

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Minutes of Consistory Meeting  
November 19, 2022  
PSEC Office and via Zoom

1. Beth Walker offered devotions.
2. Those attending were: Rev. Bill Worley, Moderator Charles Kuthuru, Tom Wright, Donna Fried, Beth Walker, Rev. Melissa Burkhart, Rev. Jeff Wargo, Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Mary Loiselle, and Secretary, Robin Hightower. Those absent were: Rev. Francis Merkel, Rev. Elaine Ely, Rev. McDowell, and Rev. Cean James.
3. Work of God's People
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:10.
  - b. Donna Fried moved to approve the agenda. Mary Loiselle seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - c. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green moved to approve the minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>. Rev Alan Miles seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - d. Reports.
    - i. Treasurer. Budget and Finance Reports. Rev. Fogal was ill and not in attendance. Rev. Worley offered that the Conference is operating in the black. All investment of money has been divested of fossil fuels. The beyond fossil fuel fund is outperforming the market average. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl moved to approve the report. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.
    - ii. Personnel Committee Report. Correction of Rev. McLemore's Call Agreement. The change agreement was passed at the last consistory meeting. There was much discussion. Beth Walker moved to table the issue. There was no second. Charles Kuthuru moved for provisional approval until pending correction in the call agreement to reflect the actual annual premium for medical and dental benefit. A friendly amendment was added by Beth Walker: " , not to exceed the cost of the UCC's Pension Board Plan A Medical, Dental, and Vision Benefits for a family of two." Mary Loiselle seconded the motion. The motion carried.
    - iii. Disaster Ministry Coordinator Report. Rev. Schwarz-Green moved to approve the report. Donna Fried seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
    - iv. Stewardship Task Force Report. Revs. Suzanne Schwarz-Green and Alan Miles moved to approve the report. The motion carried.
    - v. Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development Report. No report submitted. Rev. Worley will inquire of Rev. James about his report.
    - vi. Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call Report. Rev. Jeff Wargo moved to approve the report. Ms. Beth Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.
      - a. Churches in Transition Report. This report is part of the ACMS&C report.
    - vii. Conference Minister Report. Ms. Beth Walker described the needs of the House of Faith Baptist Church UCC of Philadelphia. The congregation has a call to minister to Logan. They are making a request to sign a petition for white Christian nationalism. The Conference needs written guidance to serve us in the future; how to make petitions written outside of our

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conference available to our members. Ms. Walker and Rev Schwarz-Green volunteered to work on this.

- a. Rev. Worley discussed the deep pain being felt in congregations due to congregants not returning to in-person or online church. There are a declining number of profiles circulating around churches. Our number of profiles are at an all-time low. Tell those who are interested what it involves to be clergy.
- b. General Synod familiarization was discussed.
- c. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl moved to approve the Conference Minister Report. Rev. Alan Miles seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**4. Old Business**

- a. Report from the Lay Leadership Education Team. No action needed.
- b. Report from the conversation broadening out the use of church closure funds. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl discussed the use of new church start money.
  - i. Some form of loan relief
  - ii. Mechanism for international students to serve our churches
  - iii. Mechanism to bring affiliate congregations with us. How much money to allot toward this and identify the parameters to spend that money. Ms. Walker, Mr. Kuthuru, and Ms. Loiselle volunteered to work together. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl will look at parameters for loan relief. No action.
- c. Fall Meeting Recap. Discussed. Mr. Charles Kuthuru recommended fasting and prayer. Pray for the leadership and churches of the conference.

**5. New Business** 1. Housing Allowances. Ms. Donna Fried moved to approve the housing allowances. Ms. Mary Loiselle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- a. Bill - \$30,000.
- b. Kevin - \$24,000.
- c. Cean - \$0.0

- a. Funding for AM21 (non-budgeted) – Amt requested: \$3516.40  
Airfare \$684.40, Hotel \$1432.00, Registrations \$800.00  
Food \$600. Authorized Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> C. Ms. Brea Rarick and

Rev. Kevin McLemore registered to attend. The meeting is being held in Atlanta. Revs. Suzanne Schwarz-Green moved to approve the money to send these two individuals to this meeting. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. Approval of Rev. Karl Jones to join Budget & Finance Committee. This motion came from the Nominating Committee, only needs a second. Ms. Donna Fried seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- c. Review of Proposed Revised Records Retention Policy. Change gives staff permission to digitize files and not keep paper files. Rev. Kevin Fruchtl. and Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green moved to accept. No discussion. Motion carried. Rev. Kevin

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Fruchtl moved to give the staff permission. Rev. Schwarz-Green seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

- d. Change of date for January meeting (28<sup>th</sup> or Vice Moderator). There was consensus to have the Vice Moderator chair the January meeting and keep the same meeting date in January.
- 6. Adjourn. Ms. Beth Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mary Loiselle seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Robin A. Hightower  
Secretary