

The Church & Ministry Council Report
The Spring Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
June 2 and 3, 2023

The Church & Ministry Council exists to streamline processes shared across the 5 Associations of the PSEC to strengthen the church. Specific foci include clergy accountability and support and Member-in-Discernment (MID) training and support. The Council strives to strengthen the work of each Association through its Committee on Ministry (COM).

The Council is made up of two representatives of each COM, with an awareness of balance between clergy and lay; a Dean, and a Clerk. The Associate Conference Minister and Conference Minister are ex-officio, non-voting members.

Teams and sub-committees of the Council are: Congregational Development, PSEC Ministerial Ethics with Fitness Review Response Teams, the Joint Mid-Assessment Team (JMAT), and the recently formed Retiree Committee.

The Council meets at least quarterly, and usually six times a year via Zoom. For the past two years, the Conference has generously treated the Council to a luncheon, for face-to-face community building while addressing the agenda.

Each meeting begins with a centering devotion and concludes with prayer.

Highlights of the Council's work since the Spring 2022 meeting include:

- Council approved 1 boundary and 2 diversity trainings that were created beyond PSEC's offerings. Diversity training is required of all active clergy, along with boundary training and continuing education hours, to maintain standing in their association.
- Approved affiliation process for churches seeking to join with the UCC.
- Discussion continues on the following topics:
 - How best to define "retired" status and help clergy who desire to offer occasional ministries;
 - How to support local churches through the pastoral supply list and lay leaders;
 - Manual on Church – coming eventually from the national office, but in PSEC in the meantime, how do we hold churches accountable for the decisions made by their Associations?
 - How do we create a "culture of call" within our churches to encourage people to become equipped for ministry?

Submitted by Rev. Frances Chester, Dean
April 26, 2023

Members of Church & Ministry Council as of April 2023

Ms. Brea Rarick, Clerk
Mr. Carl Altenderfer and Ms. Becky Comer (Covenant)
Rev. Darryl Cruz and Rev. Elaine Ely (N. Penn)
Dr. Bob Robinson and Rev. Josh Blakesley (Philadelphia);
Rev. Kevin Duffy-Guy and Ms. Jennie Strauch (Schuylkill)
Ms. Laura Walters and Rev. Nick Pence (Ursinus)