

CONFERENCE COUNCIL MINUTES, JULY 16, 2016

Several people met for the pre-meeting tours of new conference headquarters.

Present: Eunice Aaron, Rev. Liz Armstrong, Richard Brabham, Rev. George Conklin, Patsy Finster, Sonny Graves, Mike Hill, Rev. Diane Johnson, Rachel Kau-Taylor, Rev. Phil Konz, Roy Mosley, Vic Robinson, Jim Ross, Kelly Wilson.

Staff: Rev. Diane Weible, Tom Clarke

Absent: Mikayla Hambrick, EJ Hinojosa, Jeanne Hobson, Steve Mevert, Rev. Fed Ranches.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: OUR NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH IN ANGELS CAMP

ACTION ITEMS: [see items below for more information]:

1. Tom Clarke will contact Joy to arrange for the 2015 audit.
2. Diane Johnson will create the survey on COM meeting dates and times.
3. Create the Lay Leaders Corner in the weekly newsletter.
4. Roy to fill out slate for Annual Gathering Business Committee.
5. Plan future AG themes.
6. Executive committee create job description for new Office Assistant position.
7. Form PRC's for Daniel Ross-Jones and Davena Jones.
8. Eunice schedule locations of future Council meetings.

Meeting was called to order at 10 am with a welcome to City Of Refuge by Eunice Aaron and tour of City of Refuge by Ennis Jackson. We had our opening prayer in the sanctuary led by Richard Brabham. Poem "A Prayer among Friends" by John Daniel [attached]

Following check-in we were encouraged to read and learn the concil members position description on the website. Our job is to support Diane and staff in doing the business of the Conference. Also read and understand the bylaws.

The post Annual Gathering nominees were affirmed: Kathy Denman – FCC Fresno/YOMC; Jan Jones, FCC Alameda/Committee A; Rev. Phil Konz – Pioneer UCC Sacramento/Sacramento Valley Council Representative.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES: We all need to be actively involved in various committees of the Council. Those not attending today's meeting need to check in and volunteer for the areas they are interested in. Everyone needs to be working to identify and contact people outside the Council to serve in various capacities. 20% of committee members should be youth [30 or younger at time of appointment/selection, per the bylaws] Think diversity and inclusion in all it's aspects [age, race, orientation, clergy, lay, geography etc.]

The Personnel Committee is chaired by Council Vice President Richard Brabham, members are Patsy Finster, Rachel Kau-Taylor, Roy Mosley, Jim Ross. Responsible for personnel issues and review, revise and revamp policies.

The Annual Gathering Planning Team [AG7] model will continue to be used. It will consist of the Moderator, Roy Mosley; Vice Moderator, Kelly Wilson; Treasurer, Tom Clarke; Conference Minister, Diane Weible, Joy Davis, and the two Associate Conference Ministers, Daniel Ross-Jones and Davena Jones. **Motion by Eunice Aaron, seconded by Kelly Wilson to approve this committee. Motion passed.** Wide participation from the entire Conference is encouraged to serve on the various committees.

The Committee for Recruitment of Conference Leadership has 8 members, per the bylaws. Conference Council commits to including one from each Association. Chair Richard Brabham, Sonny Graves. Please check with your respective Association or people you feel qualified and send interested parties information to Richard. **Motion by Richard Brabham, to approve committee formation and make up, seconded by Kelly Wilson, passed.**

Tom Clarke reported that the audit of our financial records for 2015 had not been completed. Diane Johnson volunteered to work on the audit committee along with Milton Fuji and Barbara Colliander. **ACTION ITEM #1: Tom Clarke will contact Joy Davis to arrange for 2015 audit.**

Diane reported we have the following Committee on Ministries vacancies: Section B , 1 vacancy, Ethics, 3 vacancies, YOMC, 4 vacancies.

A lively discussion ensued around the dates and times of the Committee on Ministries meetings. An all day Friday meeting precludes a great sector of our group from serving. **Motion by Liz Armstrong, seconded by Vic Robinson that Diane Johnson create a survey on possibilities and options. Passed. ACTION ITEM #2: create the survey.**

It was suggested that we create a Lay Corner in the weekly newsletter. It should include information on what is needed, stress lay participation etc. Mike Hill will write the promo and shepherd the idea. Kelly Wilson, Roy Mosley and Rachel Kau-Taylor will write articles. Any Lay Leader is encouraged to submit an article. **ACTION ITEM #3: create Lay corner.**

The Annual Gathering Business Committee was formed. It is to be advisors to the Moderator. It is appointed by the Moderator and approved by the Council. The seven members are Dick Hom, Golden Gate; Sonny Graves, Bay; Jeanne Hobson, Sequoia; Patrick Lopez, Sequoia and Kelly Wilson, Sacramento Valley., plus two others to be determined. Slate to be completed by September for approval. **ACTION ITEM #4: Roy to fill out Annual Gathering Business committee slate.**

ECCUMENICAL HOUSE: Mike Hill moved, Kelly Wilson seconded the motion that Eunice Aaron and Daniel Ross-Jones be authorized to act on the Council's behalf with regards to the SF Ecumenical House. Passed. Eunice will inform Ken Iha.

ANNUAL GATHERING 2016/2017: The dates are set by contract with Sonoma State for the 2017 and 2018 AG. June 15- 18th, 2017, and June 14- 17, 2018. Also the housing is contractually set. We will discuss it with them again, to see if there is any chance of change to different housing. Diane read some of the comments from the evaluation forms, [these have since been forwarded to everyone] 70 of which have already been returned. Most comments were 4 and 5 in all areas. Some of the individual comments were read. Roy Mosley said he plans to plan the themes in advance in keeping with our three year calendar. **ACTION ITEM #5: plan future themes.**

We will be restricted on commuters next year, as we must fill the housing that we contracted for. We will work on better publicity, and the general feeling was earlier, earlier, earlier for information and building excitement. We will work on a T shirt design and get it properly done for next year. A competition for the design, with a prize, was proposed.

REPORTS: CONFERENCE TREASURER, Tom Clarke said that our expenses are under control, but our income is down 40%, as the report you got shows. We must get that under control because we do not have the reserves to keep borrowing against, like this year. We have to concentrate on the Philanthropy and Stewardship Committee that Daniel Ross-Jones is working on. We divided up more churches to thanks for their contributions and to seek an increase. Also it is recommended that you read the book "Not Your Parent's Offering Plate" by J. Cliff Christopher. It was a feature of the conference on Stewardship that Diane, Daniel and Tom attended in Florida. Diane has a powerpoint presentation on it. Tom's words of wisdom were Thank, Thank, Thank.

CONFERENCE MINISTER: Diane Weible passed out several things, see attachments, which may be in the dropbox or council platform. The focus document was Vision for 2016 – 2017. The following actions/decisions/discussions ensued, labeled by section and subsection.

II. a: The Justice and Witness Missional Team: Diane Johnson, chair, Vic Robinson, Jim Ross, with ACM Davena Jones.

II. b: ACM Daniel Ross-Jones will work with this team.

II. c: To be called the **Innovative Response Team**, Liz Armstrong, chair, Roy Mosley, Sonny Graves. Examples of items this team will cover are III. g, h +i : Guernville Church, Livermore Church, and Sacramento Marshallese Church, which is for sale.

II. d: We have several file cabinet with files dating back to the early days of the Conference that need to be cleaned up/digitized and discarded. An ongoing major project, but not the top priority – just need to keep on the radar and work on regularly. Need to determine who, how, when.

III. a: The request to find an A2A location was discussed. It is something to consider going forward. However the A2A committee said that Sonoma State met the requirements. There is quite a difference between ADA and A2A. The Clergy Retreat will no longer be held at San Damiano Retreat Center because it is not A2A compliant.

III. b and c: See the many attachments dealing with Camps and readiness. Much of the discussion centered around the proposal to split the Camp Director position into Administrative and Program Manager tasks, with different persons doing both aspects. Their title will be Ministry Program Administrators [see attachment] Using some of the Communities of Practice grant funds. **Motion by Diane Johnson to create the positions as presented, seconded by Roy Mosley, passed.** Some of the problems with the camps is the low attendance, marketing the camps and retention of former campers. With regards to the contract letters to Wade, Jeannie, and Jamie, the correct mileage reimbursement is \$0.54 per mile. It has been suggested that we combine Junior, Junior High, and High School groups into one camp. **Motion by Liz Armstrong, seconded by Mike Hill that we accept the draft camp documents on covenant, emergency preparedness, and 3 proposed contracts. Passed**

We decided much more information needed to be obtained before we could act on the UCCR proposals and we will ask someone from the Facilities and Management Committee to send us documents to help us understand how this committee was formed and what their responsibilities are as well as financial actions and to come to our next meeting to help us understand.

III. d: Conference Fitness Review Committee[COM E] (see attachments). The Committee members will be those who were nominated to the Ethics Sub Committee. **Motion by Jim Ross to accept the proposal and create COM E, seconded by Vic Robinson, passed.**

III e: Tammy Nelson has resigned, effective July 31. Conference party is planned for August 1. Liz Armstrong moved, Diane Johnson second, that the executive committee be empowered to create a new job description for the replacement that combines the Office Assistant job and the Camp Director positions. Passed. **ACTION ITEM #6. Executive committee create job description for new Office Assistant position.**

III f: ACTION ITEM #7: we will be forming PRC's for Daniel Ross-Jones and Davena Jones. Possibly have a representative from each of the Associations they serve.

Everyone was presented with a personalized document outlining the new email system and how to use it.

We were also given Council Pledge Forms with two important sides, see attached.

Following our vote to hold the Council meetings on the second Saturday of the month, we decided to continue going to churches/areas that are new to us. Eunice will arrange the schedule and send it to us. If you want to host one of the meetings, please contact her. THERE IS NO August MEETING, THE SEPTEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE THIRD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17. Liz Armstrong will host in Angels Camp. Further details to come. **ACTION ITEM #8: Eunice to create the meeting schedule.**

CLOSING PRAYER and adjournment at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Brabham, acting scribe.