

**46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ
June 6--8, 2008
College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota**

PLENARY SESSION 1

OPENING MUSIC Delegates and attendees gathered with the music from the Musicians Team.

WELCOME Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese welcomed all to the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference, both those who are attending for the first time and those who have attended for many years. Helen introduced Sharon James Fazel, Annual Meeting Planning Work Group Co-Chair. Sharon introduced the Musicians Team whose members are Brian Brosz, Malcolm Anderson, Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan and Ann and Bob Gregory-Bjorklund. They performed as delegates gathered and throughout the weekend meeting.

ORIENTATION Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers welcomed everyone and presented a multi-media orientation presentation entitled Extravagant Welcome, Evangelical Courage. Karen briefly outlined the UCC's structure and the Minnesota Conference funding, representatives, demographics, staff, ministries and the upcoming actions of this meeting.

RESOLUTION HEARINGS

According to the Conference rules for resolutions, hearings were held for the following resolutions:

- *Earthwise Congregation: A Resolution on Mediating Climate Change* introduced by Joe Newberg representing Mayflower Community Congregational UCC.
- *A Resolution Regarding the State of Minnesota's 150th Anniversary and the Establishing of Ongoing Relationships with Minnesota Native American Communities* introduced by Gary Titusdahl representing the Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference and Wilma Lawrence representing the Emmaus Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Minnesota Conference.
- *A Resolution on "A Minnesota Without Poverty"* introduced by Timothy Johnson, spokesperson, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Conference.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Rick Wagner outlined the proposed changes to the Conference Bylaws, as recommended by the Board of Directors. He noted one amendment to the proposed changes.

OPENING WORSHIP

After a break all attendees joined in opening worship. Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese thanked Richard and Trish Bruxvoort-Colligan and Bob and Ann Gregory-Bjorklund and Malcolm Anderson for planning and participating in this weekend's worship services.

CALL TO ORDER Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese called the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to order at 4:25 p.m. on Friday, June 6, 2008. She welcomed everyone to this meeting celebrating Extravagant Welcome, Evangelical Courage.

WELCOME Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers gave a special welcome to the first-time delegates and visitors to this 46th Annual Meeting of the Conference.

CREDENTIAL REPOFRT

Registrar of the Conference Annual Meeting, Beth Britt, gave the credentials report. Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese declared a quorum for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ORGANIZING MOTIONS

Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Sharon James Fazel, co-chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group.

Sharon James Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the approval of the Procedures and Rules Regarding Business Sessions as printed and distributed, for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon James Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the adoption of the Agenda as printed and distributed, for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon James Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the acceptance of the written reports as printed and distributed for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon James Fazel introduced the Parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting, Ernest Cutting, member of Macalester-Plymouth United Church.

Sharon James Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the appointment of Ernest Cutting as the Parliamentarian for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon James Fazel **moved the adoption of the Minutes of the June 2007 Annual Meeting as printed and distributed and corrected, for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS Sharon James Fazel told the delegates about locations of campus and conference amenities, the various ways and places to access the internet while on campus, and how to contact members of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group.

GUESTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Karen Smith Sellers introduced all of the following special guests of the Conference. These three people have standing in the Minnesota Conference:

Peg Chamberlin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches and
President-elect of the National Council of Churches
Gary Reiersen, President of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
Carol Joyce, past Secretary of the United Church of Christ

Karen Smith Sellers **moved that the following guests and Interim, Authorized or Other Ministers without standing serving Minnesota Conference Churches and the Minnesota Conference be approved for Voice without Vote at the 46th Annual Meeting:**

The following guests:

Valerie Tutson, storyteller extraordinaire
Rev. Dr. Richard Weis, Dean of United Theological Seminary
Connie Dow, Executive Director of Oak Meadows

**Don Hart, President of the United Church Foundation
Donaldson Hill, Minister and Team Leader, Financial Development Minister,
Office of General Ministries, UCC
Rev. Persido Rivera-Mendez, Minister of Evangelism for Church Development
and Renewal, Local Church Ministries, UCC
Rev. Ruth Garwood, Executive Director, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns
Deb Braun, Program Assistant with the Minn-Kota Regional Office of
Church World Service
Jody McCardle, Network Organizer, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
Ginger Stemme, Director of the Resource Center for Churches
Kiely Todd-Roska, Executive Director, Religious Coalition for Reproductive
Choice
Tammy Walhof, Regional Organizer for Bread for the World**

The following Interim Ministers without standing in the Minnesota Conference:

**Rev. Lou Bender, Interim Associate Minister, New Brighton UCC
Rev. EvaLyn Carlson, First Congregational, Fairmont
Rev. Suzan Ireland, First Congregational UCC, Winona
Rev. Ken Ribe, Zion UCC, Le Sueur
Rev. Janet Shannon, Community UCC, St. Paul Park**

The following Authorized Ministers without standing in the Minnesota Conference:

**Rev. Anne Andert, First Congregational, Hancock
Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Glyndon UCC/Hawley UMC
Rev. Jo Cassidy-Maloney, Oak Mound UCC
Rev. Cathi Crooks, Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis
Rev. Leah Hauser, Federated, Fergus Falls
Rev. Betty Johnson, The United Church, Mapleton
Rev. Justin (Jace) Kahn, St. Paul's UCC, Eyota
Rev. Brad Larson, The Congregational Church, Madison and First UCC,
Marietta Nassau
Rev. Connie McCallister, Mendota Heights UCC
Rev. Loren McGrail, Abbott-Northwestern Hospital
Rev. Mike Owens, Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis
Rev. Jerry Peterson, First UCC, Comfrey**

**Karen Smith Sellers also moved that the following persons be approved for Voice with
Vote at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of
Christ.**

**Rev. John Thomas
Rev. Judith Youngman
Wade Zick**

Motion passed.

MICHELLE JOHNSON RECOGNITION

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Karen Smith Sellers and Interim Associate Conference Minister Judith Youngman who honored, thanked and said farewell to Michelle Johnson who has served as Administrative Assistant to the Interim Associate Conference Minister in Faribault.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Rosemary Rocha, Edina Morningside, who, with Interim Associate Conference Minister Howie Tobak, presented a skit introducing and outlining the greatly-revised 2008 Clergy Compensation Guidelines document.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES (cont.)

Rosemary Rocha, on behalf of the Conference Professional Development of Authorized Ministries Team, **moved that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines, as presented in the written packet, be added to this meeting as an item of business. Motion passed.**

NOMINATING WORK GROUP

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Genie Williams, chair of the Nominating Work Group who then introduced the members serving on the Nominating Work Group. Genie outlined the slate of candidates to be voted upon by the Annual Meeting, with the addition of these two nominees:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gerald Cleveland | Peace UCC, Duluth | Annual Meeting Planning Work Group |
| Joe Crowe | New Brighton UCC | Personnel Committee |

Genie asked attendees to fill out the Skill Bank forms and to recommend candidates who might be interested in serving to the Nominating Work Group. She asked if anyone wished to make nominations from the floor (having the approval of the person being nominated.)

Genie Williams, on behalf of the Nominating Work Group, **presented the slate of nominees for Board of Directors, committees, work groups, and officers of the Conference as a business item for the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

Motion passed.

BYLAWS

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Rick Wagner, member of the Board of Directors, who outlined the proposed amendments to the Conference Bylaws, as recommended by the Board of Directors. He invited all to hearings about the proposed changes to be held on Saturday.

Rick Wagner, on behalf of the Board of Directors, **moved that the Bylaw Amendments, as presented in the written packet, be added as a business item for this meeting. Motion passed.**

RESOLUTIONS

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Maureen Engelhardt.

Maureen Engelhardt, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Business Resolutions Group, **reported that there have been two resolutions submitted prior to the March deadline, for action at this Annual Meeting, and one timely resolution submitted by the Minnesota Conference Board of Directors.**

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese stated: **On behalf of the Annual Meeting Business Resolutions Group, I receive these Resolutions, and ask that they be added to the agenda.**

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Sandy Johnson, chair of the Committee on Ministry. Sandy reported on the work of the Committee on Ministry, referring people to the Registrar's Report in the Annual Reports booklet.

PERSONS IN CARE

Sandy Johnson, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry, **moved that the Minnesota Conference Acting as an Association affirms the In Care Status Report recommended by the Committee on Ministry and presented in the Annual Report as corrected. Motion passed.**

Persons in Care in the Minnesota Conference

| Name | Church Membership | Seminary |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grace Anderson | Macalester-Plymouth United, St. Paul | UTS |
| Gail Antonson | Cherokee Park United, St. Paul | UTS |
| Lyle Avant | First Cong. UCC, Alexandria | UTS |
| Obadiah Ballinger | First Cong. UCC, Moorhead | Yale Divinity |
| Danielle Bartz | Congregational UCC, Rochester | Eden |
| Frank Bennett | Wayzata Community UCC, Wayzata | UTS |
| Becky Bernu | Robbinsdale UCC, Robbinsdale | UTS |
| Rex Beyer | Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis | UTS |
| Lindsay Braun | Zion UCC, Le Sueur | U of Chicago Divinity |
| Catherine Duncan | Plymouth Cong. Church, Minneapolis | St. Catherine's |
| Doug Federhart | Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis | UTS |
| Robert Fellows | Linden Hills UCC, Minneapolis | Harvard Divinity |
| Hillary Freeman | Plymouth Cong. Church, Minneapolis | Luther Seminary |
| Kathleen Itzin | Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls. | St. Paul Seminary |
| Victoria Johanneck | Wayzata Community UCC, Wayzata | UTS |
| Wilma Jean Lawrence | Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls. | UTS |
| Patti Mogren | St. Peter's UCC, Stillwater | UTS |
| Shuji Moriichi | St. Mark's UCC, Bloomington | UTS |
| Herbert Perkins | Cherokee Park United, St. Paul | UTS |
| Brandon Perrine | Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis | Luther |
| Kathleen Remund | Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis | UTS |
| Janet Stark | Lyndale Cong. UCC, Minneapolis | UTS |
| Dwight Wagenius | Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls. | UTS |
| Amy Wick-Moore | Union UCC, Elk River | UTS |
| Vicki L. Wunsch | Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls. | UTS |

In-Care for Commissioned Ministry

LeMonte Graham Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis UTS (currently suspended)

WELCOME TO NEW AUTHORIZED MINISTERS

Sandy Johnson welcomed these Authorized Ministers with standing in the Minnesota Conference who are new to the Minnesota Conference since the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Standing Transferred into Conference

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Rev. David Shoobridge | from Shenandoah Association, Central Atlantic Conference |
| Rev. Dana Mann | from Windom-Union Association, Vermont Conference |
| Rev. Bryan Olson | from Southwest Association, Wisconsin Conference |
| Rev. Dick Flynn | from Central Southeast Association, Ohio Conference |
| Rev. Ron Hunt | from Northern California, Nevada Conference |
| Rev. David Lindsey | from Southern California, Nevada Conference |
| Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler | from Wabash Valley Association, Indiana-Kentucky |
| Rev. Ward Malloy | from Prairie Association, Illinois Conference |
| Rev. Hannah Brown | from Metropolitan Boston Assn., Massachusetts Conf. |
| Rev. David Crum | from Pacific Northwest Conference |
| Rev. Wendy Ward | from Susquehanna Association, New York Conference |

NEW AUTHORIZED MINISTERS (cont.)

Transfer of Commissioned Ministry Status

Dale Dressler from (Commissioned Ministry), Wabash Valley Association, Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Received Standing by Ordination

Rev. Shirley Koepsell at Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis
Rev. Victoria Wilgocki at Lyndale Cong. UCC, Minneapolis
Rev. Cara Hochhalter at Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis

Granted Dual Standing

Rev. Karl Johnson at Grace Community UCC, St. Paul

Granted Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing

Rev. Richard Mark Disciples of Christ
Rev. Dennis Sanders Disciples of Christ

Licensed Ministers

Jennie Ott
Catherine Duncan
Brandon Perrine
Don Kain
Danielle Goette

NECROLOGY

Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference Minister, celebrated the lives and ministries of these ministers holding standing in the Minnesota Conference who have died in the past year:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. William W. Huntley | Died July 4, 2007 |
| Rev. Oscar Buchmueller | Died July 5, 2007 |
| Rev. Robert Middleton | Died January 22, 2008 |

Also noted was the death of Rev. Delwyn R. Rayson, died April 22, 2008.

RECESS

Following announcements, the attendees recessed for dinner.

PLENARY SESSION 2

CALL TO ORDER Following gathering music and announcements, Conference Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese reconvened the meeting after dinner and introduced Pilgrim Point Camp Managing Director Dale Dressler.

PILGRIM POINT CAMP

Dale requested prayers—for Pilgrim Point camp, for himself, and for the newly-hired camp staff. He told of some of the challenges they've faced. Dale named the new staff and the names of the many volunteers giving their time to Pilgrim Point this summer.

TAIZÉ RETREAT

Helen McEvoy-Freese introduced Taizé traveler and reporter, Scott Keehn. Scott shared a video presentation he'd created from the two groups of Minnesota Christian Education and Youth workers who made the pilgrimage to Taizé, France in March and April.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Sharon James Fazel introduced tonight's keynote presenter, Valerie Tutson. Valerie's storytelling "Stories of Extravagant Welcome" brought together her stories from the Bible, from faith and from life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Sharon James Fazel announced the schedule and procedures to sign up for Speak Out! Also, Paul Johnsen told of changes to Saturday's workshops and their locations and Kent Meyer invited all to the after-hours activities.

WORSHIP Valeria Tutson led the attendees in evening worship.

PLENARY SESSION 3

BIBLE STUDY After gathering music, Valerie Tutson led a Bible study on the text from Amos 5:22-24.

CALL TO ORDER Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese called the plenary session to order and introduced Conference Treasurer Steve Sorensen.

2006-2007 CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT

Conference Treasurer Steve Sorensen reported on the previous fiscal year's financial results (year ended September 30, 2007). Steve noted the following:

- OCWM gifts of \$831,607 were \$43,393 or 5% below budget of \$875,000. National UCC receives 34.75% of the OCWM gifts.
- Per capita dues payments of \$195,191 were \$4,809 or 2.5% below budget.
- Conference personnel expenses have also been less than budgeted during this year due to open positions, allowing the Conference to end the fiscal year with a change in net assets, after transfers, expenses and depreciation just \$2,315 less than the prior year.
- Thus far in fiscal year 2008 both revenue and expenses are approximately \$30,000 less than budget. OCWM is 1.8% less than anticipated as of March 31, 2008.

CONFERENCE MINISTER'S REPORT

Steve Sorensen introduced the Minnesota Conference Minister, Karen Smith Sellers. Karen's address was entitled "We're Having Adventures..." outlining the changes the Conference has undergone in the past year, and those anticipated in the next. Her full report is available on the www.uccmn.org website, or by contacting the Conference Office.

2008-2009 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Karen Smith Sellers introduced Rudi Anders, chair of the Finance Committee. Rudi outlined the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget totaling \$1,750,749. Of this revenues include:

- 48.6% or \$850,000 from OCWM
- 5.2% or \$ 91,500 from donations to Friends of the Conference and Pilgrim Point
- 17.2% or \$301,088 investment income from the Ashley and other restricted funds
- 12.6% or \$220,000 from Per Capita Dues
- 7.7% or \$134,411 from Other Income, partially from the Annual Meeting
- 8.8% or \$153,750 from Fees, Rentals and misc. income from Pilgrim Point

Expenses proposed are:

- 24 % or \$410,000 Faith and Spiritual Development --Camp and Ashley Ministries
- 2.7% or \$ 47,320 Prophetic Ministries – Emmaus, ONA, Justice & Witness Teams
- 1.9% or \$ 33,341 Church Growth and Renewal—Evangelism, New Church Dev.
- 4.7% or \$ 81,481 Stewardship and Financial Development –OCWM, Development

2008-2009 BUDGET PRESENTATION (cont.)

Proposed Expenses (cont.)

- 18.2% or \$318,363 Work with Local Churches and Authorized Ministries
- 23.2% or \$405,391 Support for Regional, National & Ecumenical Work
- 3.8 % or \$ 66,057 Communications
- 5.0 % or \$ 86,669 Annual Meeting
- 12.4 % or \$216,867 Administration
- 4.0 % or \$ 75,000 Depreciation

Rudy outlined assumptions used in developing this budget. He reminded delegates that a vote to approve this budget is also a pledge to work on behalf of one's congregation towards achieving it. Rudy also reminded those assembled that donated stock is very welcome!

Rudi Anders, chair of the Finance Committee, with support of the Board of Directors, **presented, on behalf of the Finance Committee the Recommended 2008-09 Budget of the Minnesota Conference, as printed and distributed, to this meeting as an item of business. Motion passed.**

Following the motion there was a time for questions and answers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Genie Williams asked all those who have served on boards or committees to stand and be recognized, and also asked everyone to fill out skill bank forms.

Genie noted these additional persons added to the nominating roster:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Gerald Cleveland | Peace UCC, Duluth | Annual Meeting Planning Committee |
| Joe Crowe | New Brighton UCC | Personnel Committee |

Genie Williams, on behalf of the Nominating Work Group, **presented the slate of nominees for Officers, Board of Directors, Committees and Work Groups of the Annual Meeting for election and moved that we accept the slate by acclamation. Motion passed.**

WORKSHOPS

Paul Johnsen of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group announced updates to workshops and locations.

ST. PAUL FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY

David Misemer, member of St. Anthony Park UCC, announced on behalf of St. Paul's Family Resources Foundation the availability of Heritage Grants to churches of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ again in 2009. These awards are being made to encourage and support churches wishing to begin new programs or substantially strengthen existing ones that improve the lives of seniors in their communities or support the families and others who care for them. The Foundation has designated \$50,000 for distribution in 2009. Individual awards are limited to a maximum of \$10,000. The foundation supports the ministries of the former St. Paul's Church Home and Oak Meadows Senior Housing.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the first Speak Out!

1. Bob Broeder, Minnesota Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, told of the need for volunteers to provide flood-recovery services in Rushford, Minnesota.

SPEAK OUT! (cont.)

2. Sarah Campbell, Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis, told of the gathering of national, state and local officials and church people involved in faith-based community organizing with ISIAH and the Gamaliel Foundation on October 12 at City Center in St. Paul, and again in St. Cloud.
3. Shiela Hussing, Mizpah UCC, Hopkins, OCWM Team member requests that each congregation designate individuals to volunteer as OCWM advocates, sharing information about OCWM resources.
4. Gigi Nauer, Pilgrims UCC, Maple Grove, invited groups and individuals to come and experience life on the Nitty Gritty Dirt farm in Harris, MN.
5. Richard Weis, Dean at United Theological Seminary, brought greetings and sincere thanks for your partnership and gifts to CUE and to UTS Seminary. He was pleased to announce the new Academy for Vital Christianity partnership with the Minnesota Conference.
6. Glen Herrington-Hall, UTS, told of two courses being offered in Duluth this fall. Also UTS is accepting applications from churches to apply for a Calvin Grants for training in worship leadership.
7. Nancy Benz, First Congregational UCC, Anoka, Knitting for Peace invited people to visit their prayer shawl display and contact her for information on starting Knitting for Peace groups.
8. Tammy Walhof, Bread for the World, told that we can cut hunger in half throughout the world. Write letters and call members of Congress and attend the workshops on Millennium Development Goals and Global Food Crisis.
9. Deb Braun, First Congregational UCC, Anoka, and Program Assistant with the Minn-Kota Regional Office of Church World Service, invited people to join them on their upcoming trip to Guatemala and the Honduras.
10. Laurie Crelly, Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis, and Human Rights Campaign staff member told of upcoming Faith and Fairness town hall campaigns in Brainerd, Rochester and Moorhead.

RECESS

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese announced that the business plenary is in recess until Sunday morning, and following a break the keynote presentation will follow.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

After a gathering song, Minnesota Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers introduced Keynote Speaker Rev. John Thomas, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ. His presentation was preceded by a Native American Indian Flag Song and Honor Song, offered by Johnny Smith and the Red Lake Singers. John Thomas' address was entitled: "From the Big Tent to the Great Parade." After his address, the attendees sang: "We are Marching in the Light of God."

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the second Speak Out!

1. Herb Perkins, Cherokee Park UCC, St. Paul and member of the Emmaus Team, introduced the Anti-Racism Transformation Team and offered those members as resources to work with individual congregations.
2. Kim Shaffer, First Congregational UCC, Fairmont, announced that their congregation has completed their profile and are ready to offer Fairmont's extravagant welcome to candidates who might apply to be their called pastor.
3. Tammy Walhof, Bread for the World, encouraged people to contact their United States Senators and ask them to co-sponsor and pass and Global Poverty Act legislation.

SPEAK OUT! (cont.)

4. Deb Braun, First Congregational UCC, Anoka, and Program Assistant with the Minn-Kota Regional Office of Church World Service, an ecumenical partner of the UCC, told of the many services and asked for more UCC participation in their programs.
5. Liz Dahlen, Peace UCC, Rochester, invited all congregations to their “Bringing Jesus Back to School” day of events on Saturday August 23, for Middle School and High School ecumenical youth.
6. Linda Bradley, Peace UCC, Rochester, noted that information was available about their Victor Lewis program on anti-racism.
7. Tim Johnson, Cherokee Park, St. Paul, asked that people join the big parade of people signing the petition forms for Minnesota Without Poverty. He also urged people to consider participating in an Anti-Racism study dialog circles.
8. Brenda Clarno, Union UCC, St. Louis Park encouraged everyone to use the *Yes* magazine resource for addressing moral and social issues.
9. Don Britt, Princeton UCC, Justice and Witness Team, urged Conference members to use the many resources available for congregations in building ongoing relationships with Native American communities in Minnesota.
10. Jim Anderson, Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis, reminded people that in part due to climate change, 31 people die of starvation every minute, mostly children. The clock is winding down. Serious action must be taken now. Support Earthwise congregations.

RECESS After announcements, the meeting recessed for lunch and afternoon workshops.

PLENARY SESSION 4

CALL TO ORDER Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese and Conference Minister called the celebration of “Honoring Our Heritage, Celebrating Our Future” awards and recognition plenary to order at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES OF CHURCHES

Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers recognized these Minnesota congregations celebrating historic milestones and directed people to the *Celebrating God's Goodness* booklets. Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese invited representatives to come forward and receive a framed certificate honoring their congregation.

25th Anniversary - 1983

Pilgrims UCC, Maple Grove

26th Anniversary - 1982

All Nations Indian Church, Minneapolis

50th Anniversary -1958

Chapel Hills UCC, Edina

125th Anniversary - 1883

Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park

150th Anniversary - 1858

First Congregational UCC, Dodge Center
The Congregational UCC, Rochester
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul

CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese and Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers recognized these ten people celebrating the anniversaries of their ordination, one of whom was in attendance. The brochure contained a brief biography of each person recognized.

50th Year of Ordination 1958

Rev. Ralph Colby
Rev. James Dahlgren
Rev. Thomas Laufer
Rev. Dan Schmiechen

55th Year of Ordination 1953

Rev. Trevor Hauske
Rev. Phil Ramstad
Rev. Walter Schlichting
Rev. Victor Vriesen
Rev. Jean-Paul Zenke

65th Year of Ordination 1943

Rev. Bernard Mc Lain

MEDIA VOLUNTEERS

Sharon James Fazel expressed the thanks of all of those attending for the excellent work of John Gutterman and Jeffrey Palmer and photographer Scott Keehn in preparing and presenting the many multi-media presentations throughout the meeting.

EMMAUS TEAM

Accompanied by the music of Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, a slideshow display some of the images of the work of the Minnesota Conference Emmaus Team.

CONGREGATION RECOGNITIONS

Karen Smith Sellers introduced a media presentation honoring the following congregations:

ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS

Four congregations were recognized by the Minnesota Conference for their accomplishments in the past year in with awards for outstanding work in removing attitudinal and architectural barriers.

Peace UCC, Eden Valley
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park
Cherokee Park UCC, St. Paul

GREEN AWARDS

Twelve congregations were awarded for their achievements in the past year in for outstanding work as stewards of God's creation caring for the earth and its environment.

First Congregational UCC, Alexandria
Pilgrims UCC, Maple Grove
First Congregational UCC, Moorhead
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis
Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC, Northfield
Robbinsdale UCC, Robbinsdale
Peace UCC, Rochester
The Congregational UCC, Rochester
Community UCC, St. Paul Park
First Congregational UCC, Wadena

FIVE-FOR-FIVE CHURCHES

These churches in Minnesota have participated in and sent in the gifts from all five of the UCC offerings in the past year.

St. Mark's UCC, Bloomington
First Congregational UCC, Brainerd
First Congregational UCC, Cannon Falls
The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes
Pilgrim Congregational, Duluth
Peace UCC, Eden Valley,
Chapel Hills UCC, Edina,
St. Paul's UCC, Eyota
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont
St. John's UCC, Fairmont
Congregational Church UCC, Faribault
First UCC, Fergus Falls
UCC, Gaylord
First Congregational UCC, Glencoe
First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais
Granite Falls UCC
Union Congregational Church UCC, Hackensack
Faith UCC, International Falls

Prairie Community Church, Lester Prairie
First Congregational UCC, Mankato
Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake
Congregational UCC, Medford
United Church of Christ, New Brighton
First Congregational UCC, New York Mills
The Associated Church, Owatonna
St. Paul's UCC, Plato
First Congregational UCC, Princeton
Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park
Falcon Heights UCC, St. Paul
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul
Community UCC, St. Paul Park
Clark Memorial UCC, South St. Paul
UCC, Wabasha
First Congregational UCC, Wadena
Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake
First Congregational Church, Zumbrota

OPEN AND AFFIRMING MINISTRIES TEAM

These Minnesota churches have voted to be Open and Affirming congregations.

First Congregational UCC, Brainerd,
Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC, Duluth
Peace UCC, Duluth
Falcon Heights UCC, Falcon Heights
Mizpah UCC, Hopkins
First Congregational UCC, Mankato
Pilgrims UCC, Maple Grove
First Congregational Church of Minnesota (UCC),
Minneapolis
Linden Hills Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Lyndale UCC, Minneapolis
Lynnhurst Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis
Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis
Parkway UCC, Minneapolis
Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis
Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis

First Congregational UCC, Montevideo
First Congregational UCC, Moorhead
United Church of Christ, New Brighton
First UCC, Northfield
Robbinsdale UCC, Robbinsdale
Peace UCC, Rochester
Peace UCC, St. Cloud
Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul
St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
Clark Memorial UCC, South St. Paul
Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park
United Theological Seminary, New Brighton is an
Open and Affirming Seminary of the UCC.
The Minnesota Conference is an Open and
Affirming Conference of the UCC

MUSIC

Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan performed a set of songs.

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Conference Development Consultant Jonathan Morgan thanked those present for their generous gifts to Friends of the Conference, and celebrated today's extravagant gifts of over \$5000 towards the Conference's goal of \$60,000 in this fiscal year. Jonathan suggested that we, seeing our abundance, share from our joy.

ARMSTRONG-VOSS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Karen Smith Sellers was pleased to congratulate and recognize the 2008 Armstrong/Voss scholarship winner, Lindsey Braun, who was unable to attend. Lindsey is a student at the University of Chicago Divinity School and in-care member of Zion UCC, Le Sueur.

LEYSATH AWARD

Karen Smith Sellers invited Sandra Johnson to come forward and accept 2008 Murdale Leysath Award. Murdale Leysath served in Minnesota as the first female Conference Minister in the United Church of Christ. Upon her retirement Murdale created this award of encouragement for women in ministry. Karen read her letter recognizing Sandy's multiple gifts and accomplishments in ministry, including her work at First UCC, Northfield, and her role as chair of the Committee on Ministry in the Minnesota Conference. Sandy recognized and thanked many of those who encouraged and assisted her on her path to and through her ministry.

MUSIC

Malcolm Anderson and Ann and Bob Gregory-Bjorklund performed a set of songs.

FAREWELLS

Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers, together with Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese, expressed their appreciation and presented gifts honoring the service and dedication of each of the following individuals whose terms are ending or will leaving the Conference or retiring in the next months:

- Helen McEvoy-Freese, Conference Moderator
- Steve Sorensen, Conference Treasurer
- Rebecca Kruse, Conference Secretary
- Dave Martens, member, Conference Board of Directors
- Neil Otto, member, Conference Board of Directors
- Dwight Wagenius, member, Conference Board of Directors
- Karen Gasche, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister
- Lynn Jacobson, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Conference Ministers
- Howie Tobak, Interim Associate Conference Minister
- Judith Youngman, Interim Associate Conference Minister

RECEPTION

A reception was held after the celebration in honor of the upcoming retirements of Karen Gasche and Lynn Jacobson. It was an opportunity to say best wishes and thank you to Karen Gasche for her 10 years of service and Lynn Jacobson for her 26 years of service to the Minnesota Conference.

PLENARY SESSION 5

CALL TO ORDER Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 8. Helen explained the “Bar of the House” to the delegates for the upcoming votes.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the third Speak Out!

1. Marty Everest, Falcon Heights UCC, announced the Women’s Retreat at Pilgrim Point September 19-21, 2008 with the theme “An Inspiring Approach to Non-Violence.”
2. Brenda Clarno, Union UCC, St. Louis Park, invited families of all types to the July Family Camp at Pilgrim Point, discussing sustainability and climate change.
3. Brigit Stevens, First Congregational UCC, Hutchinson, announced the course “Psychological First Aid Training” about caring for people in crisis, on June 24 in Hutchinson.
4. Pat Ekstrom, Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis, member of the Emmaus Team, announced two books recommended by the Emmaus Team in the One, Two, Read program: White Like Me: Reflections of a Privileged Son and United by Faith—the Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race.
5. Don Britt, First Congregational UCC, Princeton, offers bookmarks and bumper stickers that may be helpful in fighting racism, and also asked for prayers for our troops and their families.
6. Ward Malloy, Associated Church, Owatonna, on behalf of himself and his family shared their gratitude for the UCC’s medical insurance plan.
7. Roberta Olson, Macalester-Plymouth, St. Paul, asked attendees to contact legislators urging support for veterans and their families.
8. Elsworth Simon, St. Paul’s UCC, Lewiston, reminded people of the many farmers in need of assistance due to flooding and tornado damage.

EMMAUS TEAM

Herbert Perkins and Wilma Lawrence introduced members of the Emmaus Anti-racist, Multicultural, Multiracial Transformation Team. They introduced a video presentation created by members of Peace UCC, Duluth, telling of the past work and future plans for the anti-racism work of Peace UCC’s community.

JUSTICE AND WITNESS TEAM

Gary Titusdahl, chair of the Justice and Witness team of the Minnesota Conference, gave a passionate address quoting Teddy Roosevelt, “progress is accomplished by the person who does things” and celebrating the many programs and activities the Justice and Witness Team has sponsored or participated in this year, which at this meeting alone include sponsoring workshops on sustainable agriculture and immigration issues, partnering with the Emmaus Team in authoring the Sesquicentennial Resolution, and encouraging and honoring those congregations that are Accessible To All (A2A) and those congregations that have made progress in working to be “greener” and better stewards of the environment.

ONA/LGBT TEAM

Howard Bell, chair of the newly-formed ONA/LGBT team asked the team members to come forward and be recognized. He introduced the three consultants, Marc Blakesly, Tom George and Leslie Amundson who are trained through the Coalition to be a resource to congregations and guide to the study materials that are available. Howard introduced Gretchen Roesler who is the local coordinator of the Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition of the United Church of Christ which is the national body that supports the program of the work of ONA. Howard also celebrated the Minnesota Conference gathering of the Coalition, held just prior to the Conference Annual Meeting, with over 60 people in attendance. John Thomas’ keynote address to the ONA gathering will be available on DVD.

ADOPTION OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Rick Wagner referred delegates to the Bylaws information on each table and summarized the Bylaw amendment recommendations. Rick Wagner, on behalf of the Board of Directors, **moved that the Bylaws changes before you be adopted.**

After he made the following motion there was a time for questions from the delegates.

Dwight Wagenius, Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis, **moved to amend the motion as follows:**

Article IV, 5. Youth/Young Adult Delegate (age 13- ~~25~~ 29)

The motion was seconded.

Motion to amend passed.

Jeff Palmer, Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake, **moved to amend the motion as follows:**

Article VI, D. Committee on Ministry.

. . . The Committee on Ministry shall reflect as much as possible geographic range and diversity of the Local Churches ~~churches~~ of the Conference. The liaison shall report to the Board of Directors any changes in ministerial authorization and standing of ~~Authorized Ministers~~ or Local Churches.

Article VI, D, a.

. . . The Committee on Ministry shall seek to maintain relationship with ~~those persons~~ authorized for ministry and Local Churches holding standing in the Conference.

Article IV, 3. Voting Membership

. . . Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers ~~holding standing~~ authorized by the Committee on Ministry of the Conference Acting as an Association, . . .

The motion was seconded.

Motion to amend passed.

Jeff Palmer, Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake, **moved to amend the motion as follows:**

Article VI, 2 g. Conference Minister, without vote.

Article VI, 8. The four officers of the Board of Directors ~~and the Conference Minister~~ constitute an Executive Committee to be vested . . .

The motion was seconded.

Motion to amend passed.

Grant Speece, Faith United Church, Ada, **moved to amend the motion as follows:**

Article IX, 1.A. Upon termination, the Conference Minister ~~shall not receive any further compensation beyond what is already due.~~ shall receive a one-month severance package.

The motion was seconded.

Motion to amend failed.

Motion passed as amended by more than a two-thirds vote.

RESOLUTION 1 Maureen Engelhardt, on behalf of the Resolution Group, moved the adoption of the resolution entitled: **A Resolution on “A Minnesota Without Poverty”**, submitted by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.

Motion passed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that everyone present at the 2008 Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting be invited to review *A Common Foundation* and consider signing a petition to be presented to Minnesota’s elected leaders urging them to follow the principles of *A Common Foundation* as they develop public policy and as they respond to the Legislative Commission and its recommendations to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all such signed petitions be collected by Conference staff at the close of the Minnesota Conference of the United Christ Annual Meeting and forwarded to *A Minnesota Without Poverty* in care of the Minnesota Council of Churches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every congregation represented at this annual meeting be encouraged to provide opportunities for their congregation members to sign the petition for *A Common Foundation*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Conference Minister send a mailing to each congregation in the Conference including:

- A letter with theological/Biblical interpretation for *A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Overcoming Poverty*, the vision for *A Minnesota Without Poverty*, and encouragement for pastors and congregations to participate
- A copy of the Declaration of Support document
- Reference to website: www.mnwithoutpoverty.org
- A copy of a sample article for congregational newsletter authored by the Statewide Organizing Team of *A Minnesota Without Poverty*
- Directions that all copies of signed documents be mailed to *A Minnesota Without Poverty*, c/o the Minnesota Council of Churches; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the petitions be presented by the Statewide Organizing Team of *A Minnesota Without Poverty* to Minnesota’s Governor and Legislators with all signatures from the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, along with those gathered by all other judicatories with congregations in Minnesota, and those generated from other faith communities in Minnesota.

RESOLUTION 2 Maureen Engelhardt, on behalf of the Resolution Group, moved the adoption of the resolution entitled: **A Resolution Regarding the State of Minnesota’s 150th Anniversary and the Establishing of Ongoing Relationships with Minnesota Native America Communities**, submitted by the Justice and Witness Team and the Emmaus Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. (*Note – the following is the original resolution. It was replaced by the subsequent substitute resolution which was approved.*)

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Minnesota to use the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the State of Minnesota to begin a new relationship between European American and Native American governments and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, urge the Minnesota State Legislature to pass a resolution, and the Governor of Minnesota to sign said resolution, apologizing to the Native American nations and communities located within the State of Minnesota

for the unjust treatment of Native Americans by European Americans over the years of Minnesota history, going back before the founding of the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on all congregations and other bodies of the United Church of Christ in Minnesota to become highly knowledgeable about the history of the relationship between the Native American and European American communities, to engage in discussions within congregations and communities regarding that history, and to form antiracist, justice-seeking relationships in support of Native American governments and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct the Conference Minister to send letters to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, urging them to pass and sign a bill beginning a new dialogue on the history and relationship of Native American and European American communities in Minnesota, including an apology for past injustices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct the Conference Minister to send letters to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, urging them to pass and sign bills or resolutions proposed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council regarding the Minnesota Sesquicentennial and the need for apologies and new relationship; and finally

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Team and Emmaus Anti-Racism Team continue working together to provide resources and opportunities for congregations and individuals of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to learn the truth about this aspect of our state's history, and to be in antiracist, justice-seeking relationships with Native American nations and communities located within the State.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 2—

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE STATE OF MINNESOTA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE ESTABLISHING OF ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MINNESOTA NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Gary Titusdahl, Zumbrota UCC, **moved the acceptance of a substitute resolution with the same title to replace the original resolution and the motion was seconded.**

Motion passed.

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, recognizing the need to build relationship and establish trust-worthiness, call on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Minnesota to use the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the State of Minnesota to begin a new relationship between the State government and Native American governments and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on all congregations and other bodies of the United Church of Christ in Minnesota to become highly knowledgeable about the history of the relationship between the Native American and European American communities, to engage in discussions within congregations and communities regarding that history, and to form antiracist, justice-seeking relationships in support of Native American governments and communities including seeking to understand the significance of, the nature of, and the responsibilities involved in extending apologies for the unjust treatment of Native Americans by European Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the upcoming year the Justice & Witness Team and the Emmaus Anti-Racism Team shall request the assistance of all congregations and other bodies of the United Church

of Christ in Minnesota in (1) sharing local and Conference-wide experiences building relationships and becoming more trust-worthy allies with Native American governments, communities and individuals and (2) considering the need for apologies by the Conference and by individual congregations to Native American nations and communities. The Justice & Witness Team and the Emmaus Antiracism Team shall report regularly to the Board of Directors on this effort and the Conference shall explore this effort in depth at its 2009 Annual Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct the Conference Minister to send letters to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church, urging them to author, pass and sign a bill beginning a new dialogue on the history and relationship of Native American and European American communities in Minnesota, including apologies to the Native American nations and communities located within the State of Minnesota for the unjust treatment of Native Americans by European Americans over the years of Minnesota history from the beginning of European contact through and including the present time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct that the Conference Board of Directors, with whatever assistance it may desire from other Conference bodies, establish a relationship of collaboration and support with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and with other Indian-based organizations who may propose legislation regarding the Minnesota Sesquicentennial or the need for apologies and new relationship, with the desired outcome being that the Conference will support that legislation. If legislation is proposed, the Board of Directors is authorized to approve said legislation on behalf of the Conference and, upon such approval, shall direct the Conference Minister to send letters to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, urging them to sponsor, pass and sign that legislation. Congregations within the Conference are encouraged to involve themselves in the legislative process, with the goal of having at least 500 Conference members present at the signing of that legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on our partner communions in and through the Minnesota Council of Churches to join the Minnesota Conference in the various actions described in this Resolution; and finally

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Team and Emmaus Anti-Racism Team continue working together to provide resources and opportunities for congregations and individuals of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to learn the truth about this aspect of our state's history, and to be in antiracist, justice-seeking relationships with Native American nations and communities located within the State.

Roberta Olson, Macalester-Plymouth United Church, moved to have the substitute resolution read to the delegates and the motion was seconded.

Motion failed.

Jan Shaffer, 1st Congregational UCC, Fairmont moved to refer this resolution to the Board of Directors.

Motion failed.

Motion to approve substitute resolution passed.

RESOLUTION 3 Maureen Engelhardt, on behalf of the Resolution Group, **moved the adoption of the resolution entitled Earthwise Congregation: A resolution on mediating climate change submitted by Mayflower Community Congregational United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, MN, by its Church Council.** *(Note – the following is the original resolution. It was replaced by the subsequent substitute resolution which was approved.)*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conference calls on the United Church of Christ to create the Earthwise Congregation, a new designation for United Church of Christ congregations to promote fulfillment of the 26th General Synod's call for environmental stewardship. The following statement defines the parameters for an Earthwise Congregation.

Earthwise Congregation

Addressing the charges set forth by Twenty Sixth Synod of the United Church of Christ, selecting and adapting guidelines set forth by the community-based U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and adding pertinent church-based guidelines, our congregation commits to the following actions and ideals:

A. We will strive to meet or exceed meaningful targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking immediate actions in our own operations, beginning with:

1. Promoting transportation options such as walking, bicycling, car pooling and public transit;
2. Making energy efficiency a priority through building improvements, retrofitting facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy;
3. Purchasing only Energy Star equipment and appliances for church use, including but not limited to refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, room air conditioners, heating and cooling systems, audio and video, and office equipment.
4. Increasing recycling rates in church operations and promoting recycling in the community;
5. Engaging in tree planting to increase shading on church property and to absorb CO₂, and promoting tree planting and urban reforestation elsewhere.

B. Our congregation will establish an Earthwise Congregation committee which will annually complete the following tasks:

1. Conduct an annual energy audit of church facilities with the purpose of identifying a comprehensive, whole-church approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort, while helping to protect the environment.
2. Conduct an annual review of new standards and new technologies, with the goal of maintaining meaningful greenhouse-gas reduction objectives and identifying effective ways of meeting those objectives.
3. Create an annual Earthwise Congregation action-plan which identifies specific and meaningful steps the congregation can take in protecting the environment, and is individualized to the congregation's needs and strengths.
4. Disseminate information to the congregation which is received from the Energy and Climate Working Group of the United Church of Christ, the Environment and Energy Task Force, the Justice and Witness Ministries, and related bodies.

C. Our congregation will actively urge our local, state, and national governments, as well as businesses and industry, to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership such as by:

1. Supporting measures that reduce the absolute amount of green house gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies,
2. Supporting sustainable policies for international trade and investment,
3. Investing in energy conservation, specifically in sustainable, renewable and affordable systems of transportation,
4. Supporting sustainable and renewable systems of land use,
5. Calling on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies which are economically accessible and just.

- D. Our congregation will be a voice of hope in the climate crisis, grounding our action in faith:
1. Engaging in biblical study, theological reflection, prayer, and Christian education that celebrate God's creation, emphasize our role as stewards for creation, and lift up concerns about the impact of climate change on our global community.
 2. Creating new opportunities to connect faith and the care of the earth through worship and common life.
 3. Promoting a public dialogue around environmental issues that emphasizes our interconnectedness, casts a bold and urgent vision, and empowers communities to pursue change.
 4. Building relationships with other churches and organizations interested in pursuing environmental protection to share information and efforts.
 5. Acting as a resource for the dissemination of current and useful information on the topic of environmental stewardship to the community and its individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ endorses the Earthwise Congregation designation and by its adoption sends this Resolution to General Synod 27, urging congregations from across the denomination to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Justice and Witness Ministries shall be charged with the responsibility of consolidating and disseminating information to congregations seeking to address climate change.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 3 –

EARTHWISE CONGREGATION: A RESOLUTION ON MEDIATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Sarah Campbell, Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis **moved the acceptance of a substitute resolution with the same title to replace the original resolution and the motion was seconded. Motion seconded. Motion to accept substitute resolution passed.**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conference calls on the United Church of Christ to create a new congregation designation, the Earthwise Congregation, thus answering the 26th General Synod's call for environmental stewardship. The Earthwise Congregation will be a body of action and a voice of hope, grounded in faith. The following statement defines the parameters for an Earthwise Congregation.

EARTHWISE CONGREGATION

Addressing the charges set forth by the Twenty Sixth Synod of the United Church of Christ, selecting and adapting guidelines set forth by the community-based U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and adding pertinent church-based guidelines, our congregation commits to the following actions and ideals:

A. We will strive to meet or exceed meaningful targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking immediate actions, where possible, in our own operations, beginning with:

1. Promoting transportation options such as walking, bicycling, car pooling and public transit;
2. Making energy efficiency a priority through building improvements, retrofitting facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy;
3. Purchasing only Energy Star equipment and appliances for church use, including but not limited to refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, room air conditioners, heating and cooling systems, audio and video, and office equipment.
4. Maximizing recycling rates in church operations and promoting recycling in the community;
5. Engaging in tree planting to increase shading on church property and to absorb CO₂, and promoting tree planting and urban reforestation elsewhere.

B. Our congregation will establish an Earthwise Congregation committee which will complete the following tasks:

- 1. Conduct periodic energy audits of church facilities with the purpose of identifying a comprehensive, whole-church approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort, while helping to protect the environment.**
- 2. Conduct an annual review of new standards and new technologies, with the goal of maintaining meaningful greenhouse-gas reduction objectives and identifying effective ways of meeting those objectives.**
- 3. Create an annual Earthwise Congregation action-plan which identifies specific and meaningful steps the congregation can take in protecting the environment, and is individualized to the congregation's needs and strengths.**
- 4. Disseminate information to the congregation which is received from the Energy and Climate Working Group of the United Church of Christ, the Environment and Energy Task Force, the Justice and Witness Ministries, and related bodies.**

C. Our congregation will actively urge our local, state, and national governments, as well as businesses and industry, to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership such as by:

- 1. Supporting measures that reduce the absolute amount of green house gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies,**
- 2. Supporting sustainable policies for international trade and investment,**
- 3. Investing in energy conservation, specifically in sustainable, renewable and affordable systems of transportation,**
- 4. Supporting sustainable and renewable systems of land use,**
- 5. Calling on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies which are economically accessible and just.**

D. Our congregation will be a voice of hope in the climate crisis, grounding our action in faith:

- 1. Engaging in biblical study, theological reflection, prayer, and Christian education that celebrate God's creation, emphasize our role as stewards for creation, and lift up concerns about the impact of climate change on our global community.**
- 2. Creating new opportunities to connect faith and the care of the earth through worship and common life.**
- 3. Promoting a public dialogue around environmental issues that emphasizes our interconnectedness, casts a bold and urgent vision, and empowers communities to pursue change.**
- 4. Building relationships with other churches and organizations interested in pursuing environmental protection to share information and efforts.**
- 5. Acting as a resource for the dissemination of current and useful information on the topic of environmental stewardship to the community and its individuals.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ endorses the Earthwise Congregation designation and by its adoption sends this Resolution to General Synod 27, urging congregations from across the denomination to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Justice and Witness Ministries shall be charged with the responsibility of consolidating and disseminating information to congregations seeking to address climate change.

Motion to approve substitute resolution passed.

2009 BUDGET

Rudi Anders, on behalf of the Finance Committee, with the support of the Board of Directors, **presented for adoption the Recommended 2009 Budget of the Minnesota Conference, as printed and distributed to this meeting. Motion passed.**

Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese shared her appreciation for the work of the Finance Committee in the past year.

COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

T. Michael Rock, on behalf of Professional Development of Authorized Ministries Team, **moved for adoption of the 2008-2009 Clergy Compensation Guidelines of the Minnesota Conference, as printed and distributed to this meeting with the following three additions:**

Page 5 -- 4. General Benefits
...paid vacation and **the equivalent of 2 days off per week**, business travel ...

Page 10 -- 6. f. Continuing Education
...including weekends. **A dialog between the minister and the ministry setting in advance of the leave is encouraged.** Both the ...

Page 13 -- 10. Reporting a Minister's Compensation
Ministers may responsibly, **with the appropriate governing board or annual meeting approval**, reapportion their salary and housing ...

Motion passed.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2008

Registrar of the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting, Beth Britt, presented the final numbers of registrations. There are 140 churches in the Minnesota Conference.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Total number of Churches | 97 |
| Total number of Delegates | 269 |
| Total number of Visitors | 78 |

ADJOURN

After announcements, Moderator Helen McEvoy-Freese called for adjournment of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference, following the final Worship Service.

Motion passed.

AMENITIES RESOLUTION

Sharon James Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, noted the following Amenities Resolution displayed on the video screens:

**AMENITIES RESOLUTION
FOR THE 46th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Whereas, 390 delegates and friends gathered for the Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

Whereas, as our General Minister and President, The Reverend John H. Thomas relayed to us in his opening words that we are “enlarged by the scale of that we are able to desire;” and

Whereas our theme this year, also from the opus of John Thomas’s words through the years -- “Extravagant Welcome ... Evangelical Courage” – has called us to open not only our hearts and minds but also the imaginations of our souls, we express our utmost gratitude for the many gifts of ministry in all who have gathered here, but especially for all who have made this 2008 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, a full, joyous, and challenging manifestation of the living Body of Christ.

Be It Resolved, therefore, that we give thanks to and for:

Each person who participated in our meeting, whether delegate or visitor;

for our Conference Minister, The Reverend Dr. Karen Smith Sellers, whose outstanding administrative leadership is exceeded only by her stimulating challenge to us, as a gathering of God’s people, to take our rightful place in “the great parade;”

for our Moderator, Helen McEvoy-Freese, who shepherded our meeting with grace, wit, and patience, and who departs her role as Moderator to make way for incoming Moderator, Mark Kuether; and for Ernest Cutting, our conscientious Parliamentarian;

for all other Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Conference, especially those leaving their offices—Rebecca Kruse, Secretary; Steve Sorensen, Treasurer; and members Mark Arbisi, Charlene Johnson, Dave Martens, Neil Otto and Dwight Wagenius; and for the remaining members and committees who have composed and delivered reports and recommendations, notably the efforts of Rudi Anders, Finance Chair, for his work on the 2008 budget; and Rick Wagner, for his leadership in revising the Conference By-Laws;

for the work of our Conference Ministry Teams, in particular this year our Prophetic Ministries: EMMAUS Anti-Racism Transformation Team, Justice and Witness Team, and ONA/LGBT Team; and the Professional Development of Authorized Ministers Team, for their work on the Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

for the steady leadership and stalwart support of Conference Staff, especially those departing their roles: Howard Tobak, Interim Associate Conference Minister; and Judith Youngman, Interim Associate Conference Minister; and for the more recently inaugurated leadership of Wade Zick, Ashley Minister for Faith Formation of Children and Youth and Dale Dressler, Director of Pilgrim Point Outdoor Ministries.

for the invincible assistance of other Conference Support Staff, especially our three departing individuals: Karen Gasche, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister; Lynn Jacobson, and Michelle Johnson, each an Administrative Assistant to an Associate Conference Minister;

for our extravagantly gifted Musicians Team: Richard and Trish Bruxvoort-Colligan, Bob and Ann Gregory-Bjorkland, Malcolm Anderson and Brian Brosz, whose music and prayers lifted our spirits,

AMENITIES RESOLUTION (cont.)

and carried us on a journey of the soul in song and sound; and for the special and sacred moment reminding us of historical roots and ongoing relationships, as a nation indebted to our Native American Indian members, brought to us in the singing and drumming of Johnny Smith and the Red Lake Singers.

for the creativity and liturgical skills of Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan in assisting with worship planning and preparation;

for the boundless energy and memorable inspiration of our Keynote Speakers Valerie Tutson and Rev. John H. Thomas;

for the conscientiousness and profound dedication of the Work Groups of the Minnesota Conference – the Nominating Work Group, led by Genie Williams, and the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, whose members planned and implemented this meeting, spending long hours on the agenda, exhibits, publicity, resolutions, workshops, worship, Peace Camp and child care for our children, often navigating logistical nightmares in the process:

Sharon James Fazel, and Maureen Engelhardt, Co-Chairs, who between them handled the resolution process, and just about anything else that came along;

Kent Meyer, once again responsible for Exhibits and After-Hours Events;

Paul Johnsen, newly responsible for Workshops, who graciously offers much of his success to the assistance of his spouse, Nancy Johnsen, who pinch hit for him when he needed to work out of town so often;

Brian Brosz, who assisted ably in general planning and especially in music performance;

John Guttermann, who created power point presentations, and held our feet to the fire on conscientious attention to responsible ecological awareness in our planning;

Cindy Mueller, whose decorating and organizing appeals and assistance with plants, cloth, banners and icons, was exceeded only by her artistry in arranging so much disparate “stuff” into an environment of inviting welcome and extravagant beauty ; even as she departed early to shepherd a youth mission trip;

The equally important and hard-working adjunct work group members, who designed and sculpted crucial areas of our meeting:

Beth Britt, our Registrar Extraordinaire, and everyone who assisted her in a high stress, intensely focused onsite role;

Deb Celley, and the members of First Congregational UCC, Brainerd, who designed and conducted Children’s Peace Camp and Childcare;

Jeff Palmer, our A/V Coordinator, without whose assistance we would surely still be technologically languishing in the 20th century;

Scott Keehn, whose incisive photography celebrates before our very eyes our emerging Minnesota Conference “parade.”

AMENITIES RESOLUTION (cont.)

The staff of the College of St. Benedict who have shown us hospitality, cooperation, and have assisted at every turn:

**Jessica Reiter, Assistant Director of Events and Conferences;
and her truly special trained student staff, to whom we are deeply indebted for their continual good
humor and “can do” attitude:**

**Dianne Zimmermann, Allison Koranda, Alex Tansom, Katie Schneider, Kevin Gjierstad of the Events
Staff and Kevin Knodl of the Benedicta Arts Center Staff; and all the catering kitchen staff who fed us
well, and guided us in and out of mealtimes;**

**Be It Further Resolved, that the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of
Christ testifies to the power and presence of the imagination instilled within us by a loving and caring God, the
author and finisher of all our best gifts to and for one another.**

**Sharon James Fazel moved the adoption of this Amenities Resolution on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning
Work Group. Motion passed.**

**Newly-elected Minnesota Conference Moderator Mark Kuether declared the 46th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota
Conference adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted:
Rebecca Kruse, Secretary