

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
Spring Meeting at West Chester University  
June 4, 2022  
Minutes

- 9:15 am Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister, made announcements and introductions:
- 9:30 am Ministry and Mission was celebrated by recognizing Anniversary Churches.
- 10:00 am A Time of Sharing. Rev. Wanda Craner shared Reflections from Friday.
- 10:10 am Revs. Worley, McLemore, and James addressed Hope and Cope during a COVID . pandemic. How can we integrate virtual and in person congregations?
- 11:20 am Rev. Antonio Villareal called the meeting to order.
- a. Appointments. Dr. Kay Jones, St. John's (Orwigsburg) moved and Ms. Barbara Hughes, Glenside UCC seconded to appoint Mr. Charles Kuthuru to Chairman, Credentials. The motion passed with one abstention.
  - b. Credentials Report. Mr. Kuthuru reported that a total of 156 attendees were present: ninety-four clergy, fifty-seven delegates, 5 consistory lay members, 4 online, 11 visitors, 3 Members in Discernment, and 1 youth delegate. There is a Quorum.
  - c. Accept Standing Rules. Rev. Antonio Villareal presented the Standing Rules to be accepted. Rev. Homer Royer, New Goshenhoppen UCC moved to accept and Rev. Dot Shelly, Soloman's (Bedminster) UCC seconded the motion. The motion passed.
  - d. Adoption of the Minutes. Rev. Antonio Villareal presented the minutes to be adopted. Rev. Nichole Jackson, Open Table UCC moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Paul Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REPORTS

- a. Nominating Report. Rev. JoEllen Mauger, (Olivet Schwenkfelder, Ursinus Association), Chair, gave the report. She reviewed open positions and requested volunteers. Youth ages 13 to 17 may volunteer. They will have voice but no vote. Being a member of this committee helps one to understand how the wider church operates. There is a link in the packet for position descriptions on the PSEC website. A motion came from the Committee to approve the slate of officers. It was seconded by Ms. Linda Hammond, Epler's Church UCC. There was no discussion and the motion carried. There was a motion made by Committee to approve the list of delegates. Mr. Des Pringle, Salt and Light Community Church UCC seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.
- b. Treasurer's Report. Rev. Fogal reviewed the various YTD financial reports distributed prior to the meeting, pointing out specific items that merited consistory members' attention. Particularly notable was the OCWM report that showed a \$10,490 shortfall for June 30. However, many

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churches sent June contributions totaling \$34,000+ after June 30. When added in, OCWM contributions surged ahead of budget by more than \$24,000. Also, Tammie Wisniewski, Financial Operations Manager, has not taken the usual endowment draw that she typically does in June due to the severe stock market decline. Doing so would have had a negative impact on the amount withdrawn. Since the overall cash situation of the conference is strong, postponing the endowment draw will not impact any conference ministries or programs. Ms. Beth Walker, Old First Reformed UCC, moved to approve the report. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

- c. 20-21 Audit Report. Rev. Fogal stated there was a clean audit of the books with no recommendations. He thanked Tammy Wisniewski. Do not use “stewardship campaign” when talking about raising money in church. Use “appeal.” Stewardship is an underlying value of our faith. Motion to accept the report was made by Rev. Michael Caine, Old First Reformed UCC, and seconded by Mr. Paul Hightower, Peace In Zion UCC. The motion carried.
- d. Acknowledge Five for Five Churches. Rev. Villareal stated there are 62 PSEC churches, with all five Associations represented, receiving certificates today for being Five for Five churches in 2021. This means that they provided support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. Being “5 for 5” is one sign of congregational vitality in UCC churches that fully support Our Church’s Wider Mission. The churches were encouraged to share the certificate with the congregation.
- e. The pastors who have been born to eternal life were memorialized and the pastors celebrating an anniversary were celebrated. Pastors participating were Rev. Worley, Rev. McLemore, and Rev. James. Rev. Villareal called for a recess for lunch.

12:15

2:15

2:30

Speak Outs were conducted led by Ms. Mary Loiselle.

Rev. Villareal reconvened the meeting.

- a. Rev. Anne Cormier, Open Table UCC, made the motion to accept all other reports. Rev. Steven Hamilton, St. Peter’s Tohickon UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
- b. Rev. Villareal led the review and voting on revised Constitution and By-Laws. Melanie Caldwell, Collenbrook UCC, presented the changes in the By-Laws.

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1. Art V, pp. 4. Change recommended because not practiced for a long time and has impact on budget.
  2. Art VI, #9. Checks signed by treasurer. Not practiced.
  3. Church clerk position. Art 8, no. 6b. Eliminate the position. Lucy Crestina, St. Paul's UCC Pen and ink change.
  4. Art 9. 3,4, & 5 to reflect current practice.
- c. The question was asked how the Treasurer felt about not being a check signatory. The Treasurer replied that it facilitates operation.
- d. Rev. John Dawson, Schwarzwald (Jacksonwald) UCC moved and Rev. Steven Hamilton, St. Peter's Tohickon UCC seconded the motion to approve the changes. The motion carried.

Additional Reports:

- a. Report of Addiction & Recovery Task Force. The Task Force consists of Dr. Kay Jones, Cheryl Rathburn and Trish Rathburn. Dr. Jones described addiction and that it is a stigma to getting help. It is a treatable medical condition. NARCAN training in the community is a must.
- b. Report of Climate Justice Working Group. Rev. Marian Shearer. The group took last year off. But congregations did not. Plan to do next year—offer to have worship service. Rev. Zack Jackson grows worms in his kitchen. People living in certain areas suffer more from climate change effects. Push congresspersons to pass laws before them.
- c. Report of Disaster Ministries. Rev. Karl Jones Conference coordinators meet via Zoom every month. Best VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), Our Disaster Ministries received National VOAD Award. Carrie Call, Penn Central. Call for volunteers for Eastwick (Philadelphia) project. Responding to Hurricane Ida. Penn NE is training an individual to take Rev. Jones' position. Ours is one of three ministries which began in 2019.
- d. Report of Racial Justice Initiative Task Force. Rev. Anne Cormier. The report is on the PSEC webpage. The Task Force will offer book studies during advent and lent seasons. The Task Force began in 2019.
- e. Stewardship Development Mission Team. Ms. Caroline Dunleavy, Salem (Doylestown) UCC.
- f. State of the Conference Report. Rev. William Worley. Story telling is so important. Jesus is asking us to change from the inside out. The state of our union with Jesus Christ is strong. One

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third of our churches are in some place of transition. R. Consulting met with Rev Metzger. Officers will meet to see how we can crack some of these nuts. He expressed how blessed he was for the sabbatical.

Rev. Villareal asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting following closing worship. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz- Green made the motion and Ms. Sue Creswell, St. Paul's (Fleetwood) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3:45 **INSTALLATION** Revs. William Worley, Kevin McLemore, and Cean James officiated.