

**-RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2017
HARTFORD CONVENTION CENTER, HARTFORD, CT**

George Peters called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Barbara Libby, introduced 2 special guests, Rev. Dr. Beverley Edwards and Rev. Dr. Daehler Hayes, and then proceeded to congratulate our staff for the incredibly hard work and great effort they have spent for the RICUCC over the past year. She introduced Sandy Tremblay, George Weavill, Kristin Putney, Jennifer Geary, and Tiffany Vale. We owe all our staff members our gratitude.

Grace Steere determined we have a quorum.

Business Meeting:

1. Consent Agenda-(All of the reports and 2016 Autumnal Meeting Minutes, except for Nominating Committee, are part of the consent agenda and are included with these minutes.)

Motion to accept the consent agenda, was seconded and approved.

2. **Motion to adopt a “Resolution of Witness” submitted by the Southern California, Nevada Conference.** (The resolution is included in its entirety)

The resolution calls on the church and its members to take action and prayerfully engage in the current climate crisis. The resolution calls for all to resist the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and demand new sources of renewable energy that are accessible to all communities. If accepted, this resolution will be sent to Synod for approval.

Frances Munro made the motion and duly seconded. The vote included 1 Nay and 2 abstaining.

3. **Timoth Sylvia moved to adopt the resolution, “Together, AS One” calling us to move ahead in forming a new joint conference with CT and MA.** The motion was seconded. The resolution in its entirety is included.

An amendment was moved to add the word “equally” to the resolution so that the section i.) would read “with a single Board of Directors made up of diverse members coming equally from the three Conferences.”

Motion was seconded and defeated.

A long and thorough discussion followed, which included pros and cons about forming a new conference. It was explained in multiple ways that a vote to approve only means that we will continue discussing how to form a new conference with MA and CT and does not commit RI to anything more.

After much discussion, Kurt Walker moved to call the question. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion to vote by secret ballot, was seconded, and defeated.

The vote was called to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried by a super majority.

4. **Nominating Committee Report- Betsy Garland**

The updated report was present to the delegates. A change was made to Church and Ministry Committee to change Rev. Bagley's term expiration to 2020 from 2018.
Motion to adopt the slate was seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Recognitions- Barbara Libby

- **Pastors**

Newly ordained: Rev.'s Robert Nolan, Stephen Finlan, Aidan Kelley, and Jametta Alston

Newly Installed: Rev's Kurt Walker, Dale Azevedo, and Robert Hollis

- **RIC Members in Discernment**

Chontell Washington, Linda Hartley, Shelly Moses, Brandon Yaghjian-Tison, Gabrielle Sclafani, Alyssa Browning-Gray

- **RIC BOD Recognition of Outgoing Members**

- **Congregations:**

Newly Open and Affirming: Chapel Street Congregational and United Congregational Church of Westerly UCC

Five for Five- Beneficent Congregational UCC, Central Congregational UCC, Edgewood Congregational UCC, First Congregational of Warwick UCC, Moosup Valley Congregational UCC, Newman Congregational UCC, Park Place Congregational UCC, and United Congregational Church of Westerly UCC

Basic Support Contributors- Many of the Conference's local churches received certificates acknowledging and offering thanks for their contributions to OCWM Basic Support.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm to join the delegates from CT and MA for the closing session of the First Tri-Conference Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Steere, clerk RICUCC

Included Reports:

2016 Autumnal Meeting Minutes

Conference President's Annual Report

Together, As One Creating a New Conference of the United Church of Christ

A Resolution of Witness submitted by the Southern California, Nevada Conference

Church and Ministry Committee Annual Report

Consolidated Investment Committee Fund Annual Report

Report of the Nominating Committee

Financial Report

Interim Conference Minister's Report

Christian Education and Youth Ministry Consultant Annual Report

Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health Annual Report

Associate Conference Minister for Communications for CT, MA, and RI Annual Report

Manager of Irons Homestead Annual Report
Vice President for Outdoor Ministries Annual Report
VP for Mission Interpretation Report
Vice President for Stewardship Development Annual Report
Vice President for Haiti Mission Annual Report
Vice President for Church Life and Leadership Annual Report
Vice President for Justice and Witness Annual Report
Racial Justice Ministry Committee Annual Report