

Western Association Annual Meeting April 13, 2019

Central UCC in Jefferson City hosted the annual Western Association spring business meeting on Saturday, April 13th. The attendance included: 5-Conference staff, 55-delegates, 2-youth, and a representative from Eden bookstore. Twenty-two W.A. churches were represented.

Rev. Bob Atkinson, W.A. Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Judy Scott, Central UCC's Supply Pastor, led the opening devotion.

The following reports were presented: Chairperson's report on the activities in the W.A.; the Secretary presented the minutes from the 2018 W.A. annual meeting which were approved; the Treasurer gave the financial report and presented the 2020 budget which were approved; The Vice-Chair presented the slate of officers to be elected, proposed new members for the Committee on Ministry; and names to be submitted to the Conference for Synod delegates. All individuals nominated for the various positions were elected or approved.

Linda Stenger, Chair of the COM, gave a report on the activities of the COM for the past year. The COM has been busy with the routine activities, but the workload was increased significantly due to three "fitness reviews". The results of the fitness reviews were: Rev. Dr. Howard, Pastor at St Mark, had his standing removed; Rev. Chaunia Chandler, Associate Pastor at St Mark, had her standing removed; and Rev. Tom Nordberg, retired during the fitness review process and his standing was removed.

Several W.A. Bylaw changes had been proposed. Due to the number of changes the W.A. Council had voted to withdraw these changes at this time to give members of the W.A. adequate time to study the changes.

Rev. Bob Atkinson made the following motion: **"In the coming year, the Association Council and the Committee on Ministry will meet together with a facilitator agreed upon by both the Committee on Ministry and the Council to discuss possible Bylaw changes. Cluster meetings will also be held in all four Western Association Clusters to discuss possible Bylaw changes with representation from both the Committee on Ministry and the Council and led by a facilitator from each Cluster."** The motion passed.

Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, the Conference Minister, thanked Central UCC for hosting this meeting. She stated that the W.A. was living into the theme of the MMSUCC and "Building Courageous Relationships". Ginny said that 32 of the 42 churches in the W.A. had contributed to OCWM and she thanked those churches for their generosity. Fulton UCC was the top giving church per capita (\$97/member). She also said that 15 churches were "5 for 5" churches. She then gave a report on activities in the life of the Conference which included developing a "visioning plan". The search for new ACM will be put on hold until this plan is completed.

The ladies of Central UCC prepared a delicious lunch. During lunch individuals were offered an opportunity for “speakouts”. Members-in-discernment were introduced and Jeremy Force, MOVAL Camp Director, gave a talk on activities at MOVAL this year.

Following lunch people had an opportunity to attend one of three workshops.

1. “Race and Racism in Performance: Platter Tudes”. A one act play presented by Cynthia Fuller and Constance Bernstein.
2. “Transitional Implementation of the 2018 Manual on Ministry” presented by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel.
3. “Planning for Youth Ministry” presented by Rev. Courtney Chandler & W.A. Youth

Next on the agenda were the Cluster gatherings. Reports on cluster activities and selection of a cluster representative to be a member of the W.A. Council was the emphasis of the gatherings. Wayne Gadt, a member of Southwood, is the KC/St. Joseph cluster representative. Rev. Ellen Martin, Pastor of First Congregational UCC in Lebanon is the Ozark cluster representative. Rev. Dr. Judy Scott, a member of Ebenezer UCC in Levasy, is the Lafayette cluster representative. Susan Burger, a member of California UCC, is the Central cluster representative.

The closing worship included the installation of all newly elected members of the various groups by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel followed by communion and a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Wendle, Secretary
Western Association Council