

2022 Susquehanna Annual Conference Report from Pastor Theresa M. Heiser

[The Annual Conference was held June 1-3 at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA.](#) It was a joy to be in person for the first time since 2019 and be able to catch up with old friends. It was my first appearance with the Chi Rho singers and standing in up as a voting member of the Nominations Committee. The opportunity to worship as a large body is awe inspiring! The music, the Holy Spirit poured out in our gathering and Bible study was refreshing. The Penns Valley Charge were well represented by Lay Members to Annual Conference; Beth Brown (Sprucetown) and Randy Muthersbaugh (Faith).

[Bishop Steiner-Ball offered an inspiring message to open the conference](#) in which she highlighted our need to recognize that God is speaking and that we need to be ready to receive His word. She used the football illustration that God is throwing the ball downfield with the desire we are ready, looking, and waiting to receive. Bishop Moore-Koi Koi was overseeing another annual conference in Erie, PA.

One important decision was made prior to the conference and reflects receiving a word from God. Leadership decided not to nominate any potential new bishops for consideration at November's special session of Jurisdictional Conference. Those who would have been offered are delegates to the General Conference in 2024. To become a bishop would remove them from the delegation. They may be offered to the Episcopacy in the future. We need them at General Conference in 2024.

Pastoral Compensation was discussed. The minimum suggested raise for pastoral compensation is 6% for 2023. In 2021, it was suggested that no salary increase be made for 2022. Given the state of inflation and the effects on budgets, clergy are not immune. If an SPRC sees the new minimum as a hardship, there are important helps in item #11 of the compensation form. The report was approved.

When the Council on Finance and Administration report was offered, it was resolved that they should undertake an effectiveness study on all non-profits not directly connected to the church to ensure all financial support given is well spent. The person who suggested explained that they did such a study of all such entities they supported and found a few were not truly effective ministries causing them to discontinue support. This does make it possible to support other worthy missions.

I encourage you to [read the resolutions](#) on the [annual conference page of susumc.org](#). Titles do not offer all details, spirit, or contextual impact. Resolutions summary:

- Res-1 Mental Health – Passed with amendments
- Res-2 Disability Awareness Sunday – Passed with amendments
- Res-3 Resolution on Graceful Departures – Passed with amendment
- Res-4 Unity in Diversity and the Gift of Difference – Did not pass
- Res-5 Supporting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families – Did not pass
- Res-6 Susquehanna Conference Board of Trustees Bylaw Change Term and Tenure – Passed
- Res-7 Wind Up and Termination of Seedling Financial Ministry – Passed

The 2023 Susquehanna Annual Conference will be held May 18-20, 2023, at The Community Arts Center in Williamsport. The Conference Booklet reflecting all decisions will be available on susumc.org soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Theresa