

DRAFT COPY
MINUTES OF THE 52ND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCTOBER 21, 22 AND 23, 2016
REND LAKE RESORT AT WHITTINGTON, IL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

An educational wild bird presentation that included an owl banding and release was held at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. A picnic dinner of hot dogs, brats, and fixings was enjoyed after the bird presentation.

The movie "Inside Out" was enjoyed later at the Rend Lake Convention Center.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

Gathering music was shared by B Street Band of St. Paul UCC in Belleville.

Opening devotion was led by Rev. Shana Johnson at 9:00 a.m. In her message, she shared that God wants to help us but man is naturally fearful of God so in order not to be feared, God had to become one of us. In an analogy of being a fish, we feel like we have to swim alone but that is not true. We become stronger together. Our call is to have courage in our communities.

A representative from each table was invited to bring the fish bowl in the center of their table to the front to be transferred into the large fish tank to represent we are all together.

Shana thanked Deaconess Foundation for providing the continental breakfast and invited Rev. Starsky Wilson, President & CEO, to speak on behalf of Deaconess Foundation.

At 9:30 a.m. moderator Rev. Kevin Strobe called the meeting to order.

Designated Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson recognized the nine regions and introduced ISC Executive Committee, Dr. David Greenhaw, Rev. Starsky Wilson, Rev. Krista Betz, "B" Street Band and Rev. Jerry Amiri (as the tech guru). She introduced new clergy—Rev. P. Jerry Bennett, Rev. Rosemary Captain, Rev. Bill Causer, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Dollgener, Rev. Allen Fluent, Pastor Julie Kies, Rev. Robert Koepcke, Rev. Merlyn

Lawrence, Rev. Kim Magwire, Rev. Robert Miner, Pastor Ken Schafer.

Preparation Committee representative, Rev. John Holst introduced members in discernment. They are Rosemary Captain, St. Paul UCC, Lebanon; Jason Eisele, Church of the Good Shepherd, Carbondale; Cory Harz, Trinity UCC, Belleville; Bruce Jovaag, Trinity UCC, Belleville; Brett Palmer, St. Paul UCC, Staunton; and John Pawloski, Godfrey Congregational UCC.

Kevin Strobe then announced a quorum of 130 was present. [104 was needed]

Kevin introduced Rev. Mike Southcombe as the parliamentarian.

AM10.22.2016:1 IT WAS APPROVED BY UNANOMOUS CONSENT TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA, STANDING RULES, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND LIST OF VOICE WITHOUT VOTE: REV. DR. DAVID GREENHAW, REV. STARSKY WILSON, REV. KRISTA BETZ, LEE ALISON WILSON, SHIRLEY ASMUSSEN, CHRISTY PURSELL, LYNNETTE SCHUEPBACH.

John Pawloski gave explanation and guidelines for Speak Outs. A one-minute time will be allowed to highlight what is going on in your church or organization.

Chair of Recruitment Committee, Larry Kaburick, introduced committee members, thanked those ending their term, and presented the slate of teams and committees.

AM10.22.2016:2 MOTION MADE BY REV. MIKE SOUTHCORBE AND SECONDED BY REV. ELMER BOWMAN TO GIVE VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO PASTORS SERVING CHURCHES IN THE CONFERENCE FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS OR OTHER CONFERENCES. MOTION CARRIED.

Shirley Bergmann explained the three annual meeting offerings which will be—Noisy Offering for Regional Youth Event-2018; donated items for St. John's

Community Care—Collinsville & Edwardsville from their needs-list; and worship offering for Scholarships—Theological Students or Members in Discernment.

The first noisy offering to benefit Regional Youth Event-2018 was given by Regions 1,3,5,7 and 9.

Shirley Bergmann, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Vice-moderator, Jill Baker, introduced by-law changes and gave an explanation of proposed conference restructuring.

Kevin recognized the Conference Gathering Team and thanked them for their efforts.

10:15 a.m.—Break for 15 min.

10:55- noon-Keynote Session. Rev. Shana Johnson introduced our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw. His address was "Courage in Community" where he had three assignment challenges—1). Keep doing funerals and comfort the grieving, 2) pledge to promise to have a committed relationship with one child in your church, 3) and continue to educate children in faith.

Meal prayer was led by Rev. Christy Eckert, Immanuel UCC, Hamel.

At 1:30 p.m. the Plenary #2 was convened by Moderator, Rev. Kevin Strobe.

The second noisy offering to benefit Regional Youth Event-2018 was given by Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8.

The second devotion was led by Shana. The emphasis was that the church is a place of refuge. Slides of the sanctuaries of churches in ISC were shown.

Rev. Krista Betz, Director of Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards shared the importance of the Christmas Fund Offering in assisting present and retired pastors and widows/widowers.

The DuBois Center Report was given by Shirley Asmussen, Director of Outdoor Ministry.

A time for Speak Outs was given.

The Mission Funding Plan was given by Myron Thompson, member of Finance Ministry Team. He

explained that contributions to OCWM have been steadily declining and that the delegates at the 2015 Annual Meeting encouraged that the budget for 2017 be balanced. Through the recommendations of the Finance Summit committee and expertise of the FMT, the Mission Funding Plan as presented, even though difficult to accept is the closest they could come to a balanced budget. He encouraged that it is still up to individuals and churches to increase giving.

Two workshops were offered: Rev. Dr. Greenhaw to continue his keynote address and a panel discussion "The Way Forward in Energy Production and Usage from a Christian Point of View" sponsored by the Justice & Witness Team.

Before being released to the workshops, the delegates were invited to participate in the wine and cheese reception hosted by ISC Pride under the pavilion near the swimming pool area and then to gather for dinner and special recognitions at 6 p.m.

After an enjoyable and delicious dinner, George Jacobs presented Recognition of Church Anniversaries; Rev. Ivan Horn presented Recognition of Pastors' Anniversaries and pastors who retired in 2015-2016, Rev. Kevin Strobe presented recognition to retiring region conveners and team chairs, and Rev. Jerry Bennett was honored in his retirement as Associate Conference Minister of Programming.

Shana reported that the total offering collected for the Regional Youth Event-2018 was \$3,035.71.

The B Street Band presented a concert of wonderful music by a very talented group.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

Gathering music was provided by the B Street Band.

Worship and communion was led by Rev. Shana Johnson.

A second time of Speak Outs was given.

Rev. Kevin Strobe called to order Plenary #3 at 10:30 a.m.

The proposed mission funding plan was discussed.

AM10.22.2016:3 MOTION MADE BY JOHN PAWLOSKI TO AMEND THE 2017 BUDGET BY AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL EXTRAORDINARY WITHDRAWAL FROM INVESTMENTS AS FOLLOWS: ECUADOR PROJECT--\$2,000 AND KINDERCOTTAGE--\$5,000 SUBJECT TO THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL SHALL CALL A SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE USE OF INVESTMENT FUNDS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH. SECONDED BY REV. PAMELA SMITH.

The proposed mission funding plan with the proposed amendment was further discussed.

AM10.22.2016:4 MYRON THOMPSON CALLED FOR THE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET AND GEORGE JACOBS SECONDED THE MOTION. PROPOSED AMENDMENT FAILED.

Kevin Strobe called for the vote on the original proposed budget.

AM10.23.2016:5 APPROVAL OF THE MISSION FUNDING PLAN AS PRESENTED ON PAGE 27 IN THE DELEGATES PACKET PASSED.

AM10.23.2016:6 JILL BAKER CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAWS. THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAWS PASSED.

Kevin Strobe called to vote by voting cards to elect the slate of candidates as presented with the addition of Walt Hart on the Conference Gatherings Team, Amber Rhodes as a member of Justice & Witness Team and Region 6 Convener, and Dan Highlander as Region 3 Convener.

AM10.23.2016:7 APPROVAL OF THE NOMINEES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE AND NOMINEES FROM THE FLOOR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The total offering for Members in Discernment was \$2,434.

A lively and active auction was held to purchase the cross and dove backdrop decoration. The winning bid was \$1,025 which the winner said the money was to be given to Kindercottage.

Jill Baker opened the Plenary #4 after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

Lee Alison Wilson led the Ecuador Partnership report.

Designated Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, gave her report by starting with lighting a candle/lamp in memory of Rev. Howard Self.

Angela Zapp of the Local Church Empowerment Team and Nancy Prather on behalf of the Wider Church Mission Team presented "elevator speeches" to inform the delegates of work of their teams. Nancy Prather of Zoar UCC-Hanover shared how the conference has made a difference in the life of that church. In addition, Angela Zapp announced the winners of the Stewardship Contest sponsored by the Local Church Empowerment Team.

Closing worship and installation of new leaders were led by Rev. Shana Johnson, Rev. Kevin Strobe, Jill Baker and Shirley Bergmann.

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the ISC was dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Holtgrewe, Conference Secretary

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