

## MINUTES

### PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

June 7-8, 2019

Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA

Theme: Renaissance Ministry: BE-ing the Church Today

#### Pre-meeting events

1. Boundary Training: You, Your Ministry, and the Internet (10-noon)
2. The Board of Directors Finance Committee hosted a Budget Hearing (10:30-11:30)
3. The ONA Coalition hosted a presentation by Dr. Greg Carey on "Overcoming Spiritual Spears and Bible Bombs: What We Can Learn About Scripture from the LGBTQ++ Community" (10-11:30)
4. Creation Justice hosted a presentation by Tom Hocking on "Sustaining Creation: A Faith Journey" (10-11:30)
5. Annual Meeting Orientation was offered for new or returning attendees (11:30-12)

#### First Plenary Session

Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 3:15-4:30pm

- I. Opening Reflection and Prayer were offered by Rev. Dr. Carol Lytch
- II. Call to Order by Rev. Bill LaSalle, Acting Conference Moderator
- III. Introduction of Youth Service Team (Jack and Roxanne Davenport)
- IV. Credentials Report (Youth Service Team)
  - A. 193 delegates and voting members present
  - B. 30 visitors present
  - C. Quorum is 225, so official business was deferred until the next plenary session.
- V. Definition of a House Bar (Rev. Bill LaSalle)

The definition of a House Bar is this auditorium, within the roped out section. Delegates must be within the bar to have their votes counted.
- VI. Adopt Standing Rules and Agenda (Rev. Bill LaSalle)
  - A. Motion to adopt the Parliamentary Pointers and Standing Rules for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference as presented in the Advance Reports. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
  - B. Motion to adopt agenda moved and seconded, passed unanimously.
  - C. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has been designated as the Business Committee for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.
- VII. Report of the Secretary
  - A. Summary was provided by Elspeth Williams, with the full report available in Advanced Reports.

- B. Motion was made to adopt the report of the secretary. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Treasurer Ronald Royer provided a summary. Full report is available in Advanced Reports.
  - B. Motion to adopt audited treasurer's report moved and seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- IX. Introduction of Guests
  - A. Kirsten Keim-Shendge – Bethany Children's Home
  - B. Hilary Diaz-Cruz – Bethany Homes
  - C. Rev. George Graham – CHHSM
  - D. Christine Baer – CWS, Lancaster
  - E. Nia Sullivan – Global Ministries
  - F. Alicia Stanley – Hoffman Homes
  - G. Rev. Dr. Carol Lytch – Lancaster Theological Seminary
  - H. Dr. Julia O'Brien – Lancaster Theological Seminary
  - I. Rev. Kim Kendricks – Lancaster Theological Seminary
  - J. Debb Laukaitis – Miller Insurance Agency
  - K. Scott Brooks-Cope – Phoebe Ministries
  - L. Joanne Carroll- Trans Advocacy, PA
  - M. Jill White – UCC Church Building and Loan
- X. Introduction of Business Item: Green New Deal
  - A. The Creation Justice team is asking for PCC endorsement of this emergency resolution that is going to General Synod.
  - B. No vote taken; discussion and a vote by written ballot will be held at the next Plenary Session.
- XI. Nominations Report
  - A. The full report is available online in the Advanced Reports.
  - B. Rev. Galen Russell reviewed the nominations and drew attention to the vacant openings. He encouraged anyone feeling called to serve to speak with their Nomination Commission Representative.
- XII. Introduction of PCC Staff
  - A. Rev. Ann Graves – Acting Conference Minister
  - B. Rev. Nora Foust – Associate Conference Minister for Congregational and Ministerial Excellence
  - C. Rev. Patty Dodds – Coordinator for Camps/Retreats/Youth Ministry
  - D. Scott Watts – Clergy Care Facilitator
  - E. Stephanie Rader-Titzel – Director of Communications and Generosity
  - F. Laura Dalton – Administrative/Search and Call Assistant
  - G. Paul Keller – Office Manager
  - H. Wendy Hepler – Office Manager (retiring)
- XIII. Hartman Center Summer Service Team Commissioning
  - A. The youth and Rev. Patty Dodds were invited to come forward and were commissioned by Rev. Ann Graves

- XIV. Hartman Center Update provided by Rev. Dave Bushnell and Rev. Patty Dodds
  - A. Special attention was drawn to the creation of a 501c3 for Hartman Center, with its own Board of Directors
  - B. Information was provided about scheduled retreats and events throughout the year.
- XV. Speak-Out opportunities
- XVI. Official Recess: Moderator Bill LaSalle recessed the meeting until 8:30 Saturday morning.

### Second Plenary Session

Saturday, June 8, 2019 8:30-11:30am

- I. Theological Reflection and Opening Prayer (Dr. Julia O'Brien)
- II. Call to Order and reminder of House Bar (Rev. Bill LaSalle)
- III. Credential Report (Youth Service Team)
  - A. Delegates and voting members: 228
  - B. Visitors: 30
  - C. Quorum is achieved
- IV. Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) Update (Rev. George R. Graham)
- V. State of the Conference (Rev. Ann Graves)
- VI. Communities of Practice (Rev. Nora Foust)
- VII. Report of Nominations Commission (Rev. Dennis Weidler)
  - A. No additional nominations were raised
  - B. Motion was made to elect those persons named on the Nominations Report, and passed unanimously.
- VIII. Budget Presentation and Vote (Dale Mease via recording)
  - A. Follow-up comments were made from Scott Owens and Ron Royer. Emphasis from all three speakers was placed on the Conference's decreased giving to the national church for OCWM (budgeted at 10% for FY 2020) and the cost of maintaining Hartman Center.
  - B. Questions and comments were entertained regarding the proposed budget.
  - C. Motion was made to adopt the 2020 budget as presented, a ballot vote was taken, and the motion passed with 210 votes yes, 22 votes no, and 3 abstentions.
- IX. Green New Deal Business Agenda Item – Formal Endorsement Vote for Emergency Synod Resolution (Creation Justice Ministry)
  - A. Presentation was given by Tom Hocking
  - B. Opportunity for questions and comments
  - C. Motion was made to endorse the Green New Deal emergency resolution being represented at General Synod in Wisconsin as presented. Ballot vote was taken, and motion passed with 192 votes yes, 36 votes no, and 14 abstentions.
- X. Recognition of Members in Discernment:
  - A. Central Association: Bonni Lucas, Gary Nottis, Genna Beatty, Rose Shepley, Tim Hogan-Palazzo, Jeff Hauck
  - B. Lancaster Association: Cathy Kenlin, Alison Hoenninger, Joao Teixeira, Jack Hocker, Daniel Dorsey, Kelsey O'Brien

- C. Lebanon Association: Garrett Book
  - D. Mercersburg Association: Allyssa Boyer
  - E. Northern Association: Cindy Killinger, Teresa Hockenberry
  - F. York Association: Kevin Becker, Thomas Kiepert, Zoe D’heedene, Ron Heagy
- XI. Recognition of new Ministers to the Conference:
- Brian Damrow (Penbrook UCC)
  - Jessica Hainley (Quentin UCC)
  - Jes Kast (Faith UCC, State College)
  - Laura Ramsey (Christ UCC, Elizabethtown)
  - Caroline Saxton (St. John’s UCC, Chambersburg)
  - Marleen Shepherd (Trinity, Fort Loudon)
  - David Stewart (New Hope UCC – Fissel’s)
- XII. Recognition of UCC Chaplains
- A. Central Association: Joe Lingenfelter, Ricky Philips, Amelia Price
  - B. Gettysburg Association: Margaret Wise
  - C. Lancaster Association: Dave Bushnell, Ed Dickel, Bill LaSalle, Haan Phelps
  - D. Lebanon Association: Steve Ericson, John Fureman, Dwight Hein
  - E. Mercersburg Association: Donna Hale, Mark Ruzicka
  - F. Northern Association: Dave Downer, Ann Graves, Leigh Pick
  - G. York Association: Laura Bair, Peter Seiler, Rick Stuemple, Dennis Weidler
- XII. Recognition of congregations with special anniversaries:
- A. 125 YEARS - 1894 • Grace, Lebanon • Trinity, Glen Rock
  - B. 150 YEARS – 1869 • Faith, Ickesburg
  - C. 175 YEARS – 1844 • Peace, Berrysburg
  - D. 200 YEARS – 1819 • Trinity, Fort Loudon
  - E. 250 YEARS – 1769 • St. Paul’s, Manheim
- XIII. Recognition of authorized ministers with special anniversaries:
- A. 5 years (2014) •Donna Hale • Douglas Shader
  - B. 10 years (2009) • Danielle Neff • Carol Price • Ronnette ComfortButler
  - C. 15 years (2004) • Jason Royle • Christopher Rankin • David Zortman
  - D. 20 years (1999)
 

J. William Schiller	Cynthia Garis	Dietmar Plajer
Karin Stork-Whitson	Michael Smith	Betty Snapp-Barrett
  - E. 25 Years (1994)
 

Carrie Call	Linda Lauman	John Ward-Diorio
Dwight Hein	Daniel Shahan	Lawrence Knutson
Joel Hummel	Cathy Sherry	
  - F. 30 Years (1989) • Bradley Haws • Kelly Shiflett
  - G. 35 Years (1984)
 

Lila Butz	Carol Kipe	Robert Muisse
Henry Covert	David Meyer	Debra Sickles
  - H. 40 Years (1979)
 

Jeffrey R. Diller	Bruce Farrell	Jeffrey Hamilton
John C. Miller	Jeffrey A. Wagner	Lee Zortman

- I. 45 Years (1974)
    - Greg D. Beck                                      Frederick H. Faust                      John E. Fureman
    - Michael C. Romig                                      Barry R. Smock                      Keith Tussing
  - J. 50 Years (1964)    Richard C. Gordon • Thomas E. Herrold
  - K. 55 Years (1964)
    - Robert M. Bistline                      Ed Gobrecht                      DeForrest Koontz
    - Joseph F. Krabill                      Nancy Wilcox
  - L. 60 Years (1959)    Richard Ernest Benner • John C. Oliphant • David Serfass
  - M. 65 Years (1954)    Louis J. Hammann III • James W. Morris
  - N. 70 years (1949)    Luther J. Binkley
- XIV. Induction of Board of Directors and Commissioning of New Board Members
- A. Thank you to those going off the Board:
    - Susan Howard (Class of 2019) – Finance, Northern
    - Judy Maust (Class of 2019) – Strategic Planning, Gettysburg
    - John Miller (Class of 2019) – Strategic Planning, Harrisburg
    - Scott Shue (Class of 2019) – Finance, York
  - B. NEW Board Members - First Term
    - 1. Russell Brooks (Class of 2022) – Finance, Northern Association
    - 2. Michael Gibbs (Class of 2022) – Finance, York Association
    - 3. Tom Caruso (Class of 2022) – Strategic Planning, Harrisburg
  - C. Renewing for a Second Term
    - 1. Eric Dundore (Class of 2019, 2022) – Strategic Planning, Mercersburg
    - 2. David Jones (Class of 2019, 2022) – Strategic Planning, Lebanon
    - 3. Gail Landers (Class of 2019, 2022) – Strategic Planning, Central
    - 4. Linda Lindenberg (class of 2019, 2022) – Personnel, Lancaster
  - D. Continuing Board Members
    - 1. DiAnn Baxley (Class of 2020) – Personnel, Central
    - 2. Russell Clark (Class of 2020) – Personnel, Gettysburg
    - 3. Vonny Eckman (Class of 2020) – Personnel, Mercersburg
    - 4. Mark Holm (Class of 2020) – Strategic Planning, Northern
    - 5. Dale Mease (Class of 2020) – Finance, Harrisburg
    - 6. Marilyn Meech (Class of 2020) – Personnel, Lebanon
    - 7. Scott Owens (Class of 2020) – Finance, Lancaster
    - 8. David Downer (Class of 2021) – Personnel, Northern
    - 9. Phil Landers (Class of 2021) – Finance, Central
    - 10. Gloria McPherson (Class of 2021) – Finance, Mercersburg
    - 11. Kelly Shiflett (Class of 2021) – Personnel, York
    - 12. Kendra Snyder (Class of 2021) – Strategic Planning, Lancaster
    - 13. Linda Vignati (Class of 2021) – Personnel, Harrisburg
  - E. Officers
    - 1. Ann Graves (Class of 2020) – Moderator/currently Acting Conference Minister
    - 2. Bill LaSalle – Acting Moderator
    - 3. Shirley Keith Knox (Class of 2020) – Assistant Moderator
    - 4. Elspeth Williams (Class of 2020) – Secretary

5. Ron Royer (Class of 2020) - Treasurer
- XV. Commissioning of General Synod Delegates:  
Terry Black – Lancaster, Class of 2019-21  
Andrew Boyer – York, Class of 2019-21  
Jack Davenport – Mercersburg, Class of 2019-21  
Ed Dickel – Lancaster, Class of 2019-21  
Tony Fields – Lebanon, Class of 2017-19  
Julie Holm – Northern, Class of 2017-19  
Cindy Garis – Harrisburg, Class of 2019-21  
Carolyn Herman – Central, Class of 2017-19  
Tom Hocking – Lebanon, Class of 2019-21  
Joel Hummel – Gettysburg, Class of 2019-21  
Shirley Keith Knox – Mercersburg, Class of 2017-19  
JoAnn Kreeger – York, Class of 2017-19  
Phil Landers – Central, Class of 2019-21  
Terry McGarry- Harrisburg, Class of 2017-19  
Jason Minnich – Harrisburg, Class of 2019-21  
Jean Pierce – Northern, Class of 2017-19  
John Pierce – Northern, Class of 2019-21  
Charlotte Pinette – Gettysburg, Class of 2017-19  
Alice Rauch – Central, Class of 2019-21  
Chris Schwab – Mercersburg, Class of 2017-19  
Ruthann Seibert – York, Class of 2017-19  
Karen Umberberger – Lancaster, Class of 2017-19  
Ashley Weaber – Lebanon, Class of 19-21  
Pamela Wells – Young Adult, 2019
- XVI. Formal Acknowledgement of Wendy Hepler’s Retirement: The entire Conference and the Board of Directors thank Wendy for her commitment and exceptional work, and we wish her well in her retirement.
- XVII. Gratitude Report presented by Elspeth Williams thanking those individuals and groups who helped to make the weekend and meeting possible.
- XVIII. Speak Outs – Opportunity to share information and thoughts with the meeting attendees.
- XIX. Adjournment

The Conference in Worship

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 2:45-4pm

Communion Service and Necrology

Message by Rev. Dr. Carrie Call