MINUTES
PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57th 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 7th, 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 57th 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 57th 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 Comfort-Butler
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 Muise
   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 8th, 2019 2:45-4pm
Communion Service and Necrology
Message by Rev. Dr. Carrie Call