

Pastor's Report to Consistory
April 3, 2017

The month of March was a time when I did a great deal of planning for the Cluster gathering on April 5, and Holy Week and Easter. Also, the Sunday worship for March 26 and April 2 involved more than the usual amount of planning because the readings were long, and I utilized the choir as many voices in the telling of the story of Nicodemus and the Raising of Lazarus.

During this month, I met with the Pastoral Relations Committee and we went over my Terms of Call for 2017. Something new (to us) that is being implemented in the United Church of Christ, that we have yet to address is what is called a "Three Way Covenant". It is an agreement between the Denmark Manor, the Westmoreland Association and me. I will work on this after Easter. (See attached). The Westmoreland Association Committee on Ministry is developing a template that is more user friendly than what is attached. We do these covenants to remind ourselves that we are not lone rangers, and that we have connections within the church which involve mutual support and accountability.

We struggled with the weather not cooperating, but finally the Women's Fellowship was able to meet on March 29 to discuss plans for the Ladies' Lunch and Laughter which will be held on May 20. The Fellowship will meet again on May 10.

At the request of our Conference Minister, I am serving on the Theology and Education Committee for Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania. This is an ecumenical organization that brings together judicatory leaders (bishops, conference ministers, etc.) from the many traditions of Christianity in Southwestern PA. Currently, my committee is looking at Christian/Muslim relations.

I attended a workshop on Social Media and learned a great deal about the power that social media has in reaching out to Millennials. We really need to up our game in terms of using Facebook, and I am going to ask a lay member of our congregation to be an administrator on the Church's Facebook Page along with myself.

The Cluster Gatherings to date have been a success, and hopefully sparked some interest among the churches into continuing conversations about reimagining church. It certainly fits into the conversations that the Consistory is having with the book Our Iceberg Is Melting.

Today I got the report on our totals for the 2016 CROP Walk. They were better than I expected, because I knew that we had not reached the \$10,000 mark from 2015. We can celebrate that we raised \$7,657.92 with \$957.24 going to St. Barbara's Food Bank and the same amount going to the Trafford Food Bank.

Respectfully submitted,



Meredith Hutchison