



**NCNC  
Council Minutes  
Saturday, September, 12, 2015  
First Congregational Church, UCC, Fresno**

In Attendance: Eunice Aaron, Vice President; Richard Brabham; Matt Broadbent, President; Leian Cimarra; George Conklin; Patsy Finster; Jeannie Hobson, Recorder; Diane Johnson; Davena Jones, Vice Moderator; Steve Mevert; Fed Ranches; Vic Robinson; Jim Ross; Kelly Wilson, Moderator; Diane Weible, Conference Minister ; Jim Peck, APGT

10:15 am – Welcome to the Sequoia Association Board and the NCNC Council by Rev. Norman Broadbent, Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, Fresno. Rev. Broadbent gave a history of the beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Meditation led by Jeannie Hobson.

10:40 am Sequoia Association Council and NCNC Council to separate meetings.

NCNC Council

- **Check in and Prayer.** Council members checked in with joys and concerns. Prayers requested for Mikayla Hambrick – auto accident and health issues; Leiann requested prayers for her Uncle now in Hospice care, prayers for those in Murphy’s, Angel’s Camp, and San Andreas due to fire – evacuations are in place at this writing.
- **Welcome new/continuing members:** Matt asked that all Council members review the by-laws, job descriptions, and attendance policy. By-Laws now available on the NCNC website under “resources” as well as in the Council Drop Box. Regarding attendance policy – Face to face communication gets more accomplished in our setting – Council members encouraged attending as many meetings as possible, if attendance at the meeting is not possible please let Matt know in advance. Will continue to look at media options for “virtual” access for meetings. Marlie Heberling is looking into different options. Some suggestions were “basecamp” and “go to meeting”. In addition communication can be done via the Council “forum”.
- **Review Timely Priorities:** Council broke into teams to review the four priorities Council game up with at the last meeting;
  - **Visibility:** Building relationships among associations, churches, and conference ministries.
  - **Stewardship:** How do we tell the story?
  - **Justice and Witness:** If the mission is at our doorstep, how do we network?
  - **Communication and Connection:** Creating systems that are responsive to the needs of our local churches and Conference Committees.

Teams were asked to:

1. Take the descriptive phrase and make it a clear statement
2. Come up with three “practical” ways to accomplish the priority this year (don’t forget to look at what we have already done as well as what is currently being done)

Teams worked for approximately an hour on individual priorities and then came back together to report on their work – ideas were discussed and on put on poster papers. The information will be collated and distributed later.

**LUNCH:** Wonderful salad bar prepared for both the Sequoia Association and NCNC Council by Steve Mevert and, his husband, Pete Espinosa. THANK YOU!



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• **REPORTS:**

- Conference Inclusion Task Force (CITF): John Alex Lowell reported (see attached Report)
  - Education and planning – how can churches become ADA compliant –discussion of 1990 ADA grandfather rule. Note that according to ADA churches prior to the 1990 ADA act passage are not required to meet the ADA standards. CITF has decided to focus on mental health. General Synod passed a resolution for churches to be WISE churches (Working for Integration, Support, and Empowerment). There are twelve steps to become a WISE church. CITF will present a workshop on this topic at Church Day. In addition John Alex Lowell in conjunction with Drew Nettinga will write article for the NCNC news on this subject. In addition CITF requests that when conference gatherings are being held that the facility be looked at closely for accessibility issues. CITF will help by looking at facilities and helping to identify those that are accessible.

- **Annual Gathering**

- Rev. Jim Peck reported on the progress of AGPT. Noted was the difficulty in “re-creating” the AGPT each year. Specifically what is the role of the Moderator and Vice Moderator in this process and accountability of this team (AGPT) is not spelled out. Jim, Jeannie, Davena, Kelly, and Diane met to discuss this issue in Stockton. A workable plan has been agreed upon – it may be necessary to revise the by-laws for this plan but the suggestion is that we work with it for a year before formally changing NCNC by-laws.
- Motion moved by Richard Brabham, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Robinson:  
Motion to be voted:

The NCNC Council appoints the Annual Meeting Planning Team (AGPT) composed of Moderator, Vice Moderator, Conference Minister, Conference Treasurer, Conference Administrator, and two Members-at large. The AGPT will have responsibility to oversee all aspects of the Annual Gathering 2016. This year’s Annual Gathering Team will be: Kelly Wilson, Davena Jones, Diane Weible, Tom Clarke, Joy Davis, Jeannie Hobson, and Jim Peck.

Motion passed unanimously

- Further discussion on AG 2016 – Accessibility is an issue 2015 – ramp for stage is already being arranged for 2016.
  - Joy Davis is lead on contract with SSU
    - Distance issues for walking to the student center – SSU has provided information regarding a vendor that they use for this
    - Ramp for stage will be included in the contract – source already identified and costs identified

First meeting for AGPT is planned for September 19<sup>th</sup> at Parkside in Sacramento

- **Conference Minister Report:**

- See Attached
- ACM search committee has met. 24 profiles received. Processing information and should be doing interviewing in the next few weeks
- Pastoral Relations Committee in process



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- Office clean up – continues. Have estimate to convert files to media – cost is between \$17,000.00 - \$19,000.00. Would it be wiser to have a college student or PSR student scan these manually? One suggestion was to shop this out to various churches but concerns about either of these are confidentiality. There is a volunteer that comes in on Tuesday's – could this be part of this person's role? Problem – current copy/scanner machine will not scan. It is 13 years old and finding parts and drivers for this machine is impossible. Council gives its blessings to NCNC office staff to find a new machine (either buy or lease).
- Space in the current office is already an issue, with two new ACM's coming on board soon there will not be any place for them. Working with Eden Church to see if there are other alternatives.
- Issues regarding MOMSA vs MOM – confusion as to which to use and which takes precedent. Meeting will take place ASAP to discuss this and bring back a policy recommendation to Council.
- **Conference Treasurer:**
  - Tom Clarke was not able to be at meeting. Report was sent out to Council.
- **Outdoor Ministry (OMC):**
  - Action Item: Council by acclamation approves Emma Fujii to OMC
  - Looking at setting up gatherings for “young adults” (Post-college)
  - Possible change name of committee to YOMC
  - How do we get the young adults involved – possible retreat in early 2016?
  - Funding might be an issue – there is an endowment with \$238,000.00 but there is not current knowledge of any restrictions on this money. Suggested that Diane talk with Ron Buford.
  - UCCR – the management company that oversees Camp Cazadaro - NCNC needs to find someone to sit on UCCR Facilities Oversight Committee. Deferred maintenance an issue at Caz.
- **Follow up on Ecumenical House:**
  - See Report
  - No action taken
- **Other:**
  - New Beginning Assessment being shared by DOC/UCC
  - There will be information in Feb – come and see and hear about this new exciting program

**Review Action Items and Ministry Team Assignments:**

1. Next Month:
  - a. Report YOMA
  - b. Report MOMSA/MOM
  - c. Stewardship
  - d. Conference Profile to be uploaded to website
  - e. Accountability standards/Associations
  - f. Jeannie unable to attend October meeting, Richard Brabham will take notes



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Closing reflection and adjournment (2:55 pm)

Respectfully Submitted: Jeannie Hobson

**\*\*\*Addendum to Minutes (September 18, 2015)**

Administrative Actions needing attention before October 2015 meeting of NCNC Council

1. Motion to be voted:

The Northern California Nevada Conference Council (UCC) designates the following housing allowance for 2015 under the Revenue Code, section 107: Rev. Charlotte Asher / \$20,000. This amount shall apply to all future years until modified.

Moved: Matt Broadbent/2<sup>nd</sup> Jeannie Hobson – Motion passed via e-mail vote of NCNC Council

2. Davena Jones, representing the Nominating Committee asks that we affirm Thomas Crosby as a member of Committee on Ministry, Section B.

NCNC Council affirms Thomas Crosby as a member of the Committee on Ministry, Section B via e-mail affirmation

**\*\*\*ATTACHMENTS - WRITTEN REPORTS**

Dear Rev. Matt Broadbent,

*(After a phone conversation with John Alex Lowell, I asked him to send me a request to speak by email, which follows...)*

Per your request when we spoke on Tuesday, I share with you now the topics I intend to address in my agendaized presentation to Council members at the meeting of the Conference Council on Saturday, September 12th at FCC Fresno.

I intend to offer a summary of responses from the NCNC churches to the Accessibility Assessment Advisor program Conference Inclusion Task Force (CITF) proposed to the Council in March '14. I recall it was approved by the Conference Council in April. At the NCNC Annual Gathering in May '14 it was announced.

I also intend to summarize both how & why CITF is focused on Mental Health Ministry. These two coming events reflect we are engaged in this very important ministry to people with mental health challenges from mental illness, conditions they were born with (developmental disabilities) and post-traumatic experience mental health challenges.

Note CITF is scheduled to hold:

1. A Mental Health Ministry workshop at the NCNC Authorized Minister's Retreat on Monday, Sept. 28th.



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2. CITF will also hold Mental Health Ministry workshop at the October 24th NCNC Church Day gathering at San Mateo Congregational Church.

At both of these workshops I and two members of CITF will present some Mental Health Ministry tools developed through the UCC Mental Health Network. Note that at the Church Day Mental Health Ministry workshop we will be privileged to release the Final Resolution on Mental Health Ministry approved at the June '15 UCC General Synod. It is to be finalized in an October meeting of the UCCB in Cleveland according to the Rev. Alan Johnson who leads the UCC Mental Health Network.

I also will propose to the Conference Council that ALL locations of NCNC events be at fully accessible venues to people with disabilities. The San Damiano Retreat Center near Danville is not fully accessible; therefore Rev. Grant Sontag and Rev. Sophia DeWitt shall not attend the Authorized Minister's Retreat on September 27-29th.

I will also hand out copies of the Interfaith Blessing Rev. Harold H. Wilke gave at the White House when President George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on July 26th 1990. Wilke created in 1978 the UCC Ministry on Accessibility to people with disabilities. The UCC Committee on the Handicapped is now called the UCC Disabilities Ministries.

**Update by Ken Iha on Status of Ecumenical House at San Francisco State University**

The Board is facing some significant challenges at the moment. There has been conflict between the two chaplains, and the Board has not been satisfied with the performances with both. One chaplain has resigned. The other is being reviewed.

Several issues. No clear job descriptions, and hence no good supervision. The larger issue is that the Board does not really have the authority to supervise chaplains or to oversee campus ministry, at least not according to the bylaws. The clarification is that the remaining chaplain was not hired by the Board, but appointed by the UMC in consultation with the Board. It got unwittingly complicated when that chaplain was also hired by the Board as house manager.

The Board convened an emergency meeting a few days after our last regular meeting on Aug 21. I was not able to attend since I was leaving for vacation. Two significant actions: One was to identify whom from the different judicatories need to be contacted for further explorations and clarifications about campus ministry at SFSU. The second is to separate the roles of chaplain and house manager and to hire a house manager.

For now I offered myself as the UCC contact and will continue on the Board, especially since I raised some questions that led us (Board) to recognize the need to reexamine its role and responsibilities as called for in the bylaws and in light of our current personnel concerns.

If all of this sounds confused and complicated, you're probably understanding the mess we're in.



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Conference Minister Report to Conference Council  
September, 2015

- I. Gatherings I have been part of:
  - a. July 12: Arlington Community Church
  - b. July 16: Annual Gathering planning meeting
  - c. July 17 and 18: The fellowship of Affirming Ministries Conference
  - d. July 29: Camp Tamarack
  - e. August 3: Livermore UCC
  - f. August 7: Loomis: Sacred Conversation on Race
  - g. August 10: Santa Rosa and Wellspring-Joint Service
  - h. August 15: Bonnie Rambob Ordination
  - i. August 16: First Filipino American (San Bruno)
  - j. August 16: Chrissy Siva Ordination
  - k. August 20: Annual Gathering planning meeting
  - l. August 21: Committee on Ministry Section A
  - m. August 22: Committee on Ministry Section B
  - n. August 23: College Avenue UCC
  - o. August 30: Foothills Congregational Church
  - p. September 2: PSR Orientation BBQ
  - q. September 6: First Congregational Church of Reno
  - r. September 8: PSR Opening Worship
- II. Items to Report:
  - a. ACM Search Committee Report Progress
  - b. Pastoral Relations Committee
  - c. Office Clean up-estimates on digitizing files
  - d. Youth Leaders Network
  - e. COM Co-Chairs/Association Moderators/Conference Staff Joint Conference Call
- III. Other:
  - a. Young Adult Retreat/Fund for Youth/Young Adult Ministries
  - b. Cluster Gatherings
  - c. Section C and D of Committee on Ministry
  - d. Appointment of Representatives to UCCR Facilities oversight Committee