

**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ**  
**June 11, 2021**  
**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Business Session - Webinar**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Rev. Jane McBride, moderator of the MN Board of Directors, shared words of welcome, information about the Zoom format, formally called the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to order, and provided an opening prayer.

**Introduction of Staff**

Conference Minister, Rev. Shari Prestemon shared words of welcome to all gathered and introduced the Conference Staff.

- Rev. Sheresa Simpson Rice, Interim Associate Conference Minister
- Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Youth
- Rev. Abigail Henderson, Director of Leadership Development
- Rev. Sheri Nelson, Director of Outdoor Ministry Program
- Rev. Cindy Mueller, Steward for Search and Call and Congregational Legacy Planning
- Bob Olsen, Development Director
- Renae Shields, Staff Accountant
- Sandy Kellen, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister
- Catherine Cejda, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Conference Ministers and Registrar

**Introduction of Parliamentarian**

Rev. Jane McBride introduced James Snoxell, a member of St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, as the parliamentarian for this business session for our meeting.

**Declaration of Quorum**

Rev. Sara Morse, Secretary of the MN Conference Board of Directors, announced that there were 115 registered delegates representing 54 congregations in attendance.

Moderator Jane McBride declared a quorum.

**Approval of Standing Rules**

Rev. Danielle Bartz, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, moved the approval of the Procedures and Rules Regarding Business Sessions as emailed, distributed, and linked in the chat for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.

### **Approval of 2021 Agenda**

Rev. Danielle Bartz, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, moved the approval of the agenda for the 2021 Annual Meeting, as posted on the Minnesota Conference of the UCC website, linked in the chat, and in the email sent before the meeting.

Motion passed.

### **Approval of 2020 Minutes**

Rev. Danielle Bartz, on behalf of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, moved the approval of the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting as posted on the Minnesota Conference of the UCC website, linked in the chat and in the email sent before the meeting.

Motion passed.

### **Introduction of Voice without Vote**

Rev. Shari Prestemon moved that the following honored guests and presenters be approved for Voice without Vote at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

Jim Snoxell (parliamentarian)

Rev. Dr. Susan Beaumont

Rev. Katie Hotze-Wilton

Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

Kris Felbeck

Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

Motion passed.

### **New Registrar report**

There was a mistake in the registrar's report provided to you on the website. The mistake was corrected and a new one is now available on the Minnesota Conference of the UCC website and linked in the chat. The registrar report is not acted upon at this meeting. This is simply a matter for your information at this time.

### **Presentation and Vote on FY22 Budget**

Don Fancher, Treasurer of the MN Conference Board of Directors, presented the FY 2022 budget information. Following the presentation there was a time for questions and answers.

Question: Janet Bartz, Congregational Church, Rochester

Explain the difference in budget numbers from the spreadsheet provided in comparison to the narrative budget?

Answer: The National OCWM was listed as an expense in the amount of \$208,500.

Question: Kim Schafer, First Congregational UCC, Mankato

What is the withdrawal rate from Ashley Endowment?

Answer: The withdrawal rate from the Ashley Endowment is 5% over a 3-year rolling average which is about \$385,000 for this FY 2022 budget. The withdrawal rate from the Pilgrim Point Legacy Fund (PPLF) is 5% over a 3-year rolling average. Since this is a newly established fund, the Board of Directors recommended the amount of \$280,000 for the FY 2022 budget.

D. Fancher, on behalf of the Board of Directors, moved the approval of this budget for the fiscal year 2022, for the MN Conference, United Church of Christ.

Motion passed.

### **Presentation and Vote on 2022 Compensation Guidelines**

Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, Interim Associate Conference Minister, provided an overview and purpose of these guidelines. This is foundational document to evaluate ministries. There were two adjustment made: 1) 2.3 % increase cash salary, 2) a set amount for mileage reimbursement. Following the presentation there was a time for questions and answers. There were none.

Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice moved the approval of the 2022 Compensation Guidelines.

Motion passed.

### **Elections**

Mary Kaser, Chair of the Nominating Work Group, presented the slate of nominees to be elected this annual meeting. There are a number of vacancies to fill. If anyone has an interest in these openings, please be in touch with the members of the Nominating Work Group.

Mary Kaser, on behalf of the Nominating Work Group, moved the election of the slate of nominees for Officers, Board of Directors, Board committees and subcommittees, and work groups as presented.

Motion passed.

### **Conclusion**

This concludes the business session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Moderator Jane McBride expressed gratitude to the delegates for attending and addressing the business matters of the Conference. The next session will take place later this evening at 7:00 p.m. with the State of the Conference address, presentations from the Damascus Project, Outdoor Ministries, and a greeting from the Interim President of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

**Plenary Session - Webinar**  
**Friday, June 11, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

### **Welcome and Worship**

Moderator Jane McBride welcomed us back to the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ. The evening began with worship led by Rev. Victoria Wilgocki, Pastor at St. Anthony Park UCC

### **Greetings from UTS (pre-recorded presentation)**

Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, Interim President of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, shared greetings and some of the exciting aspects of the seminary. Enrollment is growing with 200 students in the Fall. Gifted faculty and adding a new faculty person. Accessible, state of the art campus. Seminaries are a source of renewal.

### **Outdoor Ministries Presentation (pre-recorded presentation)**

Rev. Sheri Nelson, Outdoor Ministries Program Director, shared the new model of outdoor ministries unfolding in the MN Conference. There are three areas of study:

- 1) Creation/Environmental Justice
- 2) Contemplative
- 3) Youth and Young Adults in leadership skills

### **Damascus Project Presentation (pre-recorded presentation)**

Rev. Abigail Henderson and Rev. Tisha Brown shared the innovative leadership development program that is a partnership between the MN and WI Conferences.

### **State of the Conference**

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister, shared her insight on the state of our conference. In her address she asked, "How are our souls?"

1. We are tired and we are resilient!
  - a. Pastors and Chaplains deserve gratitude.
  - b. Clergy of color and laity of color are exhausted by the impact of this season and the violence at the hands of white supremacy.
  - c. Extend grace in this time.
  - d. Inspired by what is seen.
2. Generous
  - a. We recognized how essential our faith communities really are.
3. Remaining in Community.
  - a. More tightly woven and our need for one another.
4. Still in uncharted territory.
  - a. Uncertainty and faith are constant companions.

At the conclusion of the State of the Conference there was time for questions and comments for the staff.

Question: Kim Schaffer, First Congregational UCC, Mankato  
Were the workshops recorded?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Nancy Zaworski Congregational Church UCC, Rochester

Where are outdoor ministries being held?

Answer: Sheri Nelson

One-day, intergenerational events are at local churches in St. Paul. Other events are all over the state. We want to look at good partners who believe in our values and want to be environmentally conscious, and open to input.

Question: Grace Anderson

What is the status of the reorganization of ministry teams?

Answer: We are in an experimental staffing structure. The two Associate Conference Ministers and Conference Minister Job descriptions have changed. The staff structure will be changing. All this change will effect ministry teams. The challenges we have is finding the people to serve in the roles of all the committees and teams. It's time to look at our entire structure and how it best serves our purpose and mission. As we continue forward it is worth noting that the staff is entirely white. How can that be if committed to racial justice? We are currently in a search of a new Associate Conference Minister. In our nominating process we looked at our MN Board of Directors and the reflection of more racial diversity.

### **Conclusion**

Moderator McBride concluded the evening with words of thanks and a brief overview of what tomorrow will bring. The next session will begin 10:00 a.m. tomorrow for the keynote presentation by author Susan Beaumont followed by breakout rooms and then a panel presentation from four local congregations about what they are doing to engage in the work of racial justice.

## **Plenary Session - Zoom Saturday, June 12, 2021**

### **Words of Welcome**

Opening words and welcome from Rev. Jane McBride. Thanks to the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group for all the time, effort, and work in making this annual meeting happen in this new way.

Kris Felbeck, co-chair of Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, shared the outline of the day

Rev. Shari Prestemon introduced our guest speaker, Susan Beaumont

### **Keynote Address by Susan Beaumont Followed by Q & A**

“How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season”

**Breakout sessions**

Individuals were invited to participate in the breakout sessions.

**Regional Panel Discussion on Racial Justice Work Facilitated by Karen Georgia Thompson****Region Breakout Sessions****Social Hour**

**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

**Minnesota Conference Worship with Karen Georgia Thompson preaching beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sara E. Morse, Secretary