

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2021 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!

1. The following members were in attendance: Robin Hightower, Secretary, Rev. Bob Fogal, Treasurer, Mr. Tom Wright, Rev. Susanne Schwarz-Green, Ms. Donna Fried and Rev. Susan Minasian, Rev. Cean James, Rev. Frances Merkel, Ms. Beth Walker, Rev. Bill Worley, Ms. Mary Loiselle, and Rev. Ken McDowell .

2. Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green gave the devotions.

3. The Work of God's People.

a. Rev. Villareal welcomed two new members: Covenant Association member, Rev Frances Merkel, and Philadelphia Association member, Ms. Mary Loiselle.

b. Rev. Villareal convened the meeting at 9:15 am.

c. Ms. Walker and Rev Fruchtl moved to approve of the Meeting Agenda. The motion carried.

d. The following minutes were approved as presented: September 18 and October 27.

e. The Secretary had no communications to relay.

f. Reports.

1. Treasurer. Rev. Bob Fogal presented a financial snapshot as of October 31. 2021 actual expenses are \$538,000. Operating budget is stable. Rev. Schwarz-Green and Ms. Beth Walker moved to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee. The report was sent to the Consistory. The chair was not present. Ms. Beth Walker and Rev. Fruchtl moved to accept the Personnel Committee report. The motion carried.

3. Disaster Ministry Coordinator Report. Rev. Karl Jones was not present. Rev. Jones has two items for Consistory action.

a. "To support the PNEC hosting the annual gathering of the UCC Disaster Coordinators in Philadelphia, April 29 – May 2, 2022." Rev. Schwarz-Green and Ms. Beth Walker moved to approve the request. Discussion followed specifically regarding a question of funding and whether the PSEC is hosting the event. Motion to table was made by Rev. Jeff Wargo and Mr. Tom Wright. The motion carried.

b. "The Susquehanna Mission Team of the Penn Northeast Conference is

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planning a program to urge their churches to support disaster ministries financially. The ask is for \$5 a member. They are planning to create some videos and other resources for use throughout 2022. They have asked that both the Penn Northeast Conference and PA Southeast Conference participate in the program. Both Conference Ministries have given their go ahead to plan. There is still much to do – like determine who will receive the money and how it will be used in PSEC. However, I ask that the Consistory give approval to participate in the planning. A report will be given at the January meeting.” Rev. Ken McDowell and Rev. Bob Fogal made a motion to approve Rev. Jones’ participation and approach congregations with this mission opportunity. The ask is a one-time contribution of \$5.00 per a congregation member. A motion was also made by Rev. McDowell and Ms. Walker in participating in this plan as outlined. Discussion followed. Rev. Villareal views this action as a capital campaign. The motions carry unanimously.

4. Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development Report. Rev. James is willing to attend association meetings to introduce something new to congregations. A motion to approve the report was made by Rev. Fruchtl and Rev. Schwarz-Green. The motion carried.

5. Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call Report. Churches in Transition Report. Rev. Minasian expressed a concern that some churches are waiting too long to get started on securing a supply or interim pastors. A motion to approve the report was made by Rev. Fogal and Ms. Loiselle. The motion carried.

6. Conference Minister Report. The distribution of St. Thomas’ assets is being disputed and the issue is now in the hands of the Pennsylvania State Attorney General. Rev. Worley will present a sabbatical plan at the January meeting. Robin Hightower and Rev. Fogal made a motion to approve the proposed sabbatical dates. The motion carried.

4. Old Business

- a. Fall Meeting 2021 Recap. Tech back-up is very important. Rev. Villareal thanked many people who assisted with technical difficulties that cropped up during the meeting.
- b. Compensation Guidelines Evaluation Taskforce – no report
- c. Strategic Planning Taskforce – no report
- d. Tech Person Sub-contractor—Sue Creswell and Rev. Worley talked to a tech company in Reading about creating a series of videos. Asked Jim Gray, Video Works Production.

5. New Business

- a. 2022 Housing allowances. Revs. Schwarz-Green and Wargo made a motion to approve the allowances. Rev. Minasian will only need an allowance for January and February so it will be adjusted when Rev. McLemore arrives. The allowances are as follows.

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- Rev. Worley \$30,000
- Rev. Minasian \$12,200.00
- Rev. James -0-

The motion did not carry. The allowances need to be accepted; not approved. The motion was adjusted. There was one abstention. The motion carried.

b. January Consistory meeting. If held in-person at the PSEC office; it would be scheduled for 10:00am.

6. Adjournment Rev. Schwarz-Green moved for adjournment at 11:15. The meeting was adjourned.

Robin A. Hightower
Secretary