Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Spring Conference Meeting (Held Virtually by ZOOM)  
Saturday, April 17, 2021   9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington, PA

Afternoon Business Session

Nominating Committee Report
The Moderator then asked Rev. Todd Fennell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to come forward with the report from the Nominating Committee. First, he read the list of individuals who completed their terms of service on various bodies within the Conference and extended thanks for their time and commitment. He then referred delegates to the Report of the Nominating Committee and biographical information on each nominee which are in the Advance Reports, Pages 8 through 13. Todd moved the adoption of the Nominating Committee Report. Since the recommendation is from a Committee, it did not require a second. He asked if there were additional nominations for positions listed in the Nominating Committee Report. Hearing none, Todd asked for a motion that the nominations be closed. Martin Nuscher made a motion that the nominations be closed, Rebecca Sausser seconded it. Delegates were asked to vote to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously, and the Secretary was asked to cast an unanimous ballot for everyone listed on the Nominating Committee Report.

Ministry Recognitions
Moderator Taylor asked Rev. Robison, Chair of the Oversight Working Group, and Rev. Dr. Stevenson, Vice Chair, to announce the names of authorized ministers celebrating anniversaries of ordination. These individuals are listed on page 14 and 15 of the Advance Reports. They read the names aloud and photos were shown of recent presentations of recognition plaques to Rev. Harry Keppley (50th anniversary), Rev. Jeffrey Kistler (50th anniversary) and Rev. Allan Kramer Moyer (50th anniversary)

Recognizing Open and Affirming Churches
Rev. Dr. Bates announced the churches in PNEC who are Open and Affirming. They are: 
Faith UCC, Center Valley; St. John UCC, Riegelsville; New Creation UCC, Easton; St. John’s UCC, Allentown; Trinity Reformed UCC, Bloomsburg; St. John’s UCC Fullerton, Whitehall; and, Zion Reformed UCC, Allentown

Additional Ministerial Recognitions
Rev Dr. Bates announced new ministers in the Conference since our Fall Meeting 2020. They are:
Jan Remer-Osborn, Designated Pastor, New Beginnings Charge: St. Peter’s, Bloomsburg and Trinity, Rock Glen; Matthew Mardis LeCroy, College Hill Presbyterian, Easton; Patti Hoyt, Designated Pastor, Trinity, Pleasant Valley; and, James LeVan, St. John’s, Slatington.

She then remembered all those PNEC pastors who died since the last Conference meeting (Fall 2020) and listed their date of death: Rev. Harold Thomas Hershberger (3/18/20), retired living in Colorado Spring, CO, and Rev. Kenneth Fuller (2/23/21), was serving St. John’s UCC, Riegelsville when he died.

**Recognizing Churches Who Have Closed**

Rev. Dr. Bates offered a word about two PNEC churches which closed in 2020; namely: Hope UCC, Allentown and St. James UCC, Sheppton.

**General Synod Update**

An invitation video to the 33rd General Synod, July 11-18, was viewed. This is the first time General Synod will be virtual. Rev. Dr. Bates gave an overview of the speakers and resolutions before Synod.

**Pennsylvania Council of Churches**

Rev. Dr. Bates introduced Rev. Larry Pickens, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Rev. Pickens, an authorized minister in PNEC, was recently elected to this position. He spoke about the work of Council: support of migratory workers, campground ministries, counseling services to travelers on Route80; and advocating issues with lawmakers in Harrisburg (the location of the PA Council of Churches as well).

**Celebrating PNEC**

Rev. Dr. Bates spoke about all the wonderful ministries happening in PNEC. She mentioned the $5,000 recovery grant from the National Church for a private bridge to help a family in need with a disabled son – just one example of what we can do working together. Other examples include: mental health educational events; Racial justice initiatives; grants to churches from the GEM Fund; grants to lay individuals through the YEA Fund and GTW Fund; as well as, a large number of grants to authorized ministers for their continuing education through the William T. Longsdorf Scholarship Fund administered by the Committee on Ministry. Bonnie referred to Page 18 of the Advance Reports where she lists the Conference Goals which are:

- Goal 1. Design and implement workshops which support lay leadership of congregations and strengthen their collaboration with their bi-vocational or part time ministers.
• Goal 2. Develop and implement models/methods for collaboration and cooperation between congregations, ministers, the UCC, other denominations, and/or interfaith communities.
• Goal 3. Identify new/innovative sources of funding to support the ministries and financial health of the conference.
• Goal 4. Engage local congregations in identifying who they are, who their neighbor is, and who God is calling them to be in order to determine their congregation's future (legacy) and/or to improve congregational vitality.
• Goal 5. Provide educational opportunities, support, covenantal relationships, and oversight to potential, currently serving and retired authorized ministers.

She concluded by saying what a joy it is serve among us and asked us to share our love with one another.

Installation of Officers, Board and Committee Members, and General Synod Delegates
Rev. Dr. Bates asked all who were elected today and those currently serving in positions with the Penn Northeast including Delegates to the 33rd General Synod to stand in their places to be installed. She led all these leaders through the covenant promises found on Page 17 of the Advance Reports.

Adjournment
Moderator Taylor and Rev. Dr. Bates sincerely thanked all those involved in the planning and execution of this meeting. Special thanks go to staff members Barbara Jennings and Patty Rehrig, Joanne and Jim Marchetto and Doug Lander for coordinating all the technology, and Barbara Hanks, Bob Gutekunst, James Gottwald and the Conference Planning Team. Moderator Taylor announced the Fall Conference Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2021. Rev. Martin Nuscher made the motion to adjourn the 2021 Spring Meeting and Rev. James Robison seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned. Conference Minister Bates offered a closing prayer.