

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
United Church of Christ  
Consistory Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 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. Donna Fried gave a devotion
2. Those attending were: Rev. McDowell, Rev. McLemore, Rev Merkel, Rev. Wargo, Mr. Wright, Rev. Miles, Rev. Burkhart, Rev. James, Rev. Schwarz-Green, Ms Walker, Ms. Fried, Rev. Fogal, Ms. Loiselle, Mr. Kuthuru
3. Work of God's People
  - a. A motion was made by Ms. Loiselle and seconded by Ms. Fried to approve the agenda. The motion carried.
  - b. The minutes of July 16<sup>th</sup> were approved with corrections. Mrs. Susan Hanson's last name was misspelled. Ms. Walker and Rev. Miles made the motion and seconded it.
  - c. Reports
    - i. Treasurer (Rev. Fogal provided this report for the secretary)
      1. OCWM: We are grateful that OCWM contributions exceeded budget at the end of August by \$6,741.00.
      2. Investments: The market value of conference investments on December 31, 2021 was \$2,866,452.70. Because of market fluctuations, the value of our investments as of June 30, 2022 had declined to \$2,461,573.21. All funds with the United Church Foundation have now been transferred to balanced fossil free investments.
      3. Operating budget: Income and expenses are occurring largely as expected. The YTD operating deficit is \$27,199 less than anticipated. Tammie Wisniewski anticipates the year will end with a balanced operating budget.
      4. Proposed 2023 budget: Tammie produced two proposed budgets for 2023. One is a narrative spending plan that shows the

total for each category of expense, with a commentary on the purposes of each area's spending. The second is the full line-item budget, showing a proposed balanced budget of \$982,102.

5. The key assumptions in preparing the budget are a 1) pay increase of six (6) percent for all conference personnel (which reflects the PSEC personnel committee's guidelines for pastors' compensation), and 2) continuing to apply three (3) percent of the market value of investments (as of July 30, 2022) to the budget.

6. After reviewing diverse details in the proposed budget, the consistory voted to recommend the budget to the Fall Meeting of the Conference to be held on November 13, 2022.

- ii. Personnel Committee Report
    - 1. The clergy compensation guidelines for 2023 come from a committee. The committee recommends the guidelines along with communication from our CM with recommendations to suggest fair compensation.
    - 2. Correction of Rev. McLemore's Call Agreement. Rev. Wargo and Ms. Walker moved that the call agreement should be amended to include family health insurance coverage. There was no discussion and the motion carried.
  - iii. Disaster Ministry Coordinator Report. Ms Walker moved to accept the report. Rev Fogal seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - iv. Stewardship Task Force Report. Ms. Fried moved to accept the report as presented. Rev. Merkel seconded the report. The motion carried.
  - v. Associate Conference Minister Search & Call. The Conference is down to six churches in the search and call. Ms. Walker moved to accept the report as presented. Rev. Merkel seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - vi. Churches in Transition Report.
  - vii. Conference Minister Report. This did not occur during the meeting. However, two members wanted to acknowledge Rev. Worley's extensive, in depth report about his sabbatical. They found the sabbatical report to be very valuable.
- d. Old Business
    - i. Report from the Lay Leadership Education Team.
    - ii. Capital Campaign pledge request—PA Council of Churches.
    - iii. Report from conversation broadening out the use of church closure funds.
  - e. New Business.

- i. Rev. Fogal moved to appoint Rev. Josh Blakesley to the C&M Council representing PH. Ms. Fried seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - ii. Collection for the Fall Meeting. Putting the offering against Ecumenical Relations was suggested. Provide students the opportunity to talk to others to help them to establish their ministries or learn how they establish their ministries. This does not need to be an action of the Consistory. Putting together a thought group to develop the idea was suggested. Perhaps a student can speak for 5-10 minutes at the Fall Meeting. No final decision was made.
  - iii. Theme for Spring Meeting
    - 1. "Moving from Talking into Doing"
    - 2. "Shared Ministry/Shared Events"
    - 3. "From Contemplation to Action"There was discussion. A suggestion was to change #1 "to doing" engaging the world. Dropping the word, into. No decision was made.
  - iv. Ecumenical Exchange Proposal—Medak Diocese. Mr. Kuthuru addressed this proposal. No final decision was made.
  - v. Rev. Folk is working on youth activities for Synod. He suggested a task force be formed. An explanation of youth activities was requested by Rev. Folk. There was a consensus regarding Rev, Folk's requests. No decision was made who was going to put together the task force or provide an explanation of youth activities.
  - vi. Mr. Kuthuru suggested a Zoom meeting to pray about what is happening in the church and in the world. Ms. Creswell is putting together dates from which to choose.
- f. Adjourn. Ms. Fried moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Robin A. Hightower  
Secretary