

Pastor's Report to Consistory-June 5, 2017

May was a month of catching up on things that had been put off until after Easter, particularly with my responsibilities to the wider church. I now serve as the United Church of Christ Representative on the Theology and Education Committee of Christian Associates, an ecumenical organization that includes the heads of all the judicatories of various Christian Traditions in Western PA. We are currently delving into Christian and Moslem relations. I also taught my class, United Church of Christ Covenant and Polity at the Penn West Academy on May 13. I would love to see some of our own members audit some of the courses offered at the Academy which meets 4 times a year. Options are Old and New Testament, Church History, Worship and Preaching, Theology and UCC Covenant and Polity.

I sit on the Penn West Conference Committee on Ministry which met on May 23. I also chair the Penn West Conference Transformation and Renewal Team which met via conference call. I had three other meetings this month within the life of our congregation: Christian Education, Women's Fellowship and Pastoral Relations.

The Ladies' Lunch and Laughter Event that was hosted by our Women's Fellowship was a huge success and I thank everyone who helped, including Rheba Salac, who initiated the idea and did much of the planning.

On Sunday, June 4 we had a wonderful celebration of Confirmation as Isabella Long, Claire Hartung and Brenna Driscoll affirmed their baptismal vows. I want to thank Robin Brautigam who was my co-teacher for the class for the past two years, Elaine DiFranco for the beautiful table decorations and Matt Brautigam for preparing the brunch that followed. We had about 60 people attend the brunch and the girls and their families were most appreciative of our love and support.

Trude Hayes has consented to be co-administrator on our Facebook Page. She and I met on June 2, and I have reached out to Deirdre Hainsworth, who led a workshop that I attended, for help. Deirdre is a United Church of Christ Minister, and works in training people about millennials and social media. She and Trude and I will have a conference call on June 8 to work out some of the bugs.

I will be taking vacation June 26 through July 9 and July 31 through August 6. Don Watkins, a lay preacher who is a member of First Reformed Church UCC in Greensburg will preach on July 2 and there will NOT be Communion on that Sunday. The Rev. Bobbie Hine will preach on July 9 and Bob McKie will preach and officiate at Communion on August 6. Ira will be away from June 25 through July 16. Fred will cover every Sunday, except July 2 when Kelly Millar will play. We wish Ira safe travels as she goes to visit her family in Russia.

Respectfully submitted,



Meredith Hutchison