

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
Spring Meeting  
West Chester University  
Conferring Session  
June 3, 2023**

9:15 am

Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister, made announcements and introductions. Rev. Worley announced that Rev. Wanda Craner died on June 1, 2023. The introductions included: Rev. Elena Larsen, Generosity Officer, Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication, UCC National Ministries. Her role is to help churches explore and discern their generosity side. She will be available to anyone who wants to discuss/ask questions about what she can do for congregations. Rev. Worley introduced the PSEC staff. He introduced the Dean of the Church & Ministry Council, Rev. Frances Chester (CV) and the Church & Ministry Council. Rev. Worley then introduced the Conference Moderator, Mr. Charles Devasukumar Kuthuru. Grace-Trinity UCC.

The ecumenical partnership we have with Christian friends in India was described. Mr. Kuthuru explained the significance of special Indian towels. He presented towels to Rev. Elena Larson, Mr. Tim Wagner, Rev. Jenny Smith, Phoebe Ministries, Rev. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister, Pennsylvania Northeast Conference, and Rev. Carrie Call, Conference Minister, Pennsylvania Central Conference.

Mr. Kuthuru introduced the Moderators of the Five Associations and the Consistory Members. He introduced the Members in Discernment. There are currently 10 Members in Discernment. Two are in attendance. The Worship Team, the Tech Team, and the Planning Team were introduced. Rev. Kevin McLemore offered a prayer.

9:55 am

Moderator, Charles Kuthuru called the Conferring Session to order.

1. Appointments. Mr. Robert Ames, St. Paul's (Fleetwood) UCC moved and Rev. Ann Few, Falkner Swamp, moved to appoint Rev. Melissa Burkhart as Chairman, Credentials. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. Ms. Beth Walker, Old First Reformed Church UCC, made a point of order. She asked that those making motions and seconding motions stand, state their names, and their church.
2. Credentials Report. Rev. Burkhart presented the Credentials Report. There were 152 voting members present, so there was a quorum. Mr. Paul Hightower, Peace In Zion UCC, moved to accept the Credentials Report. Ms. Mary Butash, Saint Mark's UCC seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.
3. Accept Standing Rules. Mr. Kuthuru asked for a motion to accept the standing rules. Ms. JoAnne Cooper, St. John's (Phoenixville) UCC made the motion and Rev. Tony Villareal, Zwingli UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.
4. Adoption of Minutes. Mr. Kuthuru asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Rev. David Heckler, Christ Church (Trumbauersville) UCC made the motion. The motion was seconded by Rev. Frances Merkel, St. John's Gernants Church. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the minutes were adopted.

**Reports**

1. Nominating Report. The Nominating Report was presented by Rev. JoEllen Mauger, Olivet-Schwenkfelder UCC, Chairman. She identified the openings in each committee and invited members to fill the vacancies. The report comes from the committee and needs no motion to approve. A vote was taken and the report was accepted.

2. General Synod 2023 Delegates. There were several corrections made to the Delegate 2023 list, all corrections to names. They are as follows: Rev. Nichole Jackson, Rev. Dr. James Mills, Rev. Dwayne Mosier, and Mr. Allen Benner-Smith. A vote was taken to accept the corrected list and the list was accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Robert Fogal, Carversville Christian UCC, Treasurer presented the report. There is \$2.6M in our endowment but that is still less than it had been. 79% of what the Conference does comes from OCWM. Currently, OCWM giving is about \$15,000 behind what was projected for this point in the year. Adopting a theology of scarcity is one of the most serious obstacles in our congregations.
4. 2021-2022 Audit Report. Rev. Robert Fogal reported that our audit was "clean."
5. Acknowledge Five for Five Churches. Of our 151 PSEC churches, 55 will receive certificates for being Five for Five churches in 2022. Being '5 for 5' is one sign of congregational vitality in UCC churches that fully support Our Church's Wider Mission.
6. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, 2020-2021 Audit Report, and all other Reports. Rev. Ann Few moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, the 2020-2021 Audit Report, and all other Reports be accepted. Rev. Dr. Stephen Ohnsman, Calvary Reformed (Rdg) UCC, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.
7. State of the Conference Report. The State of the Conference Report was given by Conference Minister, Rev. William Worley. The Conference is taking funds of closing churches to open Open Table UCC, Pottstown. The Revs. Jackson rendered a report. This summer, they will be out in the community. Rev. Worley closed his report saying, "The state of the Conference is fine."
8. Rev. Anne Cormier, Open Table UCC, moved to adjourn the conferring session following the Recognition of Pastors. Rev. Ann Few seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

**Installation of Officers** The following individuals were installed into the Conference Consistory: Rev. Alan Miles, Zwingli UCC, Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, St. Marks Cressona/St. John's Schuylkill Haven, Mr. Charles Kuthuru, Grace-Trinity UCC, Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Trinity Reformed (Collegeville), Rev. Melissa Burkhardt, Pleasantville UCC, Rev. Robert Fogal, Carversville Christian UCC, Ms. Caroline Dunleavy, Salem (Doylestown) UCC, Rev. Karl Jones, Saint Mark's UCC, Ms. Donna Fried, New Goshenhoppen UCC, Ms. Mary Loiselle, Armenian Martyr's Congregational UCC, Mr. Tom Wright, Maiden creek UCC and Rev. Selina Hamilton, Rosedale UCC.

**Recognition of Pastors**. Rev. Worley recognized those pastors who have died since the last spring meeting. He then led an Anniversary Pastor Celebration of pastors with five years of ordination to 60 years of ordination. Rev. Robert Maisenheimer, Jr., UCC Robesonia, and his wife, Sue, were present. Rev. Masenheimer's 60 years of ordination was celebrated.

**Adjournment**. The Conferring Session was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Robin A. Hightower  
Secretary