

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
Minutes for Fall Meeting, November 9, 2024  
@ Good Shepherd Tuckerton & via Zoom**

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Fall Meeting was held on November 9, 2024, at Good Shepherd UCC in Reading, Pennsylvania. Opening Worship began at 10:00 am and was led by Rev. Linda Kozlowski and Pianist, Ms. Caroline Dunleavy. Following worship, Rev. Melissa Burkhart, Conference Moderator, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the Conference Minister, Rev. William P. Worley. Rev. Worley introduced the Pastor of Good Shepherd/Tuckerton UCC, Rev. Linda Kozlowski, and thanked Good Shepherd for their hospitality, as well as Ms. Dunleavy for stepping in as pianist last minute. Rev. Worley introduced the members of the Tech Team, Consistory Officers, Consistory Members, and Conference Staff.

Rev. Burkhart introduced and welcomed the Dean of the Church & Ministry Council, Rev. Suzanne Spaulding, as well as the Moderators of the five PSEC Associations.

The business session was called to order at 10:22 am by Moderator, Rev. Burkhart.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
2. Acceptance of the Standing Rules
3. Adoption of the 2023 Annual Spring Meeting Minutes
4. Appointment – Mr. Robert Ames, Vice Moderator, as Credentials Chair.

The above reports and appointment were made as one motion by Rev. Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Trinity UCC, Collegeville and seconded by Rev. Anne Cormier, Open Table UCC, Pottstown. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

5. Credentials Report – Mr. Robert Ames, Vice Moderator reported that there were 138 clergy, 115 church delegates, 6 lay leaders present which did constitute a quorum. There were also 14 guests and 1 MID in attendance. Motion to accept the Credentials Report made by Ms. Donna Fried, New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville and seconded by Rev. Alan Miles, Zwingli UCC, Souderton. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
6. Presentation of the General Synod Motion to Merge the Pennsylvania UCC Conferences – following a brief presentation by both Moderator, Rev. Burkhart and PSE Conference Minister, Rev. Worley, the following motion (Having come from committee it did require a “second”). “I move that the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference adopts the motion “Motion of Penn West, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Penn Northeast Conferences to join together to form the Keystone Conference’ and submits it to General Synod 35.”

Discussion from the floor began at 10:31 am and ended at 11:11 am, followed by a vote by written paper ballot.

The results of the vote from all four Pennsylvania Conferences was shared following the Anniversary Churches and Pastors Presentation, and the Generosity Mission Team report. PSEC's results were 246 in favor, 19 opposed, and 2 abstentions. The motion carried. The other three Pennsylvania conference all had results exceeding the 2/3 requirement for adoption. The motion passed and goes to General Synod 35.

7. Anniversary Churches and Pastors Presentation – Churches and Pastors celebrating anniversaries were recognized in a presentation by Rev. Worley.
8. Generosity Mission Team – Rev. Bill Worley gave this presentation. The presentation included an acknowledgement and celebration of PSEC's 5 for 5 congregations and the work that has been done around the Conference and beyond thanks to OCWM contributions.
9. 2024 Endowment – report was online for review.
10. 2024 Treasurer's Report – Rev. Ken McDowell, Treasurer, gave the 2024 Financial Report. As of the end of August 2024, OCWM giving is approximately \$4,600 ahead of budget and the overall variance from budget is a deficit of \$44,890.
11. 2025 Spending Plan – Rev. Ken McDowell, Treasurer, presented the 2025 Spending Plan. The 2025 Spending Plan includes a \$39,187 deficit which would be covered by money in savings should OCWM contributions not meet the budgeted deficit. Of important note, the 2025 budget reflects a prediction of a 3% decline in OCWM income. Conference Consistory voted to increase the draw from endowment funds from 3% to 7% which is approximately \$45,000. Human resources / staff costs remain the largest portion of the budget which, in 2025, includes a 3% increase for staff salaries. Motion to approve the 2025 Spending Plan made by Ms. Alexis Ames, Calvary UCC, Reading and is seconded by Rev. Ann Few, Falkner Swamp UCC, Gilbertsville. The motion carried with 1 abstention.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rev. Jenny Smith, Pleasantville UCC, Chalfont and seconded by Rev. Selina Hamilton, Rosedale UCC, Laureldale. The motion carried.

Rev. Kevin McLemore closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting ended at 12:44 pm.