

## Business Meeting Minutes

### Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ Conference Annual Gathering

Friday, June 10 – Saturday, June 11, 2016

June 10 – Business Session I, 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Call to Order & Introduction of Rev. Dr. David Beebe as Parliamentarian

Joyce Bathke called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. David Beebe as Parliamentarian.

Credentials Report—230 Voting delegates were present.

Adoption of the Agenda and Standing Rules

Polly McWilliams/Bill Brinkhorst moved to accept the agenda and the standing rules. Motion passed. Polly McWilliams/Chase Peebles moved accept the procedure for introducing business. Motion passed.

Review of 2015 CAG Meeting Minutes--**It was** moved and seconded to accept the minutes from CAG 2015. Motion passed.

Introduction & Acknowledgement of Guests, Officers, Conference Staff Conference

Rev. Dr. Crabtree, Rev. Paul Koch, Edith McGuffey are guests present.

Staff—Lorraine Brooks, Jeremy Force, Jeff Fulk, Dale Parson, Kris Scott, & Renee Cordes. Joyce Bathke extended a huge thank-you to the staff for all of the hard work that they do make the Conference run smoothly.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Ulmer introduced the members of the Finance and Administration Standing committee and acknowledged their conscientious assistance in managing the finances of MMSC.

He reported that the Conference finished 2015 with all three endeavors; Conference, Shannondale, and MO-VAL, having operated with surpluses. Ken reported on the investments of the Conference and stated that all funds are invested in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund. The conference is investing \$200,000 of its assets in the Cornerstone Fund which qualifies Missouri Mid-South Conference congregations, with loans from the UCC Cornerstone Fund, for a 1% rebate on annual interest.

Regarding 2015 gifts to OCWM Ken noted that the total was less than in 2014. Earnings from investments provided supported the conference budget. Shannondale leadership, after 6 years of labor, enrolled the Shannondale Tree Farm in the carbon credit program in California. The trees have been scrubbing the air since 1930 and Shannondale received a payment of \$900,000 for this work done by the trees. The revenue will be invested and the earnings will support activities such as re-verification of the tree farm every six years, supporting the programs of Shannondale Community Center, the administrative work of MMSC, and a portion to OCWM.

Ken stated his gratitude to Lorraine Brooks for her skills and successful management of the financial activity of the three endeavors.

### 2017 Proposed Conference Budget

Rev. Ken Ulmer introduced the Proposed 2017 Budget.

He stated that budget is based on an optimistic approach -- an expectation of a 5% increase in OCWM giving in 2017 versus 2015. There are more funds assigned to Standing Committees because of the establishment of Covenanted Ministries. 2017 is the third year in which Mo-Val and Shannondale receive a percentage of the OWCM giving. Ken noted the difference between "green" (budgeted) and "orange" (accountable accounts) revenue sources for the Conference endeavors. Rick Oberle thanked Ken for his work on the budget and finances.

Announcements—The installation of Ginny Brown Daniel as Conference Minister will be Friday evening at 7:30.

June 11 – Business Session II, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SPEAK OUT—Twelve people made announcements on various topics.

Call to order—Joyce called the meeting to order at 8:58 am.

Conference Minister Report – Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

What a difference a year makes? Ginny thanked the CAG for the celebration of her installation.

"Gathering at Our Table" is the theme for the program year and was used for the theme of CAG 2016. Relationship building encourages clusters of congregations, partnerships with local CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Service Ministries) institutions, and Eden Seminary. Leadership Development is important to success of the Conference.

Renee Cordes, Lorraine Brooks, Kris Scott, Dale Parson, Jeff Fulk, Jeremy Force, Conference Council, Covenanted Ministries, and Committees on Ministries were named as important leaders in the Conference. Visionary awareness includes Shannondale Carbon Credits that Jeff Fulk took from vision to reality. Possibly money from carbon credits can be used to help other

churches become more green. Search and Call stewards are being trained to assist churches with the Search & Call Process with oversight from Ginny and Dale. With the Disciples of Christ a Youth ACM is planned to be added to the staff in 2017. This position will be funded partially from the Western Hills Fund.

Ginny named the challenges we have as --financial health, infrastructure (back door decision making) and a smaller conference staff.

#### Vision/ Strategic Plan Update

Rick Oberle gave a timeline and update for the conference's strategic plan. The conversations at CAPE (Conference Annual Planning Event) in September 2015 focused on some tangible outcomes that are contained in the Vision Plan. The implementation team includes some persons who served on the Vision Team and some new members. The 2016 CAPE meeting will be Sept. 10, 2016 at Columbia UCC starting at 10:00 am. All churches are invited and encouraged to attend to help establish the network of local churches.

#### Proposed Resolution to be sent to General Synod

Margaret Phillip/Sonya Vann introduced the proposed resolution entitled "Study of Cultural Diversity/Sensitivity and Institutional Racism Training". Following a presentation they moved that MMSC present this resolution to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### Committee Introduction & Election of Council Class for 2019\*

Laura Dierberg-Ayers recognized those leaving the Conference Council, Wes Hurt, Judi Privitt and Joyce Bathke. The slate of Conference Council Members was presented. Laura moved to accept the slate. The motion to elect the slate of Conference Council members was moved, seconded, and passed.

The officer slate -- David Mehl, Moderator; Chase Peoples, Vice-Moderator; Rhonda Stockglausner, Secretary; and David Rauch, Treasurer -- was presented. The motion to elect the officer slate was moved, seconded and passed

#### Introduction & Election of General Synod Delegates

The delegates to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod were presented for election. The motion to adopt the roster of 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod was moved, seconded, and passed.

Shannondale Covenanted Ministry Update—Jeff Fulk encouraged delegates to read the report on the Shannondale Community Center that is in the packet of meeting materials and added that with the help of carbon credit revenue Shannondale is doing great.

MoVal Covenanted Ministry Update—Jeremy Force thanked the conference for the privilege of working with the people and the support of the camps. Partnership with outside organizations has increased.

Shannondale, LLC Carbon Credits Report -- Joyce Bathke highlighted for the delegates the report in the meeting packet on the Shannondale Carbon, LLC Covenanted Ministry. This is a new Covenanted Ministry in 2015.

Global Missions Intern-Harry Brewer Calvert & Global Mission Fest Info Church Vitality Update—Harry reminded us about the importance of mission and to keep our mind on what is going on in the world away from our own settings. He encouraged delegates to put on their calendars the Global Ministries event in Kansas City scheduled for August 15-25.

Church Vitality is the same for all churches. Sonya Vann is being trained as a certified Church planter. Four people are interested in planting new churches.

Center For progressive Renewal is hosting an NLI (National Leadership Institute) in Atlanta. There are scholarships for attending. Moderator Joyce Bathke expressed thanks to the six churches participating in the “New Beginnings.”

Vote to approve 2017 Conference Budget. Ken made a correction in account balance report. Ken moved to accept the 2017 budget with a revenue assumption of \$1,567,025. The motion passed with one no-vote and one abstention.

Acknowledgements and Adjournment –Joyce thanked all who were involved in making CAG2016 a success. Joyce handed the gavel to David Mehl who closed the meeting. Polly McWilliams/ Chase Peebles moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Stenger  
Secretary

#### ATTACHMENT

##### Working Copy Resolution to 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod

Prudential Resolution to 31<sup>st</sup> General Synod, Submitted by St. Louis Association of Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ. (A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions, or requests actions by a majority vote.)

**A CURRICULUM FOR THE STUDY OF RACIAL DIVERSITY AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM WILL BE INCLUDED IN PREPARATION FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OR CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND REQUIRED FOR MAINTAINING GOOD STANDING FOR ALL PERSONS ENGAGED IN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY WITHIN AND ON BEHALF OF**

## **THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH AND WIDER COMMUNITY.**

WHEREAS, from the beginning of our Biblical narrative all humanity has been declared good: “Humankind was created as God’s reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male God made them.”<sup>1</sup> and “God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that it was good - very good.”<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, the body of Christ is meant, instructed, and commanded to be racially inclusive: “In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.”<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, from its inception the United Church of Christ has declared itself a denomination devoted to uniting all Christians in response to the Jesus prayer: “I don’t pray for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all may be one.”<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, members of the United Church of Christ gathered in worship and proclaim together in one united voice: “God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.”<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, in the year 1993, of our Savior’s favor, The Nineteenth General Synod adopted the "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church."

WHEREAS, by adopting the above statement the church called itself in all settings to be a true multiracial and multicultural church, “confessing and acting out its faith in the one sovereign God who through Jesus Christ binds in covenant faithful people of all races, ethnicities and cultures and to rejoice in these diversities as gifts to the human family in the variety of God's grace.”<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, by the year 2045, the majority of United States citizens will be multicultural and multiracial with African, Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander Americans and Native American roots demanding greater need for understanding and acceptance by all Christians.

WHEREAS, in this year 2017, of our Savior’s favor, many United Church of Christ Churches have been unable to fulfill the commitment made at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Synod and continue to reflect “the most segregated hour of the week” leaving African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islander Americans in mostly African American, Asian American, European American, Latino American, Native American, and Pacific Islander American Christian churches talking mostly to one another, unable to understand how those in the other communities are affected by the terrible and widespread incidents of racial violence and injustice spreading across our countryside and rendering many of us impotent in the process of dismantling racism.

WHEREAS, Christians must not leave the sole responsibility of speaking truth about institutional racism, violence and injustice to the victims of institutional racism, violence and injustice.

WHEREAS, the realization of Jesus’ prayer, “that they may all be one,” is impossible without conversation and dialog about institutional racism and its divisiveness within the community of God’s people.

WHEREAS, as people of faith and as witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Galilee we are called to be a coalition of Easter people bound together by our support of one another and showing up

for our friends when they hurt as well as celebrating with them when they rejoice.

WHEREAS, the primary leader, teacher and facilitator of such conversation in all United Church of Christ ministry settings is the authorized minister called to serve a particular setting.

WHEREAS, UCC's Local Church Ministries and UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) published in April 2009 a revised list of THE MARKS OF FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE AUTHORIZED MINISTERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST and named in the marks of PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FORMATION FOR MINISTRY (Section 3) Item 14. "to accept and promote diversity, to inspire others to do so, and to minister in a multicultural and multiracial, open and affirming, just peace, accessible to all, united and uniting church."

WHEREAS, UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA)'s role as host of the gathered table "includes the encouragement of ongoing conversation regarding issues of ministry in the 21st century."

WHEREAS, many Seminaries, Conferences, Associations and Local Churches have curriculum already in existence, and the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, has recently published a curriculum for teaching racial diversity which could be used as a resource in conjunction with local curriculum.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, a curriculum for the Study of Racial Diversity and Institutional Racism will be included in clergy preparation or continuing education, and required for maintaining good standing for all persons engaged in authorized ministry within and on behalf of the United Church of Christ and made available for use within the wider community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, cooperate with UCC's Local Church Ministries and UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) to support the implementation of such requirement and study.

#### FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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<sup>1</sup> The inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.). Genesis 1:27.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Genesis 1: 31

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. John 17:20-23.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. Galatians 3:28

<sup>5</sup> "United Church of Christ Statement of Faith Adapted by Robert V. Moss," Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, Book of Worship United Church of Christ (Cleveland, Ohio: United Church of Christ 2002), 513.

<sup>6</sup> "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church" (General Synod 17, 1993), Section IV, Paragraph A