

Minutes For The Annual Meeting Of The Rhode Island Conference Of The UCC

218th Meeting

Saturday, June 16, 2018

MassMutual Center, Springfield, MA

1. Call to order by Frances Munro at 10:15 am
2. Introductions of Conference Staff and Special Guests- Barbara Libby
 - a. Staff- Bob Nolan, Jennifer Geary, Sandy Tremblay, Kristin Putney, Peggy Matteson, Tiffany Vale, Barbara Gregory
 - b. Special Guests- Rev. Daehler Hayes (in absentia), Rev. Bonnie Bates(Conference Minister from Pennsylvania North East Conference)
 - c. Cleo Graham introduced our new Transitional Conference Minister, the Rev. Marilyn Kendrix.
3. Determination of Quorum- Grace Steere announced there were 17 churches represented and indeed we had a quorum
4. **Business meeting**
 - a) **Consent Agenda**
 - I. Minutes from the June 17, 2017 Annual Meeting and the 2017 Autumnal Meeting- (available online)
 - II. Annual Reports (except Nominating Committee) (full reports are online at the RICUCC website and were distributed in advance)
 - III. Action to accept the 1/19/16 request from Riverpoint Congregational Church to be removed from the RICUCC roles. This is the first of two votes required by the bylaws.

Motion to accept the consent items by George Peters and seconded by Susan Rotblat-Walker. Vote was unanimous in favor with no abstentions

b) **Resolutions/ Documents** (Resolution is online and was distributed)

- I. Anti-Racism and Racial Justice training for all authorized ministers. Committee on Church and Ministry seeks to make training available for all authorized ministers and to Members in Discernment. Gary Bagley noted that this training will be required and will not be included with Boundary Training. Financial resources will be available to facilitate the training.

Motion to approve the above resolution proposed by Timothy Sylvia and seconded by Leslie Simonson. The vote in favor was unanimous, with no abstentions.

- II. **Together As 1 Documents** (certificate of vote was distributed) The certificate cannot be amended because all 3 Conferences are voting on the same Certificate of Vote in the same form. The Certificate has 3 parts: 1.) Covenant agreement with CT Conference and MA Conference for the purpose of creating a regional conference 2.) Affirmation of Covenant Documents, which are, attached as Exhibit A 3.) Delegation to the RI Conference Board of Directors, working with the TA-1 planning team, the legal authority to finalize the Covenant Documents. George Peters assured everyone that the UCC Bylaws and Constitution clearly states that the local church has autonomy in case of a dispute. Each Conference will be represented by 7 people on the new

TA-1 Board. All endowments and monies will remain in control by their respective historic Conferences.

1. Proposed Covenant and Affiliation Agreement-the covenants, schedules, and technical documents will be put online. The RI Board will review all documents.
2. Proposed Bylaws for the new Together As One Conference
3. Elections of the new TA1 Board of Directors-proposed nominees were distributed. From RI the nominees are Cleo Graham, Larry Kellam, Rebecca Floyd Marshall, Frances Munro, Bob Nolan, Linda Sable, and Grace Steere

Motion to vote on all the Together As One documents in one vote was proposed by Timoth Sylvia and seconded by Susan Rotblat-Walker. The vote in favor was 91, 3 nays, and no abstentions.

c) **Nominating Committee Report-** (Betsy Garland reported for Evelyn Watkins)(full report is online and was distributed.)

New members to the Board are Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose, Rev. David Pierce, Rev. Claudia Demick, Tracy Baron, and Rev. Brendan Curran.

Ruth Graham is the new registrar.

Corrections to Church and Ministry Committee: Rev. Gary Bagley term expiration is 2020, Wayne Gage is from Newman and his term expires in 2021, Valerie Tutson is from Beneficent and her term expires in 2020, Rev. Kurt Walker's term expires in 2021.

Betsy Garland, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moves to adopt the slate.

Jennifer Geary moved for the clerk to cast 1 ballot for the slate as corrected. The motion was seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous with no abstentions.

d) Financial Report- (Bob Nolan)(report was distributed)

Thumbnail sketch is as follows for revenue:

Total Actual Net Revenue in 2017- \$392,000

Budgeted Revenue- \$446,500

Unfavorable Variance -\$55,000

Per capita actual-\$88,000

Per Capita Budget- \$95,000

Unfavorable Variance- \$7,000

Basic Support actual- \$156,000

Basic Support budget- \$200,00

Unfavorable Variance-\$44,000

Local Missions actual- \$15,500 (primarily goes to support the Hispanic Church)

Local Missions budget-\$14,000

Favorable variance-\$1,000

Discussion:

- Numbers on the roles do not truly reflect pledging members
- Difficulties in removing names from roles- many churches are using “associate member” designation.
- Suggestion to educate our members about the \$20 per capita fee
- Finance Committee asks for each church’s annual report so that the Conference budget can be more accurate
- Churches are encouraged to pay monthly
- Jennifer Geary noted that the income for Irons Homestead, \$34,000 is not reflected in the report. Bob noted that income from Irons Homestead and income from the Haiti Mission is not comingled with our operating funds.
- It has not been decided how funds from the 3 Conferences will eventually be distributed.
- Everything for understanding UCC’s mission work is online!

Thumbnail sketch for expenses:

Basic operations actual- \$326,000
 Basic operations budget--\$312,000
Unfavorable Variance- \$14,000
 Program Expense actual- \$71,000
 Program expense budget- \$73,000
Unfavorable variance- \$2,000
 Missions expense actual- \$40,000
 Missions budget- \$42,000
Favorable variance- \$2,000
 Ecumenical Support Actual- \$18,000
 Ecumenical Support budget- \$18,000
Net Variance Expenses Total- unfavorable at \$14,000

- We also have a \$100,000 line of credit, which needs to get paid down.
- We are moving our office to save money.
- Office admin position may be changed.

Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose moved to accept the treasurer’s report with a second by Wayne Patenaude.

The vote in favor was unanimous with no abstentions.

- e) **Recognitions**-report by Barbara Libby
Newly Installed Pastors- Rev. Cleo Graham, Beneficent Church; Rev. John Ecklund, Chepachet Union Church; Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose, First Congregational Church Bristol.
Newly ordained- Rev. Shelley Moses, Rev. Helen Bodell
Members In discernment- Chontel Washington, Gabrielle Sclafani, Brendon Yaghjian - Tison, Alyssa Browning Gray
4 Members of the Board who have completed service- Wayne Patenaude,

Susan Rotblat-Walker, Nancy Soukup, Jeff Richardson

Ordination Anniversaries- Rebecca Floyd Marshall-5y; Cleo graham- 5y; Timoth Sylvia-10y; Marilyn Ricci-15y; Jack Jones-25y; Weldon Palmer-25y; Patricia Hazeltine-30y; Bill Sterrett-30y; Joy Utter-35y; Julio Filomeno-35y; George Peters-45y; Charlie Simonson-50y
Rev Joe Runner has served as the Annuitant Visitor for RI and Cape Cod for 28 years and is now retiring.

Leslie Simonson is now beginning her service as the new Annuitant Visitor for RI and Cape Cod.

7 Churches Are 5 For 5- FCC Bristol, Edgewood Congregational, Moosup Valley congregational, Newman Congregational Church, Park Place Congregational, United Congregational of Warwick, United Congregational Church of Westerly UCC

22 Churches for Basic Support Contributors- Amicable, Barrington, Beneficent, Chapel Street, Central, Edgewood, 4 Corners Community Chapel, FCC Bristol, FCC Warwick, Hispanic Evangelical, Hope, Kingston, Moosup Valley, Newman, Park Place, Peacedale, Seekonk, Slatersville, Smithfield Avenue, Little Compton, Westerly

f) **Parting Service for Interim Conference Minister, Barbara Libby-** (Cleo Graham)

George Peters gave moving words for Barbara's retirement. He expressed the tremendous gratitude of the Conference for her service.

Frances Munro gave Barbara a gift card and a book of photos to remember her time here. Linda Sable expressed her profound gratitude for their relationship and work together on the Committee on Church and Ministry.

Barbara Libby expressed her gratitude for being part of TA-1 and the discussions about what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ in the 21st century, as we imagine a new future together. Today's vote moves all 3 of our Conferences together.

Service of Parting for Rev. Barbara Jane Libby

g) **Introduction of Transitional Conference Minister, Marilyn Kendrix-**

Final prayer delivered by Marilyn

Benediction delivered by Barbara and Marilyn.

Announcement to please join Barbara for an ice cream social farewell party on June 24, 3-5 pm, at Beneficent Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Steere

Grace Steere, Clerk