

**47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference –
United Church of Christ
June 5-7, 2009
College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota**

Friday, June 5, 2009

PLENARY SESSION #1

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

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers welcomed all to the 2009 MN Conference Annual Meeting and introduced honored guests and speakers.

Kita McVay – Interim President of United Theological Seminary. Karen thanked Kita for her service as Interim President and acknowledged her outstanding leadership in this interim period at United Theological Seminary. Kita thanked the MN Conference for its support of UTS and its mission.

Rev. David Schoen, Minister & Team Leader of Evangelism Ministry Team, Congregational Vitality Initiative Coordinator, United Church of Christ. Karen welcomed Rev. Schoen. He spoke briefly to the delegation about the work of the Vitality Initiative Program and the importance of OCWM contributions that fund this program.

OPENING WORSHIP

After a break all attendees joined in opening worship – Theme: Longing, Psalm 42:1-2

BUSINESS SESSION #1

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator, Rev. Mark Kuether, called the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to order at 2:15pm. An extravagant welcome was extended to Rev. Clyde Steckel, new delegates and everyone else. Mark reiterated the theme of this Annual Meeting “Together We Will Be Renewed”.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Secretary of the Conference, Ron Stricker gave the credentials report. It was reported that 170 delegates and 73 churches were registered as of 2:00pm on Friday, June 5, 2009. Moderator Mark Kuether declared a quorum for the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ORGANIZING MOTIONS

Mark Kuether introduced Rev. Sharon James Fazel, member of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group.

Sharon 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 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed as amended.**

A motion by Kim Schafer and was seconded to extend the amount of time allotted to budget discussion that would allow up to 6 people pro and 6 people con to speak . Amendment passed.

Sharon Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the adoption of the Agenda as printed and distributed for the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. A motion by Kim Shafer and was seconded to amend the agenda for Saturday night discussion concerning the 2010 budget to up to 60 minutes. Amended Motion Passes.**

Sharon Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the acceptance of the written reports as printed and distributed for the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon Fazel introduced the Parliamentarian Ernest Cutting, member of Macalester-Plymouth United Church and substitute Parliamentarian Howard Bell, member of New Brighton United Church of Christ.

Sharon Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the appointment of Ernest Cutting and Howard Bell as the Parliamentarians for the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, **moved the adoption of the Minutes of the June 2008 Annual Meeting as printed and distributed for the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Sharon Fazel, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, gave an explanation of Speak Outs!

WELCOME

Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers welcomed the delegates and visitors to this 47th Annual Meeting of the Conference.

Ashley Minister Wade Zick welcomed youth delegates to this Annual Meeting. Wade also asked the churches in our Conference to encourage and coax youth and young adults to attend Annual Meeting. Amy Wick Moore was recognized for her work in gathering of youth and young adults of the MN Conference.

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

Karen Smith Sellers introduced the following special guests of the Conference
And 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 47th Annual Meeting *motion was seconded.* Motion passed.

The following guests:

Rev. Paul Nixon, Pastor of Epicenter Church and author of I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church
Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader, Congregational Vitality and Discipleship, Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ
Rev. Susan K. Smith, Senior Pastor of Advent United Church of Christ, Columbus, OH
Ms. Kita McVay, President of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
Ms. Connie Dow, Executive Director of Oak Meadows

Ms. Deb Braun, Program Assistant with the Minn-Kota Regional Office of Church World Service
Rev. Ruth Garwood, Executive Director, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns
Ms. Ginger Stemme, Director of Resource Center for Churches
Mr. Randy Monson, Agent for the United Church of Christ Insurance Board

The following Interim Ministers without standing in the Minnesota Conference:

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

The following Authorized Ministers without standing in the Minnesota Conference:

Rev. Lynn Borgeson, Glyndon UCC/Hawley UMC
Rev. Jo Cassidy-Maloney, Oak Mound UCC
Rev. Connie McCallister, Mendota Heights UCC
Rev. Leah McDowell, St Paul's UCC/ELCA, Lewiston

Karen also introduced Rev. Peg Chamberlin, who has dual standing, as Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, President-Elect of the National Council of Churches, and member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

NOMINATING WORK GROUP

Moderator Mark Kuether 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.

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.

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 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. There was a question about the Outdoor Ministries Team, and it was clarified that teams are not part of this motion of approval. There was a question about what happens to proposed Pilgrim Point Camp Committee, this will be determined after the discussion of 2010 budget. Motion passed.**

CONFERENCE STAFF

Karen Smith Sellers recognized the Conference Staff including:

Alison Bents	Sian Nelson
Rev. Elena Larssen	Wade Zick
Rev. Rick Wagner	Dee Dressler
Marita Karlisch	Evelyn Henrickson
Michele Borne	Rev. Larry Boatman, Financial Development Consultant
	Rev. Bob Broeder, Volunteer Disaster Coordinator

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Moderator Mark Kuether introduced Sandy Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Ministry. Sandy reported on the work of the Committee on Ministry, referring people to the 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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Church Membership</u>	<u>Seminary</u>
Grace Anderson	Macalester-Plymouth United, St. Paul	UTS
Obadiah Ballinger	First Cong. UCC, Moorhead	Yale Divinity
Danielle Bartz	Congregational UCC, Rochester	Eden
Joann Bell	Macalester-Plymouth, St Paul	Chicago Theological
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
Jeanne Bringgold-Pro	Macalester-Plymouth United, St. Paul	UTS
Catherine Duncan	Plymouth Cong. Church, Minneapolis	UTS
Doug Federhart	Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis	UTS
Robert Fellows	Linden Hills UCC, Minneapolis	Harvard Divinity
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
Chester O'Gorman	Lyndale UCC, Minneapolis	UTS
Herbert Perkins	Cherokee Park United, St. Paul	UTS
Kathleen Remund	Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis	UTS
Luann Suilmann	Union Cong. UCC, Elk River	UTS
Dwight Wagenius	Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls.	UTS
Amy Wick-Moore	Union Cong. UCC, Elk River	UTS
Vicki L. Wunsch	Mayflower Community UCC, Mpls.	UTS

In-Care for Commissioned Ministry

Dawn Carlson Conn	Robbinsdale	UTS
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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. Loren McGrail	Rev. Barbara Martin
Rev. Jennie Ott	Rev. Richard Eick

Rev. Bonnie Forsman
Rev. Susan Thornton
Rev. Desiree Gold
Rev. Sara Morse

Rev. Elena Larssen
Rev. James Brasel
Rev. Luis Alvarenga
Rev. Richard Fyelling

Received Standing by Ordination

Rev. Janet Stark
Rev. Lyle Avant

Rev. Hillary Freeman
Rev. Brandon Perrine

Granted Dual Standing

Rev. Leah Ntuala

Reinstatement of Standing

Rev. James Clausen

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 Mark Kuether invited representatives to come forward and receive a framed certificate honoring their congregation.

125th Anniversary - 1884

St. James United Church of Christ, Barnesville
Lyndale Congregational United Church of Christ, Minneapolis

150th Anniversary - 1859

St. Charles United Church of Christ

CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

Moderator Mark Kuether and Conference Minister Karen Smith Sellers recognized these fifteen people celebrating the anniversaries of their ordination. The recognition brochure contained a brief biography of each person recognized.

50th Year of Ordination 1959

Rev. Marvin Ediger
Rev. Robert Henderson
Rev. Eugene Jaberg
Rev. Clark Miller
Rev. Elsa Patt
Rev. Harold Ulseth

55th Year of Ordination 1954

Rev. David Cave
Rev. John Longley
Rev. Arthur Merrill
Rev. James Parker
Rev. Arthur Rouner
Rev. Fred Stroebel
Rev. William Voelkel

60th Year of Ordination 1949

Rev. Donald Chapman
Rev. Dr. Fred O. Doty

LEYSATH AWARD

Karen Smith Sellers invited Rev. Norma Rae Hunt to come forward and accept 2009 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. Norma Rae accepted the award with thanks and felt honored to be selected for this award.

CONGREGATION RECOGNITIONS

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

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.

First Congregational UCC, Aldrich
First Congregational UCC, Aldrich
First Congregational UCC, Anoka
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Benson
Faith UCC, Bertha
First Congregational UCC of Brainerd
Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake
Congregational UCC, Medford
First Congregational of Minnesota UCC, Minneapolis
Lynnhurst Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis
Spirit of the Lakes UCC, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC, Montevideo

The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes UCC
Peace UCC, Duluth
Pilgrim Congregational, Duluth
Peace UCC, Eden Valley
Union UCC, Elk River
St. Paul's UCC, Eyota
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont
Falcon Heights UCC, Falcon Heights
St. John's UCC, Faribault
Freeborn Congregational UCC, Freeborn
Gaylord UCC, Gaylord
First Congregational UCC, Glencoe
Congregational UCC, Glyndon
First Congregational, Grand Marais
Union Congregational UCC, Hackensack
St. Paul's UCC, Henderson
Mizpah UCC, Hopkins
Faith UCC, International Falls
Prairie Community Church, Lester Prairie
First Congregational UCC, Mankato
Pilgrims UCC, Maple Grove

United Church of Christ, New Brighton
First Congregational UCC, New York Mills
First UCC, Northfield
Friedens UCC, Norwood Young America
Congregational UCC, Ortonville
St. Paul's UCC, Plato
First Congregational UCC, Princeton
Emerson Congregational UCC, Richfield
Robbinsdale UCC, Robbinsdale
Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park
Hazel Park Congregational UCC, St. Paul
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul
St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
Community UCC, St. Paul Park
New Spirit UCC, Savage
First Congregational UCC, Sherburn
Clark Memorial UCC, South St. Paul
First Congregational UCC, Wadena
Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake
First Congregational UCC, Winona
First Congregational Church, Zumbrota

2008 Minnesota Conference Covenant Keepers Congregations

(Gold Covenant Keepers contributed 15% or more of operating expenses to OCWM)

(Silver Covenant Keepers contributed 10 – 14.9% of operating expenses to OCWM)

(Red Covenant Keepers contributed 1 – 9.9% of operating expenses to OCWM and increased giving by at least 1%)

RED COVENANT KEEPERS

Aldrich – First Congregational UCC
Alexandria--First Congregational UCC
Anoka--First Congregational UCC
Baudette--First Congregational UCC
Benson—Pilgrim Congregational UCC
Bertha—Faith UCC
Cottage Grove—Cottage Grove UCC
Dodge Center--First Congregational UCC
Duluth—Peace UCC

Pelican Rapids-- First Congregational UCC
Princeton--First Congregational UCC
St. Cloud—Peace UCC
St. Paul—Macalester-Plymouth United Church
St. Paul—St. Anthony Park UCC
St. Paul—St. Paul's UCC
Sauk Centre—First United Church of Christ
Wadena--First Congregational UCC
Waldorf—Zoar UCC

Eden Valley--Peace UCC
 Edina—Edina Morningside UCC
 Elk River—Union UCC
 Excelsior—The Congregational Church
 Forest City—St. Matthew’s UCC—Forest City
 Graceville--First Congregational UCC
 Hackensack—Union Congregational Church UCC
 Henderson—St. Paul’s UCC
 Hopkins—Mizpah UCC
 Lake City—First Congregational UCC
 Little Falls—First United Church
 Maple Grove--Pilgrims UCC
 Maple Lake—Bethlehem UCC
 Millville—Grace UCC
 Minneapolis—Lyndale Congregational UCC
 Minneapolis—Lynnhurst Congregational UCC
 Minneapolis—Mayflower Community Congregational Church
 Minneapolis—Minnehaha UCC
 Minneapolis—Spirit of the Lakes UCC
 Morris—The Federated Church
 New York Mills-- First Congregational UCC
 Norwood Young America—Friedens UCC
 Owatonna—The Associated Church

Waubun—Circles of Faith UCC
 Welcome—St. Paul’s UCC

SILVER COVENANT KEEPERS

Freeborn – Freeborn Congregational UCC
 Grand Marais – First Congregational
 Montevideo – First Congregational UCC
 Robbinsdale – Robbinsdale UCC
 Rochester – The Congregational UCC
 Saint Paul – Hazel Park Congregational UCC

GOLD COVENANT KEEPERS

Ada – Faith United Church
 Detroit Lakes – The Congregational Church
 Fairmont – First Congregational UCC
 Granite Falls – Granite Falls UCC
 Long Prairie – Peace United Church
 New Brighton – United Church of Christ
 Northfield – First UCC
 Oak Mound – Oak Mound UCC
 Ortonville – Congregational UCC

FRIENDS OF THE CONFERENCE

Larry Boatman explained the goals of the ‘Friends of the Conference’ campaign and appealed to those attending to give so that the ministry made possible by these gifts may continue.

**ONA CONGREGATIONS
 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

ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS

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

St. Paul's UCC, Eyota
First Congregational UCC, Winona

EARTHWISE AWARDS

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

Tier 1 Recognition – Green Churches

Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Benson
Peace UCC, Rochester

Tier 2 Recognition – Earth Churches

The Congregational UCC, Detroit Lakes

Earthwise Resolution Passed

Union UCC, Elk River
Falcon Heights UCC, Falcon Heights

Tier 4 Recognition – Earthwise Congregation

Mayflower Community Congregational UCC, Minneapolis

Recognition of Minnesota Conference Board of Directors

Karen Smith Sellers introduced the members of the Board of Directors and thanked each of them for the time given for the good of the Conference.

RESOLUTIONS

Moderator Mark Kuether 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.**

Moderator Mark Kuether on **behalf of the Annual Meeting Business Resolutions Group, I receive these Resolutions, and ask that they be added to the agenda.**

Resolution #1 – A Resolution Regarding Establishing of Ongoing with Minnesota Native American Communities, offered by Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference UCC, John Guttermann and the Emmaus Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Minnesota Conference Parker.

Resolution #2 – Active Non-Violence Training, offered by Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, T. Michael Rock Macalester-Plymouth United Church PeaceMakers, Molly Redmond, Don Christensen

BYLAWS

Moderator Mark Kuether introduced Dawn Schilling, 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.

Kim Shaffer posed a question concerning the action of the MNBOD to withdraw a Pilgrim Point Committee Bylaws change. The acting parliamentarian was asked to review this concern and it was determined that the proposed Bylaw change must remain as part of the business agenda as established at the beginning of the meeting.

SPEAK OUT! We had 10 people share their concerns and opportunities for our consideration.

PILGRIM POINT CAMP PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota Conference presented a power point presentation that was facilitated by Moderator, Rev. Mark Kuether. Presenters were Lisa Lindesmith, Rudi Anders, Dave Kettering, Coqui Conkey and John Roschen. After the presentation, there was time for a Questions and Answers period that was moderated by Mark Kuether and Lisa Lindesmith.

RECESS Following announcements, the attendees recessed for dinner.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon, “I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church”

EVENING WORSHIP

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. Dr. Henry A Gustafson, Jr.	Rev. Arden Johnson	Mildred (Millie) Kertson
Rev. Bernard Arthur (Bud) McLain	Rev. Gunnar Wikstrom, Jr.	Rev. Wilfred C. Hansen

SERMON – Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon, “Finding Jesus on the Metro”

INSTALLATION OF:

Rev. Elena Larssen
Rev. Rick Wagner

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, June 6, 2009

MORNING PRAYERS, BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rev. Elena Larssen

BUSINESS PLENARY #2

Karen Smith Sellers – State of the Conference Report
David Lindsey – Spoke on behalf of the Global Partnership Team
Loren McGrail – Spoke on behalf of the Immigration Task Force

Phil Hatlie, Rudi Anders, Jim Bock – Conference Treasurer’s Report

Phil reviewed the 2008 audit. In fiscal year 2008 (Oct. 1, 2007 to Sep. 30, 2008) the Conference showed a loss of \$1.9 million dollars. This compares to a gain of \$890,000 in 2007. Of the \$1.9 million loss in 2008, approximately \$1.6 million was due to a loss in stock value of our investments. Another \$300,000 of the loss was due to the write-off of pledges. Our cash position in 2008 improved by \$70,000.

To put these numbers in some sort of context, Phil compared the 2008 audit with the prior three audits. He said the financial health of the conference remains strong. However, because unrestricted cash on hand has not increased at the same rate as expenses, the purchasing power of the Conference has decrease significantly over the past 4 years.

Rudi Anders moved on-behalf of the Finance Committee the Recommended 2010 Budget of the Minnesota Conference as printed and distributed to the Meeting, as and item of business.
Motion Passed.

2009-2010 BUDGET PRESENTATION

TIMELY RESOLUTIONS: No timely resolutions were presented.

SPEAK OUT! We heard from 10 people that shared concerns and opportunities for our consideration.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith

WORKSHOPS Workshops were conducted as scheduled.

BUSINESS PLENARY #3

Mark Kuether welcomed those entering the hall and directed voting delegates to sit in designated areas. He also reminded us that the theme of this Annual Meeting is “**Together We Will Be Renewed**”. He also welcomed questions and if you do not understand, we will make every attempt to clarify and answer the questions asked.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

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.**

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS –

Mark Kuether reviewed the rules concerning discussion time limits. He reminded us that “we are us” and that this is a safe place for us to share and speak as the spirit moves us. He also said that we are here to be renewed because “this is what Jesus wants”.

RESOLUTION 1

TITLE: A Resolution Regarding Establishing of Ongoing Relationships with Minnesota Native American Communities

DATE SUBMITTED: March 2, 2009

JOINTLY SUBMITTED BY: Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference UCC

John Guttermann
New Brighton UCC
1000 Long Lake Rd
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-1327

Emmaus Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the Minnesota Conference UCC

Patsy Parker
4617 Grand Ave. A.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-825-1743

SUMMARY OF INTENT: The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ passed a resolution to mark the 150th anniversary of the State of Minnesota as a year to acknowledge the history of the relationship between European-Americans and Native Americans, repent of the injustices that are part of that history and their continuing legacy, and begin a new relationship by U.S. federal and state governments and non-Native peoples with Native American governments and Native peoples. During this year, the Conference has only begun to acknowledge the history. This resolution would continue the process of historical acknowledgement that could lead to repentance and establishing new relationships. The goal of the process would be to have a significant portion of the work accomplished by 2012, the 150th anniversary of the Dakota War of 1862.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Funding will come out of the budgets of Conference Office, the Justice & Witness Team, and the Emmaus Antiracism Leadership Team.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on all congregations, members, and other bodies of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to

- become knowledgeable about the history of the relationship between the Native American and European American communities,
- engage in discussions within congregations and communities regarding that history,
- 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;

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

Christ in Minnesota in sharing local and Conference-wide experiences building relationships and becoming more trust-worthy allies with Native American governments, communities and individuals. After becoming mutually trustworthy allies to Native American governments, communities and individuals, the Conference and individual congregations will be in a better position to consider the need for apologies to Native American nations and communities. The Justice & Witness Team and the Emmaus Antiracism Team will report semi-annually to the Board of Directors on this effort and the Conference shall explore this effort in depth at its subsequent Annual Meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, call upon 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

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, to develop an educational model that builds trust between Native American governments, communities and individuals and non-Native Americans, and to be in antiracist, justice-seeking relationships with Native American nations and communities located within the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when individuals and congregations of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ have learned more about the history of Native Americans in Minnesota and have reached clarity about appropriate actions in support of a new relationship between Native American and European American Communities, the Justice and Witness Team and the Emmaus Anti-Racism Team will return to the Annual Meeting for commitment to these transformative actions.

Maureen Engelhardt moves that Resolution 1 be approved. Motion Passed.

RESOLUTION 2: ACTIVE NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING

JOINTLY SUBMITTED BY: Robbinsdale United Church of Christ
T. Michael Rock, Spokesperson
Robbinsdale, United Church of Christ
4200 Lake Avenue
Robbinsdale MN 55422-1890
763-537-6965

Macalester-Plymouth United Church PeaceMakers
Molly Redmond and Don Christensen, Spokespersons
Macalester/Plymouth United Church
1658 Lincoln Avenue
St Paul MN 55105-1949
651-698-8871

Part One: Resolutions on the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence

Be It Resolved: That the Minnesota Conference, UCC joins with other faith communities in affirming and observing the United Nations' Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the World through prayer, action, and study of "the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42). We will promote a culture of nonviolence which values love, compassion, and justice, and rejects violence as a means of solving problems.

Be It Further Resolved: That the Minnesota Conference, UCC post on its website resources and opportunities for worship, study, and action that promote the development of a culture of peace and nonviolence at all levels of society. Resources will include options to involve local churches, ministries of the Conference, plus peace, justice, and educational networks. Materials will reference the unique gifts of peace and justice of the faith community in its history, theology, and practice.

Be It Further Resolved: That the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference, UCC send this resolution with letters of encouragement to our statewide elected officials, denominational leaders, and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Part Two: Resolution for Adopting “Creating a Culture of Peace” as a Congregational Training Program

Be It Resolved: That the Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference, UCC make available the “Creating a Culture of Peace” (CCP) training program to congregations and other communities in the Conference to assist them in addressing conflicts, controversies, and divisions; to respond to violence, oppression, and injustice at all levels, including issues of racism, social and economic injustice, crime, and domestic violence. Congregations will be encouraged to host trainings that represent a diversity of perspectives within communities, including intergenerational trainings for youth and adults.

Be It Further Resolved: That each congregation or ministry of the conference taking “Creating a Culture of Peace” (CCP) training engage in Community Building and Action Planning to develop defined action plans and projects they can do nonviolently in response to issues of peace and justice which concern them. Where possible, they are encouraged to partner with secular, interfaith, and ecumenical action campaigns working on similar issues.

Be It Further Resolved: That each congregation be encouraged to support the spread of CCP training for United Church of Christ communities by identifying candidates to attend trainings and become trained facilitators in the Conference, thus expanding the network of facilitators; and by considering how Active Nonviolence training may be included in current and future spiritual formation programs.

Be It Further Resolved: All information pertinent to organizing a CCP training be posted on the Minnesota Conference, UCC website, including names of available facilitators and a schedule of current trainings.

Part Three: Resolutions on Personal Commitments to Nonviolence as Outcomes of Congregational Discussions and Programs

Be It Resolved: That each congregation in the Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ encourage its members to commit to nonviolent and peaceable behavior in their relationships with others – at home, at school, at work, at church, in the community and wherever they find themselves.

Be It Further Resolved: That every congregation also encourage its members to adopt a Pledge of Nonviolence such as the following from the Institute of Peace and Justice in St. Louis, MO:

- *To become, with God’s help, a nonviolent and peaceable person.*
- *To respect myself, to affirm others, and avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks, and self-destructive behavior.*
- *To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.*

Maureen moves a move that Resolution 2 be approved as amended. Motion Passed as amended. Abstention

Noted.

Don Christensen; /Macalester/Plymouth UCC - Moved to amend the original document with wording changes. Those changes are incorporated in final resolution above - Amendment passed.

We continued to discuss the original motion as amended. Don Christensen continued that discussion.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON RECOMMENDED BY-LAW CHANGES

Dawn Schilling on behalf of the Board of Directors moved to approve the Bylaw changes as listed presented below:

Article VI Section 9

E. Pilgrim Point Camp

This Committee shall plan, coordinate and evaluate the overall program of Pilgrim Point Camp. This committee recommends policies regarding Pilgrim Point Camp to the Board of Directors.

The Committee provides policy recommendations to:

- a. the Finance Committee on the budget, risk management and property issues;
- b. the Development Committee identifying needs and preparing case statements for fundraising;
- c. the Personnel Committee regarding human resource issues.

There shall be 12 members in addition to the liaison elected from the Board of Directors. The Managing Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee with voice without vote.

Article IX – CONFERENCE MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTERS

- 2. Associate Conference Minister:** An Associate Conference Minister will help implement the Mission of the Conference, as assigned, within each Local Church and/or each Conference program portfolio, and serve as a staff resource and support to clergy, laity and Local Churches.

A. Call and Accountability

When a vacancy occurs in the office of an Associate Conference Minister, a Search Committee shall be selected and appointed by the Board of Directors. It shall include such persons as shall be widely representative of and appropriate to the responsibilities envisioned. With the concurrence of the Conference Minister, the Search Committee shall recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors. An Associate Conference Minister shall be called by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. An Associate Conference Minister shall be responsible and accountable to the Conference Minister. The duties of an Associate Conference Minister shall be determined by the Conference Minister in consultation with the Board of Directors.

In the event that an Associate Conference Minister is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the Conference Minister, in consultation with the Board shall appoint an Interim or Acting Associate Conference Minister to serve until the Associate Conference Minister is able to resume the duties of the office or until a new Associate Conference Minister has been duly called.

Article VI, Section 8

8. Executive Committee: The four officers of the Board of Directors and the Conference Minister (without vote) constitute an Executive Committee to be vested with the powers delegated to it by the Board of Directors to act in the interval between meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee is subject to the control and direction of the Board of Directors.

Article V, Section 5

5. Ecclesiastical Councils: Ecclesiastical Councils are called special meetings of the Conference for the purpose of examining and acting on candidates for Ordained Ministry and Commissioned Ministry in the United Church of Christ, and candidates for Privilege of Call. The Committee on Ministry will call such Ecclesiastical Council meetings, determine policies and procedures for their conduct, including the establishment of a quorum of local churches with standing in the Minnesota Conference appropriate to the region of the Conference where the Council meeting is held, and report the actions of the Ecclesiastical Councils to the Conference. Each Local Church is entitled to select the number of lay delegates as stated in Article IV, Section 5. Other voting members include those stated in Article IV, Section 3. Voting restrictions as stated in Article IV, Section 4, also apply to Ecclesiastical Councils.

Rev. Desiree Gold, Cottage Grove – moves to amend the motion that we replace the word ‘appointment’ to ‘call’. Motion seconded. Time was taken for discussion. Motion to amend Passed.

Clyde Steckel – First Congregational Church of MN – move to amend to change wording of Article V, Section 5 as discussed at the workshop and as shown in green text on the screen (this wording is included in the final version). Motion to amend. Passed. Abstention noted.

Discussion on main motion as amended continued. Motion Passed with two-thirds vote as amended.

FINAL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET, VOTE

Rudi Anders – Moves on behalf of the Board of Directors to adopt of the proposed 2010 Budget.

Rev. Christopher Ross, Chair of the Outdoor Ministries Team, moves to amend the 2010 budget by an additional \$132,000.00 to allow for full Pilgrim Point Camp operations in 2010. Motion was seconded. Funding breakdown as listed below:

Additional Fund Raising	36,000.
Staff Salaries Freeze	14,500.
10% Reduction of Grants	5,500.
Ashley Funds	76,000.
Total	132,000.

Rev. Rod Slessor – Moves to amend the amendment to remove the reduction in Grants and increase the Ashley Funds expenditures to \$81,500. Motion was seconded. Motion Passed.

Rev. Christopher Ross moves to suspend the rules for further discussion, motion was seconded. Yes 122 No 93 Motion Failed. (this motion required a two thirds vote)

Rev. Grant Speece moves for a secret ballot, motion was seconded. Discussion was conducted. Motion Failed.

We continued discussion of the amendment to the original motion. Motion to amend Passed. Yes 106 No 96 Abstain 17.

Rev. Jane McMahill – Motion was made and was seconded to postpone action on the motion until September 2009 to allow time for fundraising and time for the Outdoor Ministries Team to consider and explore interim possibilities for 2010 using other facilities to maintain camping programming. Motion Passed. Yes 115 No 93 Abstain 14

People were given an opportunity to ask questions and express thoughts. Policy clarification was discussed about fundraising. Calls for unity were expressed. Requests for giving to Pilgrim Point Camp were made by several people.

Rev. Al Thompson move for rule of order and Moderator Rev. Mark Kuether closed this session of the business meeting.

EVENING PRAYERS

Sunday, June 7, 2009

MORNING PRAYERS

Lead by Rev. Rick Wagner

RECOGNITION/CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PILGRIM POINT CAMP

This presentation was lead by Rev. Scott Keehn, First Congregational UCC Alexandria. Scott was the primary person responsible for bringing together the components of the video, but thanked all of the people who contributed and helped with this project.

At the end of the video presentation, Scott called upon past Camp Directors to share some memories. Rev. Marvin Ediger and Amy Wick Moore spoke and shared their impression of the video. Scott then called Dee Dressler, who shared her experience of the transforming experience that she witnesses of each camper that attends camp, especially those who attend the week-long camps. Dee invited everyone to participate in the current camping season and assured everyone that it is not too late to register for upcoming camps for this current camping season.

SPEAK OUT! We had 10 people share their concerns and opportunities for our consideration.

BUSINESS PLENARY #4

HERITAGE GRANT AWARDS –

David Meisner, St Anthony Park UCC, today is representing St. Paul Family Resources Foundation. The Foundations goals are to increase relationships with UCC churches throughout the state in providing Heritage Grants to help programmed services for seniors in congregations and their local communities. Examples of programs that have been supported are BeFriender programs and Transportation programs. These grants are awarded in amounts up to \$10,000.00 per year depending on the request. The Foundation has awarded \$72,000.00, to thirteen congregations throughout the state. The Foundation is facing their own economic challenges, but is committed to continuing the Heritage Grant program for 2010 and encourages applications that need to be submitted by the end of October.

THANKS EXTENDED TO:

Sharon Fazel extended thanks to the volunteers who provided childcare during this Annual Meeting and a round of applause was extended to those who volunteered.

CUE RECOGNITIONS –

Karen Smith Sellers shared of how proud she was of the support that the congregations of the Minnesota Conference have given to CUE (Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries) in 2008. The contributions reached the \$50,000.00 level up \$10,191.00 from the previous year. These contributions are vital to continue the missions of these institutions and Karen expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Presidents of these seminaries for your support.

ACADEMY FOR VITAL CHRISTIANITY -

Karen Smith Sellers shared information about our partnership the Methodist Churches in support of the Academy for Vital Christianity. Karen reported that we had 17 people from the Minnesota Conference participate in the classes offered by the Academy. The classes are offered in locations around the state and we are encouraged to participate in the classes that are offered. Karen hopes are that we can double or triple the participation in the next twelve months. Karen shared some personal testimonials from people who have benefited and enjoyed the experience of participating in educational opportunity. Schedule for courses and locations of classes were included in the packet of information that is part of your delegate packets. Further information is available at www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp ,

VITALITY INITIATIVE –

Karen Smith Sellers explained this program is being offered in partnership with the national office of the United Church of Christ. Currently 11 Pilot Churches now going through this program and these 11 Churches have completed their first training session just a few weeks ago at Mayflower Community Church in Minneapolis. This program is being developed to be customizable to each local Church Community and is under the direction of Paul Nickerson who is training coaches. They are reading books and praying together and at the end of this Pilot program there will be coaches who will be able to work with local churches as they develop their customized program. The 11 Pilot Churches are from varied churches in the Conference that represent a mix of geographic location, size of congregations, etc. Karen requested that each congregation in our Conference pray for this pilot group and look forward to new ways to revitalize many of the Churches in the MN Conference.

HONORED LAYWOMAN AWARD –

Karen had hoped that Mary Kulberg could be present at this session of the Annual Meeting but she was unable

to attend. Mary was selected as Honored Laywomen of the Minnesota Conference. Mary is a member of Congregational United Church Christ, Detroit Lakes MN. Mary will be recognized at the General Synod Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI at the end of June.

OTHER RECOGNITIONS –

Karen Smith Seller then recognized:

Beth Cherne, who has volunteered many hours of service at the Conference Office.

Karen also recognized the following people who have served on the Board of Directors:

**Rudi Anders
Coqui Conkey
Bonnie Johnson
Kim Schaeffer**

Karen also recognized:

Annual Meeting Work Group Co-Chair – **Sharon Fazel**, who has faithfully served for several years as Co-Chair of this Committee and has completed her term. Sharon was thanked with a re-sounding applause.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT –

Secretary, Ron Stricker reported that the final registration recorded 281 Delegates representing 96 Churches and 93 Visitors.

AMENITIES RESOLUTION FOR THE 47th Annual MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Whereas, 389 delegates and friends gathered for the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

Whereas our theme this year, *“Together, We Shall Be Renewed”* recalls the words of the Apostle Paul to the Romans, calling us to understand and to experience the truth of Spiritual Gifts;

We express our utmost gratitude for the many gifts of ministries alive and at work in all who gathered here, but especially for those who made this 2009 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, a full, intense, and renewing manifestation of the living Body of Christ...

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

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

our inspiring and motivating keynote speakers Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon and Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith;

all of our honored guests, including Rev. Peg Chamberlin, now President of the National Council of Churches and Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader of the Evangelism Ministry Team and Congregational Vitality Initiative Coordinator, of the United Church of Christ;

our Conference Minister, The Reverend Dr. Karen Smith Sellers, whose outstanding leadership continues to inspire

us, even as we seek with her “to hear both the sound of the joyful shouts from the sound of the people’s weeping” in these times of increasingly difficult decisions on so many fronts;

the steady leadership and stalwart support of Conference Staff, especially our newly installed Associate Conference Ministers, Rev. Elena Larssen and Rev. Rick Wagner, and our Program Ministry Staff, Ashley Minister for Faith Formation of Children and Youth, Wade Zick and Dee Dressler, Managing Director, Pilgrim Point Camp;

our conscientious parliamentarians, Rev. Howard Bell and Ernest Cutting and our diligent recorder of all events, Conference Secretary Ron Stricker; our Moderator and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Rev. Mark Kuether, whose sensitivity and charming wit joined forces with his strength of conviction to our oneness in the Spirit;

Lisa Lindesmith, Vice Moderator, for delicate yet solid facilitation of difficult discussion;

Phil Hatlie, Treasurer and Rudi Anders, Chair, Finance Committee, to whom fell the unenviable task of delivering difficult news, but whose depth of inquiry and sincerity of purpose remain beyond question;

all remaining members of our Board of Directors, volunteers all, whose individual devotion to the Minnesota Conference challenge us all to examine our own commitments to the United Church of Christ;

the invaluable contributions of David Kettering, Liaison to the Committee on Ministry, for crucial information for this year’s meeting;

the work of all of our Conference Ministry Teams;

the invincible assistance of our Conference Support Staff, for nearly all of whom this is their first Conference Annual Meeting to implement:

Alison Bents, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister;
Michele Borne, Administrative Assistant to the Ashley Minister
Evelyn Henrickson, Pilgrim Point Camp Registrar
Marita Karlisch, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Conference Ministers
Sian Nelson, Business Administrator for the Minnesota Conference;
as well as Larry Boatman, Financial Development Consultant, and Rev. Bob Broeder, Volunteer Disaster Coordinator;

our profoundly gifted Musicians Team: Malcolm Anderson and Scott Dorff of CODA, Rev. Brian Brosz, Rev. Christopher Fazel, and Gigi Nauer -- whose music lifted our spirits, and enhanced our experience of community;

the conscientiousness dedication of all of the Work Groups of the Minnesota Conference – with special mention here of 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, whose duties expanded considerably as changing life situations depleted our ranks time and again over the year, namely:

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

Rev. Brian Brosz, who assisted not only in general planning but contributed particularly in music performance;

Rev. Dr. Dana Mann, whose extraordinary creativity and sensitive skills in worship planning, preparation, and writing of nearly every bit of the weekend's liturgies, enhanced our experience of the Holy, and for her able assistants -- Peta Barrett, Linda Zupon, Janice Anderson, Edi Apelt and Luann Suilmann, without whom our worship space and exhibit areas would not have been designed or decorated, as they so beautifully were;

Rev. Kent Meyer, who this year added to his regular coordination of exhibits, the additional responsibility of soliciting St. Martin's Table to return to us the gift of a bookstore at this year's meeting;

Karen Schmidt, who dedicated her time here this weekend to recruiting so many of you to help in so many ways;

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

Grace Anderson, who rose to the challenge of providing our children, from toddler to middle schoolers in age, with a program and a home-base for the weekend, and to all of her able assistants: Marty Everest, Serenity Meyer and Sarah Hamilton;

Rev. Scott Keehn, Rev. John Guttermann, and photographer Rev. Michael Small -- who created power point presentations and managed every aspect of audio visual technology imaginable, allowing the meeting to focus properly on issues of content, rather than on glitches in sound or visual image, but who additionally brought us artistry in both content and image;

And finally, 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:

Caitlin Ries, Calleigh Brown, Emily Masters, Erica Manternach, Katie Boline, Katie Isham, Leanna Kraemer, Patrick Brenna, Samuel Bauchle and Tina Bruns; and all of the catering and kitchen staff who fed us and guided us in and out of mealtimes;

Be It Further Resolved, that the 47th 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. In honor of all these, both named and unnamed, who made this meeting a reality -- and in the humility of one aware that "Our problems must be dealt with through partnership; our progress must be shared (President Barack Obama, speech to the Muslim world, Egypt, June, 2009)" :

"I move the adoption of this Amenities Resolution on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group."

Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Sharon Fazel moves to adjourn – it was seconded and Mark Kuether declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald F. Stricker
Secretary.