



Conference Council Minutes **November 14, 2015 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Our Purpose is to *Support–Unite–Nurture* the church of Jesus Christ in local settings and ministries of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

10:00 a.m. - Welcome by Rev. Melanie Weiner

10:15 a.m. - Opening Worship – Matt Broadbent
- Check in and Prayer for the Meeting

11:00 - **Talking of Technology**
Heberling

Marlie

Marlie Heberling introduced us to two new programs to improve our communication and efficiency: MYMEETING.COM and FUZE.COM.

We are excited about moving toward technology to connect us as a Council and as a Conference. Our Stewardship co-hort is telling the story and inviting your support while our Visibility co-hort will be working on how we can increase visibility with new technological tools. Our Justice and Witness co-hort will be answering the question of how we create a network of ministries in NCNC (look for their survey soon) and our Communication and Connection co-hort will find ways to improve transparency within the conference. More on all of this as it develops.

LUNCH – **Bring your Own Lunch** – coffee and snacks will be provided by our hosts.

Report from Church Day

Attendees

Church Day was a resounding success. The next one will be on March 5, 2016, 9 AM to 4 PM, location to be decided. The topic will be “Domestic Violence: What Every Christian Needs to Know” and the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Al Miles, Hospital Ministry Coordinator at the Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and well-known author and speaker on domestic violence and teen dating violence..

Report from Meeting with COM Section Chairs, Association Moderators and Staff

- Change MOMSA to read that after Section A has approved a minister for transfer of standing, dual standing or ordained ministerial partner standing, standing is officially transferred and Associations are notified that they can proceed with installation /recognition
- Ask Conference Council to appoint members to serve on Section C of the Committee on Ministry. We are asking that one person from each Association be chosen.

Reports:

- **Conference Minister** Diane Weible
- **Conference Treasurer** (report sent by Tom Clarke)
- **Outdoor Ministry (YYA -OMC)**

The Council approved a request by Outdoor Ministry to change the acronym OMC (Outdoor Ministry Committee) to YOMC (Youth and Outdoor Ministry Committee).

- **Annual Gathering Planning Team (AGPT)** Davena Jones

The Annual Gathering Planning Team (AGPT) has chosen 1 John 4:7-21 as the focus text for next year's gathering. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Traci Blackmon, the new Justice and Witness Executive for the UCC. Annual Gathering will take place June 16-19, 2016. The team has come up with four exciting books to prepare us for a time of lively discussion next June as we continue the sacred conversations on race.

The books are:

A lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
Pre and Post Racial America by Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Race and Theology by Elaine Robinson

- **Follow up on Ecumenical House** Eunice Aaron

The next meeting at Ecumenical House in San Francisco will be December 4th.

- **Additional Actions by Council**

The Council voted unanimously to name the Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast as Minister Emerita of the Northern California Nevada Conference and will ask the AGPT to create a moment of recognition and celebration at Annual Gathering, June 2016.

The Nominating Committee is seeking to fill the following positions: Vice Moderator of the Conference Council (clergy) and openings on Committee C which seeks someone from each Association to help churches seeking membership in the UCC and build connections between them, the Conference and their respective Associations. We are hoping to get one person from each Association to serve on this committee.

Review Action Items and Ministry Team Assignments

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Adjourned 3 p.m. / Next meeting January 9, 2016, Ripon CA – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

Housing Allowance Motions:

Ministers can ask for a portion of their salary designated as Housing allowance. The figure agreed to is the upper limit. The minister must then itemize for the IRS to claim the deduction. A motion needs to be in the record of the Conference Council, and a copy sent to the minister. Davena Jones and Daniel Ross-Jones are asking for such a motion from our Council.

Resolved: The Northern California Nevada Conference Council (UCC), designates the following housing allowance for 2015 under the Revenue Code, section 107:
Rev. Davena Jones / \$25,000. This amount shall apply to all future years until modified.

Resolved: The Northern California Nevada Conference Council (UCC), designates the following housing allowance for 2016 under the Revenue Code, section 107:
Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones/ \$18,000. This amount shall apply to all future years until modified.

Nominating Committee:

New Vice-Moderator of NCNC-UCC

Members of Committee On Ministry, Section C