

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
Fall Meeting  
In-Person and via Zoom  
Salt & Light Community Church UCC  
November 13, 2022

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Fall Meeting was held on November 13, 2022 at Salt & Light Community Church UCC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Opening Worship began at 3:00 PM. Following worship, Mr. Charles Kuthuru, Conference Moderator, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the Conference Minister, Rev. William P. Worley. Rev. Worley introduced the pastor of Salt & Light Community Church UCC, Rev. Sean James. Rev. James talked about the church and how it came into being. He greeted all of us on behalf of his congregation. Rev. Worley introduced the members of the Tech Team, Consistory Officers, Consistory Members, and Staff.

Mr. Kuthuru introduced the Dean of the Church & Ministry Council, Rev. Frances Chester. Following her introduction, the Moderators of the Five Associations were introduced by Mr. Kuthuru.

Mr. Kuthuru introduced Dr. Joseph Birli, CEO, Bethany Children's Home. Dr. Birli thanked the members of the Conference for its support of the Home. He described the Brick Program and encouraged the purchase of a monogrammed brick which will be placed in the walkway at the Home.

A special presentation was made. The Rev. Dr. F. Russell Mittman was named Conference Minister Emeritus. His wife, Ruth, joined him on the stage.

The business session was called to order at 4:07 PM by Moderator, Mr Kuthuru.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda. Rev. Anne Cormier, member, Open Table UCC, moved to accept the agenda. Rev Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Trinity Reformed UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
2. Appointments. Rev. Jenny Smith, Olivet-Schwenkfelder UCC, moved to appoint Rev. Melissa Burkhart, Pleasantville UCC, to the Credentials Committee. Mr. Dez Pringle, Salt & Light Community Church UCC seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
3. Credentials Report. Ms. Karen Peterson, St. Andrew UCC, moved to accept the Credentials Report. Rev. Denise Stratham, Living Water UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
4. Accept Standing Rules. Ms. Beth Walker, Old First Reformed UCC, moved to accept the Standing Rules. Rev. Venord Cowan, Woodcrest UCC, seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. Adoption of the 2022 Annual Spring Meeting Minutes. Ms. Beth Walker, Old First Reformed UCC, moved to adopt the 2022 Annual Spring Meeting Minutes. Rev. David Heckler, Christ Church of the UCC, seconded the motion. There were no changes discussed. The motion carried and the minutes were adopted.
6. Election of Appointed Members to the Church and Ministry Council. The following appointed members are being elected: Ms. Becky Comier (CV), Rev. Elaine Ely (NP), and Rev. Josh Blakesley (PH). This motion is coming from committee and needs a second motion. Rev. Tony Villareal, Zwingli UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried. These individuals are elected.
7. Report of Addiction and Recovery Task Force. Mrs. Cheryl Rathbun and Mrs. Trish Rathbun, both church delegates for St. Peter's Tohickon, spoke about their experience with addiction and recovery. They are 17 and 22 years clean, respectively. Both Rev. Josh Blakesley and Rev. Deborah Clemens spoke about treating addicted individuals where they are, and not passing judgement on them.

8. Report of Environmental Task Force. This report was made by Rev. Marian Shearer, Calvary UCC. The Climate Justice Working Group has developed an eco-worship service which has been presented twice. The Group has applied for money in next year's budget for more local church green awards. Rev. Barbara Pence, Peace In Zion UCC, has agreed to become a co-convenor with Rev. Shearer. Rev. Karl Jones will remain on the team and continue to send out resources.
9. Report of Disaster Ministries. This report was made by Rev. Jenny Smith, Oliver-Schwenkfelder UCC. Rev. Smith thanked Rev. Karl Jones for his support. A Preparedness manual for churches is on the UCC website. One can train to be a disaster chaplain online. There are resiliency workshops available addressing the aftermath of disasters.
10. Report of Racial Justice Initiative. Rev. Anne Cormier, Open Table UCC made this report. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a facilitated discussion on the movie, "Till." Rev. Cormier spoke about various books which will be used for studies. There is a racial justice webpage on the PSEC website.
11. 2022 Financial Report. Rev. Bob Fogal, Conference Treasurer, gave the 2022 Financial Report. All of our investments are in a beyond fossil fuel balanced fund. The report is given as a recommendation from the Conference Consistory. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Trinity Reformed UCC, seconded the motion to approve the report. There were 104 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. The motion carried to accept the report.
12. Presentation from the Stewardship Committee. Caroline Dunleavy, Chair of the Stewardship Committee gave a presentation on stewardship. Ms. Tammie Wisniewski, Conference Financial Operations Manager, relayed that 10% of OCWM monies to the National Church. She also spoke about tithing; our hands and feet are the local churches.
13. Presentation of 2023 Spending Plan. Rev. Bob Fogal, Treasurer, presented the 2023 Spending Plan. He responded to the few questions that were asked. There was a question about the amount of money put against travel. Rev. Fogal indicated that it has diminished. The Plan is coming from the Consistory. Rev. Tony Villareal, Zwingli UCC, seconded the motion to accept the 2023 Spending Plan. There were two nays and two abstentions. The motion carried.
14. Rev. Venord Cowan, Woodcrest UCC, moved to adjourn the Business Session. Rev. Dr. Kris Hayden, St. Peter's UCC Wilshire, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rev. Kevin McLemore closed the meeting. The day ended at 5:30 PM.