



## **Conference Council Meeting**

**March 12, 2016 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

### **NCNC Council Minutes for March 12, 2016**

*(approved April 14 by email)*

Attending: Eunice Aaron, Richard Brabham, Matt Broadbent, George Conklin, Patsy Finster, Diane Johnson, Fed Ranches, Vic Robinson, Jim Ross, Kelly Wilson – with Diane Weible, CM  
A quorum was established.

10:00 a.m. - Welcome by Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk, pastor of the Benecia Community Congregational UCC, described some of the 150 year history of the church, and then led us in an opening meditation.

- We held a lengthy discussion on the NCNC School of Economics, including:
  1. Review of Financial Reports
  2. A look at the financial reality for the coming year.
  3. Analysis of giving to OCWM.
  4. Plan for Stewardship.
  5. Next steps.
  6. Who is responsible?

*(See notes attached.)*

- We were charged with two goals by May meeting:

- 1] establish protocols for getting the message of stewardship out to the churches
- 2] to devise a system to work in communications. Think about the recipient/receivers of information.

- Before lunch we reviewed a report of the Ecumenical House at San Francisco State. We decided much more information was needed about the state of active ministry on the campus before we can proceed.

LUNCH –

1:00 p.m. - **Reports:**

- Minutes for February 13, 2016 were approved without corrections.
- Personnel Policy (Finished Copy) was adopted unanimously.
- A nominating committee, chaired by Eunice Aaron, Richard Brabham, Vic Robinson, and Jim Ross was established.
- Annual Gathering discussion centered on the change in keynote speaker, workshops and the accommodations.

## **REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP**

### **March 12, 2016**

The Conference Council discussed our current budget needs, and the reality that without strong support from our churches and clergy, we will find ourselves with a serious deficit in the coming year. We feel we have been working on rebuilding the systems to support, unite and nurture the churches and ministries of the NCNC-UCC. In the past two years we have called a new Conference Minister, two new full-time Associate Conference Ministers, reinstated Church Day, rejuvenated Committee on Ministry, Section C, started a weekly E-newsletter, created Search Committee consultants, and relocated the Conference office to a new site in Oakland. However, we have not asked the churches to give financially to the ministry of the Conference for the past 5 years.

In our conversation on the budget and stewardship we identified 8 things we could do to improve our ability to strengthen the financial health of the Conference. What follows are my notes from that discussion.

*– Matt Broadbent, President of NCNC Council.*

#### **1. Analysis of church giving / non-givers**

Do analysis of church giving to assess changes in pattern of giving;  
identify churches that have no record of giving;  
and develop a stewardship approach tailored to each church.

Action: Daniel Ross-Jones has been given this task.

#### **2. Narrative Budget Distribution**

Use our narrative budget as a stewardship tool:  
PDF's through E-news, website, and Conference Minister visits.

Action: Joy will be asked to post the Narrative Budget on sites.

#### **3. Improve Communication Systems**

Upgrade the website to make it more user friendly;  
Create a stewardship page;  
Place a donate button on each page with a request such as;  
“If this site has been helpful please consider making a donation for the ongoing ministry of the NCNC.

Action: Diane Weible will create a button and has asked Daniel Ross-Jones to come up with an alternative templates for the Website.

#### **4. Diverse Cultural Awareness**

Recognize the cultural differences in giving. Not all churches budget on an annual basis, some give through an annual appeal, or a Dinner/Worship event.

Action: Fed Ranches was asked to think about ways we could engage Samoan and other PAAM members.

#### **5. Transitions in Churches**

Be sensitive to churches that are undergoing change, ministerial vacancies, budget shortfalls. This takes visits and pastoral care that reap rewards in the long run.

Action: This is a pastoral concern for Diane Weible.

#### **6. Annual NCNC Appeal**

Our Conference is defined as the member churches and the Authorized Ministers. Create an Annual Appeal to clergy, and long-time supporters of the Conference to help make up the shortfall of local church contributions.

Action: Matt Broadbent, Tom Clarke, and other members of the Board will create an Annual Appeal to Authorized Ministers and long-term supporters.

#### **7. Grant Writers wanted**

Identify people with skills in Grant Writing and match them with Institutions and Foundations interested in supporting religious organizations. We need to identify special projects that would meet the criteria of Grant agencies.

Action: Diane Johnson, Sophia DeWitt and Raj Rambob identified as potential grant-writers. Staff needs to identify programs to be funded and Grant sources. Staff needs to provide basic information of Conference that can be used with multiple proposals.

#### **8. Annual Gathering**

There are several opportunities during the Annual Gathering to make a thoughtful appeal for support from churches: State of the Conference report; the Budget hearings; Sunday sermon.

Action: Annual Gathering Planning Team schedules time for these opportunities to talk about support for the Conference; Conference Minister and Treasurer create presentations.

- Each association is to have their General Synod Delegate nominations in to the Conference Office no later than April 1. It was stressed that this is a nomination, not a selection, and the delegates will be chosen from this pool and confirmed at Annual Gathering.
- The office move is completed. Problems with US Post Office. Suggested getting a P.O. Box as the forwarding address until it is worked out.
- Church Day was given a rousing WELL DONE!
- Camp weekend was cancelled due to flooding.

Next meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> at Island UCC, Foster City