. Merkel and Ms. Fried moved to approve the report. The motion carried.
 - vi. Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call Report. The emphasis now is to put pastors into pulpits. Rev. McLemore preached at five different churches and attended one. Rev. McLemore described the process. A designated pastor stays in place for 18 months. The church works on its profile as the pastor walks with them. A settled search is put off until it is decided that the designated pastor is the appropriate selection. Discussion followed. A motion to approve the report was made by Rev. Schwarz-Green. The motion carried. Ms. Beth Walker moved to approve the Transition Report. Ms. Fried seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - vii. Conference Minister Report. Mask wearing will be a requirement at the Spring Annual Meeting. On June 12th, members of judicatories are invited to the worship service at Rev. McDowell's church (St. Paul's (Summer Hill) UCC. Rev. Worley made updates to his Sabbatical plan. He appointed Rev. McLemore as the acting Conference Minister in his absence. A motion was made by Rev. Fogal and seconded by Rev. Fruchtl to appoint Rev. McLemore to the acting position. Rev. Merkel moved to accept Rev. Worley's report. Rev. Schwarz-Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. Old Business.
- a. Compensation Guidelines Evaluation Taskforce. No report.
 - b. Strategic Planning Taskforce. No report.

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- c. Update on New Church Start. There needs to be conversation regarding use of future funds from closed churches. There is \$500,000 in the new start fund. Some of the money may be used for other than beginning new churches. This will be on September's agenda for discussion. Ms Walker, Rev. McLemore, Mr. Kuthuru, and Rev. Melissa Burkhart (incoming vice moderator) were tasked to gather information in preparation for the September meeting.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Spring Meeting
 - i. Vaccinations/Masks. Masks will be required.
 - ii. Ms. Walker made a motion to designate the offering taken Friday be used by congregations so they can participate in a hybrid manner. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. There was discussion. The motion was defeated. Rev. Wargo made a motion to make the Fall meeting a hybrid option. Rev. Fruchtl seconded the motion. It is expected that the Fall meeting will allow participation and voting. The Fall meeting will be held in Philadelphia. Seed money is needed to develop hybrid options for conference meetings without specific designation. A friendly amendment was made to use offerings for the Fall and future conference meetings. The motion carried.
 - iii. Speak Outs. A member of the Consistory will coordinate the speak-outs. Ms. Loiselle volunteered. Ms. Walker will help her.
 - b. Use of Discretionary Funds for Rev. Worley's Sabbatical. Discretionary budget will be used for continuing education. \$8100 is available for Rev. Worley. Mrs. Hightower moved to approve and Rev. Merkel seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - c. New Ministries Fund Team. Applications have been submitted for seed money. A new team will be formed with new Consistory members. The application deadline is June 1st. Three applications have been submitted to date. Rev. Fogal, Rev. Wargo, and Rev. Merkel volunteered to be on the team.
 - d. Rev. Mitman. Rev. Russ Mitman has pastored at Parkside UCC for ten years. On June 5th, he will end his active ministry. He should be bestowed Conference Minister Emeritus at the Fall meeting. Rev. Fruchtl made a motion to do this and Ms. Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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- e. Capital Campaign Pledge Request. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches made a request for money. There will be a reception in Harrisburg on June 16th. This money would be in addition to the \$3000 we have traditionally given them. Rev. Worley described what the Council does. There are several questions which need to be addressed prior to making a decision to honor this request. The goal of the campaign is not identified. What is the fundraising plan? Rev. Worley tasked Rev. McLemore to come back with answers.
- 6. Adjourn and Closing Prayer. Rev. Fogal made a motion to adjourn after prayer. Ms. Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Robin A. Hightower
Recording Secretary