

Pastor's Report to Consistory  
July 10, 2017

Since the last Consistory meeting I attended the Penn West Conference Annual Meeting at Cal U on June 9-10, along with Don McIlvaine, who served as our delegate from the church. Please note that we are entitled to 3 delegates, besides the pastor plus a youth delegate. I am hoping that next year we will have a better representation from Denmark Manor. Even if the delegates do not want to stay overnight, there is the commuting option, and, persons can come for just one day if they so choose. In this month's Hilltop Echoes I wrote about covenant, and how our relationships within the United Church of Christ depend on faithfulness to the covenant that we have with other UCC churches, which means showing up at Association Meetings and Conference Annual Meeting. Recently we completed the three-way covenant between me, Denmark Manor, and the Westmoreland Association. This is a declaration that we recognize that God works in relationships, but relationships cannot function unless we are present with one another and take responsibility for one another.

Along the lines of covenant, there is a resolution coming before all the Associations at their Fall Meetings (ours is on the afternoon of October 29 at First UCC in Irwin). In the past, for clergy to keep their standing, which is the authorization to serve in any association of the Conference, pastors were required to take Boundary Awareness Training once every five years. The resolution, which comes from the Penn West Conference Committee on Ministry, proposes annual training in a variety of subjects including boundary awareness, racism awareness, addiction, child abuse, elder abuse and other issues that are important for clergy. I support the resolution, and believe that it will be of great benefit in strengthening the ministry of the Penn West Conference.

On July 17, I officiated at the wedding of Danielle (Adamson) and Dan Goulding. I have been visiting with several of our members as well as our shut-ins over the past month. I had a wonderful vacation from June 26-July 9, attending an 8-day silent retreat in Charleston, West Virginia. I also had the opportunity to visit the church where my maternal grandmother was baptized and confirmed. A reminder that I will be taking one more week of vacation from July 31 through August 6. The Rev. Robert McKie will be preaching and officiating at communion on August 6.

Respectfully submitted,



Meredith Hutchison