

**NCNC Conference Council Minutes
February 8, 2014**

Present: Daniel Ross-Jones, Ken Iha, Matt Broadbent, Candace Frawley, Jeannie Hobson, Daryl Clemens, James Kosko, Leian Cimarrra, Adrienne Hull, Janice Steele Barbara Broadbent, John Alex Lowell– guests

We established that we had a quorum.

The minutes from our last meeting were approved.

Discovery groups

We had a wonderful training on Discovery Groups led by Matt and Barbara.

- The Santa Clara Association is moving ahead with starting Discovery Groups.
- The Bay Association will meet on Monday February 10th and be trained at that time.
- The Sequoia Association is on board and reaching out to the Mountain Valley Association.
- The Golden Gate Association is still recruiting facilitators and hopes to schedule a training soon.
- The Sacramento Association has not begun a Discovery Group process yet.

Each association's Council members will collect the summaries from the Discovery Groups in their association to bring to Council. They will not go into the Conference profile at this point, but will be very valuable for the new Conference Minister.

It was proposed that Council could do a Discovery Group style workshop at Annual Gathering a la Discovery Group. It was noted that members of Search Committee should be at a Discovery Group

Ken noted that this is a way we can listen to what our still speaking God is saying

Annual Meeting update

The AMPT will meet again next week

- Our theme is Life Giving Waters.
- There will be three keynoters, two on water issues and one to bring a theological perspective. The keynoters are: Sue McClure, who is the Co-Director of the Water Education Foundation, Mark Cohen, who is the Executive Director of the Department of Water Resources, and George McGraw.
- The schedule will be worked on at next week's meeting.

- There are still workshop slots open, but some great workshops already in the works, including possible away workshops, such as a wetlands walk.
- The Worship Committee is in place with Robin Carlson leading it.
- The AMPT will invite churches to share how they are living into being life giving water in their community.
- There will be a Council reception.
- There is some concern that there are no action items as of yet other than the budget and nominations. It was noted that if there are few business items, that frees us to do other things with that time. There was some discussion about whether having few business items might actually be a draw for some people.
- We have an incredible youth team in place and Lewis and Ron will lead the young children's program.
- Registration will go live next week.
- The deadline for business is Feb 28 and this Annual Gathering is our last chance to submit anything for 2015 General Synod.

Action Item Review

- Each motion that passed at Annual Gathering is being followed up on, including three position statements that need to be referred to General Synod.

Search Committee

The Search Committee met with Susan Towner Lawson on January 18th.

- They state their main role is, with input from churches, council, staff, to help the Conference articulate who we are and where we are going and then find a leader to help us go there.
- They are going ahead with the profile but welcome feedback from discovery groups as those results come in.
- They asked Council for:
 - a policy or process on receiving applications from current staff (just in case). Candace will email Susan Towner Lawson's feedback to Council and we will develop a policy at our next meeting.
 - a draft position description
 - guidelines for searching outside the UCC and looking at non-clergy. Our Bylaws state that our Conference Minister must be an ordained minister with standing in UCC. Though this bylaw can be changed by the Annual Gathering, Council will not make recommendation to do so.
 - Matt will send a job description statement via email for Council to ok via email so the Search Committee may have it to work with at their next meeting.

Conference Staff Report

Clergy changes:

- Valerie Dueker transferred her standing to the NCNC
- Roberta Rominger's standing was restored
- Sheryl Ward is a new member in discernment
- Meridith Jackson was approved for ordination and plans to be ordained on March 2nd.
- Alan Akana leaving Island United.
- Melanie Wiener will have her Ecclesiastical Council on February 9th with the hope of being ordained on February 16th.

- Ken will go to the Conference Ministers' retreat. He expects discussion on a conference boundary resolution. Also, the Collegium of officers is presenting plan of how to reduce the UCC budget by two million dollars.
- We don't have a lot of pastoral vacancies.
- The Conference staff are working with several churches.
- New Spirit Community Church's last Sunday will be February 23rd.
- Ken is taking a two week vacation beginning march 4th, but will still be accessible by phone and email.

Nominating Committee

Candace asked how the Council can help find people to fill the Nominating Committee.

- If Tucker and Valerie or Sandy will draft an email to churches and associations and get it to Ken, he will distribute it.
- It was clarified that the Nominating Committee is only responsible for filling spots on the various sections of the Committee on the Ministry and Council.
- Council needs two youth and young adult members and one or two at large members to be in compliance with our bylaws.

Finance Committee

- Our cash life is good. Our funds life a little cloudy but not too bad.
- We will have a 2014 budget to vote on to send to Annual Gathering at our next meeting.
- We discussed stewardship approaches for 2015. It was noted that it would be helpful if we can say that Council's giving rate is 100%.
- It was noted that it is helpful to have at least one member of FABC who is a good communicator and that this committee needs at least one member with a legal background
- FABC is looking for property manager for Old Faith Community Church in Sacramento. They have one lead that looks like it may come through. FABC

is looking at the long term disposition of the property with a balance of mission and money in mind.

Policy Audit

- The Personnel policy is under revision. It meets legal requirements and now the Policy Committee is aiming for simple, clear, and doable.
- There is no current designation of the members of the Executive Committee in the Bylaws. By practice it is made up of the Council President, Vice-president, Moderator, Vice-moderator, Treasurer, and the Conference Minister. Council decided that we need to spell out exactly what the Executive Council is responsible for and to whom it is accountable.
- Council will begin to keep a log of which Annual Gathering and Council decisions are policy decisions so that our list of Conference policies remains up to date.
- The new personnel policy will be ready within this calendar year.
- There will be a draft of a new financial policy by the end of the year.
- Any bylaw revisions that need to be recommended to Annual Gathering will be handled by the next Council.
- Council would like to have a publically available, searchable, database of Conference policies, Council minutes, and the disposition of action items. Ken envisions an index of all of Council decisions so one knows which minutes to go back to should questions arise.

A2A

- The Conference Inclusion Task Force sent out its questionnaire broadly to all the Conference churches through several avenues, but did not receive the response they had hoped for. So far they have had thirteen written responses two verbal responses.
- Robin Kempster from UCC Berkeley and the UCC Mental Health Network are working on a mental health questionnaire. Robin is in discussion with Wade about a possible workshop at Annual Gathering.
- Ken suggested that the Task Force provide churches and other settings with a sheet on how to do assessment and with questions about how to improve accessibility rather than questionnaire.
- It was suggested the Task force publish a resource list including:
 - where funds for accessibility improvements may be obtained
 - which churches or individuals have experience with particular accessibility improvements
 - state and county assessment resources.

Organically Grown Topics

The question of Ken being stuck with the dual role of Acting Conference Minister and Treasurer was raised again. We have a likely candidate for Treasurer and hope that Council will be able to vote on the appointment soon.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at Hospice of the East Bay in Pleasant Hill on March 22nd.

Closing

Daniel closed us with a lovely taize meditation