



November 17, 2024

Recap of PSEC Fall Meeting

Greetings, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference!

The Fall meeting on Saturday at the beautiful Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Tuckerton, included a packed sanctuary, meaningful opening worship led by Rev. Linda Kozlowski, and a full agenda—many thanks to Rev. Kozlowski and Good Shepherd Church for their warm hospitality and inviting spirit.

After worship, the Pastors, Lay Leaders, and guests entered the business portion of the meeting with the Conference Consistory and Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley, after Vice-Moderator Mr. Robert Ames, brought us the excellent news of quorum. With oversight from our Parliamentarian, Mr. Harry Rosenthal, Rev. Worley led us into the conversation around the Keystone Merger motion, which passed with all four conferences offering 90% or better 'yes' votes. We are grateful to our Siblings in Christ, who shared their thoughts on the Keystone Conference Merger, asked questions, and moved us forward to a time of voting that was complimentary to the work of the Keystone Working Group, the process, and the dedication and leadership of the four Pennsylvania Conference Ministers. Conference Consistory collected and tallied the votes under the supervision of Parliamentarian Mr. Rosenthal. We finished our vote a little early as we waited for the four Conference Zoom call; joy could be heard by all in the sanctuary as voices joined together in song. Cheers erupted in the Good Shepherd's pews when the four PA Conference Ministers expressed their results through the Zoom call a little after noon!

Conference Minister Rev. Worley took a moment to recognize and honor the significant anniversaries of our conference churches. Our churches, which have received 5 for 5 status, were also highlighted. Following these acknowledgments, Rev. Worley engaged with Associate Conference Ministers Rev. Kevin McLemore and Rev. Cean James, a presentation of clergy years of service honoring 5 - 70-year

ordination anniversaries. The community celebrated with these pastors, showing our deep appreciation and respect for their dedicated service. We honored Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel with a plaque for her 65 years and Rev. Ed Gobrecht for his 60 years, who both kindly shared a few words.

After a presentation by our Treasurer, Rev. Ken McDowell, who shared the 2024 budget as it stands, followed by OCWM contributions, and presented a clear proposed 2025 budget, including a 3% increase for our incredible Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Staff, those gathered voted to pass the 2025 deficit budget. We are grateful for the work of Ms. Caroline Dunleavy and the Generosity Missions Team, and we are ahead in our OCWM giving for the year.

To those who gathered online, we thank you for your participation in the voting and discussion processes. Blessed by the expertise of the Technical Team of Rev. Folk and Rev. Jackson, you were a valued part of this historical PSE Conference meeting.

Thanks be to God for the presence of the Holy as we gathered, caught up with old friends and made some new acquaintances. Blessed be the work of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Staff, Consistory, Keystone Working Group, and all the folks engaged in transition conversations in the year ahead. God bless the word and work of our church's, pastors, staff, and lay leadership among our conference. God is good All the time, and all the time, God is Good.

God Bless you,

Rev. Melissa A. Burkhart, PSEC Moderator



For church leaders: How to negotiate a Call Agreement Nov. 19th @ 7:00 pm viz zoom

Church leaders: whether your church is getting ready to call a new pastor, make a change to your current pastor's agreement, or you're anticipating a retirement in the coming years, this online workshop on Nov. 19 is for you.

You'll learn about the various elements found in our standard PSEC call agreement, the process we use to create the agreement, common problems, and how to negotiate the details from a position of knowledge and wisdom. For more information and to register, go to psec.org, click on Events & News, click on Calendar and go to November 19th and click on the event.