

**MNUTES**  
**PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 8-9, 2018  
Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA

**THEME: “ALIVE in Christ”**

Two pre-Annual Meeting seminars were held Friday, an ONA Seminar and the other Boundary Training.

The Board of Directors and Board Nominees met from noon to 2:15 p.m. in the Shearer Dining room in the Degenstein Center.

A Children’s Annual Meeting Session was offered for the first time (sponsored by UCC Homes and hosted by Nate and Kara Druckenmiller.

**The Conference in Opening Worship:** Friday, June 8, at 2 p.m. in Weber Chapel

**State of the Conference/Strategic Plan Review** Dr. Craig Ellis and Eric Dundore shared with attendees background on the Strategic Plan and the genesis grown from the results of the Self Study. The PCC Mission Statement is “Penn Central Conference where congregations passionately declare and demonstrate the courageous love of Christ”

The Strategic Plan calls for a three-year implementation schedule to consolidate Associations down to four from our present structure with annual updates occurring to PCC members. The Strategic Planning Committee has prepared realignment of Associations through regional boundaries (Plan A). In meeting with Associations to introduce the concept, two additional choices emerged. These are identified as Plan B and Plan C (details available at the PCC website).

**Friday Plenary Business Session**

Dr. Craig Ellis, Moderator, called the 56th Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ to order, made introductions of leadership and welcomed everyone.

Moderator Ellis recognized Mr. Marvin Rudnitsky, Parliamentarian and provided Definition of Bar of House as Weber Chapel. Ellis explained voting delegates must be within bar to have their vote counted.

Members were also reminded to provide their white session attendance tickets for each session to the Youth Service Team at the time of entry to Plenary Sessions to ensure accurate counts for the Credentials Report. For any resolution(s) to be voted on, we will be using parliamentary procedure.

Annual Meeting Youth Service Team Members were introduced along with advisors Roxanne and Jack Davenport.

**Credentials Report:** The Youth Service Team provided the report: 227 voting members; 38 guests (quorum is 225)

**Adoption of Standing Rules:** Moderator Ellis explained the Standing Rules and parliamentary procedure tips which were posted on the website in the Advance Reports section, noting that all guests are given the privilege of voice.

**18 AM 01** Motion to adopt the Parliamentary Pointers and Standing Rules for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference as presented in the Advance Reports. **ADOPTED**

**18 AM 02** Motion to adopt the agenda as presented **ADOPTED**

Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith introduced the PCC staff:

*Rev. Nora Foust, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational & Ministerial Excellence*

*Rev. Patricia Dodds, Coordinator of Conference Camps, Retreats & Youth Ministry*

*Stephanie Rader Titzel, Director of Communication & Generosity*

*Wendy Hepler, Office Manager*

*Janice Mountain, Search and Call Assistant and Receptionist*

and newest staff addition: *Scott Watts, Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families*

Rev. Nora Foust introduced guests and mission partners attending Annual Meeting:

*Heather Kimmel, UCC General Counsel*

*Rev. Holly MillerShank, UCC MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization*

*Rachel Hackenberg, Pilgrim Press*

*Victoria Velez, United Church of Christ Homes*

*Andy Lang, Executive Director of UCC ONA*

*Rev. Anja Vollendorf, UEK Partnership (Berlin/Brandenburg and Rhineland)*

*Alicia Stanley, Hoffman Homes*

*Meggan Kerber, Bethany Children's Home Director of Development*

*Stephen Wolma, Director of Admissions Lancaster Theological Seminary*

*Bryon Borger, Hearts & Minds Bookstore*

**Report of Secretary:** Sue Sites directed attention to the Annual Report available in the online Advance Reports

**18 AM 03** Motion to accept the Report of the Secretary as presented. **ACCEPTED**

**Treasurer's and Auditor's Report:** Treasurer Ann Lingenfelter provided Advance Report in online Advance Reports. Our audit was conducted by the firm of Brown, Schultz, Sheridan and Fritz. Treasurer Lingenfelter reported 2018 current financial reports indicate expenses are exceeding income by \$8,436.36.

**18 AM 04** Motion to Authorize the Board of Directors to accept the Audited Treasurer's Report.

**ACCEPTED**

**Nominations Report:** The advance report was available online. Ruth Laudermilch provided an initial presentation of nominations from the Nominations Commission. The report was received as presented, with elections occurring at the subsequent plenary on Saturday. Laudermilch announced additional nominations could be added for the vacancies available by contacting a member of the Nominations Commission.

## **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

### **Constitutional Change presented by Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith**

This is being voted on by each UCC Conference and was introduced at General Synod in July 2017 to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. Vote will occur at Saturday Plenary. Background material on the proposed changes available at PCC website in Advance Reports.

**Plastic Foam Resolution presented by Kathy Brown (Trinity, Waynesboro) on behalf Trinity UCC and the Creation Justice Team.** The Resolution encourages all congregations to avoid the use of plastic

form in church facilities and to educate congregation members about the detriments associated with the use of plastic foam products on the environment and as a health concern as a known carcinogen. Vote to consider resolution in Saturday Plenary session recorded as: 213 - Yes 9 - No

Vote

### **Official Recess and Shout Outs**

**Afternoon Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chris Davies**

**Evening Children's Annual Meeting Session**

**Evening Workshops and Intergenerational "Messy Church" and Dessert Social**

### **Saturday, June 9 (morning plenary)**

Opening Devotion/ Theological Reflection by Rev. Dr. Carol Lytch, Lancaster Seminary

**Plenary Business Session:** Moderator Ellis called the gathering to order for the morning Plenary Business Session and explained a voice vote would be used for elections and the budget; ballot vote will be used for Resolutions.

**Credentials Report:** The Youth Service Team provided the report: 237 voting members; 27 guests (quorum is 225)

**Report of Nominations Commission** Rev. Galen Russell, Chair, presented the Final Report of the Nominations Commission.

**18 AM 05** Motion to close the nominations.

ACCEPTED

**18 AM 06** Motion to Elect those persons named on [and added to] the Nominations Commission Report.

ADOPTED

**2019 Budget** presented by Dale Mease, Finance Chair. Mr. Mease thanked the churches of PCC for their OCWM support and reflected on our Mission Statement and how support of OCWM focuses us on living out our PCC Mission.

**18 AM 07** Motion to adopt the Penn Central Conference Proposed Budget for 2019 as presented.

ADOPTED

### **Constitutional Change Resolution**

**18 AM 08** Motion to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, as voted by the Thirty-first General Synod on July 2 and 3, 2017 as presented.

Ballot vote taken 246 Endorse, 7 Abstain, 7 No

ADOPTED

### **Plastic Foam Resolution**

**18 AM 09** Motion to adopt the Resolution calling for PCC churches to avoid the use of plastic form as presented.

Ballot vote taken 237 Endorse, 5 Abstain, 17 No

ADOPTED

**Presentation of PCC Local Church Initiative: Rev. Nora Foust** shared information on the programs involved with this initiative.

Architects of Excellence will combine talent of clergy and lay person who have worked on revitalization and healthy change.

Healthy Church Checkup is an assessment program to determine the place where your community ministry is meeting community needs.

Rev. Foust shared information on the newly launched Innovation Grant Program available to PCC churches at a \$2,500 funding level. The purpose of the Innovation Grant Program is to support churches (with seed money) as they engage in new and out-of-the-box ministry. More on this new grant program will be available at the PCC website.

**Recognition of Churches:**

Creation Justice Churches by Rev. Patty Dodds

Recognition of ONA churches by Rev. Nora Foust

Recognition of Churches with Special Anniversaries by Rev. Patty Dodds.

Recognition of Members in Discernment by Rev. Patty Dodds

Recognition of Licensed Ministers and New Ministers to the Conference by Rev. Nora Foust

Clergy with Special Anniversaries by Rev. Ann Graves

Official Recess and Announcements

**Saturday, June 9, (afternoon plenary)**

Opening Prayer by Rev. Cindy Garis

**Credentials Report:** The Youth Service Team provided the report: 200 voting members; 23 guests  
(quorum is 225)

Introduction of new Moderator, Rev. Ann Graves

Introduction of New Website and AmazonSmile program by Stephanie Rader-Titzel

Introduction by Rev. Dave Bushnell of Laura Chamberlin of UCCR to provide Hartman Center Update and information on Hartman Center Strategic Plan.

Introduction and Commissioning of Hartman Center Summer Service Team by Rev. Patty Dodds and Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith

Commissioning by Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith of new Board members/ honoring outgoing board members

The Amenities Report: presented by Sue Sites thanking those who helped with planning and leadership of events.

The Conference in Closing Worship/Release Service

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Sites