



NCNC Conference Council Minutes **October 10, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Eunice Aaron, Liz Armstrong, Richard Brabham, Matt Broadbent, Leian Cimarra, Patsy Finster, Mikayla Hambrick, Mike Hill, E.J.Hinojosa, Davena Jones, James Kosko, Fed Ranches, Vic Robinson, Jim Ross, Kelly Wilson.

Associate Members: Treasurer – Tom Clarke, Conf. Minister – Diane Weible

Members Absent: George Conklin, Jeanne Hobson, Diane Johnson, Steve Mevert

10:00 a.m. - Welcome by Rev. Jeff Spencer

The meeting opened with a welcome by Reverend Jeff Spencer Of Niles Discovery Church, who gave us the nickel tour of their wonderful new facility.

10:15 a.m. - Opening Worship – Richard Brabham

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY..... by Joyce Sidman

It is time for us to wake: we who stumble through the day with our gripes and complaints, who drift numbly through thronging halls and streets... you and I, who rant about injustice, who see all that is wrong in this world but sometimes believe we are shackled and powerless.

It is time to look into each others' faces, we who glide along the surface, time to dive down and feel the currents of each others' lives. Time to speak until the air holds all of our voices. Time to weave for each other a garment of brightness.

Open your eyes. Feel your strength. Bless the past. Greet the future. Join hands. Right here. Our moment...starting NOW.

- Check in and Prayer for the Meeting

10:45 a.m. - Welcome new/continuing members / Review The Timely Priorities for 2015-16 established in September:

Stewardship – Telling the Story – Inviting Support

Visibility – How many platforms can we use to get the words out?

Justice and Witness – What is the compelling mission of the church?

Communication and Connection – How do we use the resources we've got to get the word out?

11:00 - Report of Search Committee for Associate Conference Minister Diane Weible

-We received the report on the search committee for Associate Conference Minister from Diane Weible. The motion to accept this was held until all representatives were present.

Motion: to accept the recommendation of the Search Committee to call the Rev. Davena Leance Jones (to start in November) and the Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones (to start in January) as Associate Conference Ministers.

Moved by Eunice Aaron, seconded by Mike Hill passed unanimously.

- Talking of Stewardship

Matt Broadbent to Facilitate

We broke into our focus groups and reviewed the proposed stewardship letter to go out to member churches and had a discussion of the stewardship process and how to get the word out as our focus. Working groups based on our Timely Priorities spent an hour coming up with ways to communicate the Conference's needs with the churches. After the small group breakouts were done, we gathered again to give the outcomes. Summary:

Stewardship – Telling the Story – Inviting Support

Visibility – How many platforms can we use to get the words out?

Justice and Witness – What is the compelling mission of the church?

Communication and Connection – How do we use the resources we've got to get the word out?

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

Report from Conference Ministers Retreat

Attending Ministers

Ministers who attended the Conference Ministers Retreat reported that it was helpful, rejuvenating, grounding, and increased their appreciation of Sabbath time. Especially appreciated was the and one hour of silence, each day.

Reports of the Conference Minister (see attached report)

Diane Weible

- Sofia DeWitt and Raj Rambob are seeking grants that will be used for various purposes including the development of “communities of practice” to support our clergy.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee for Diane Weible is coming together. Eunice Aaron, Jeannie Hobson, Liz Armstrong have agreed to serve.
- Work is continuing on the office clean up, with estimate still coming for digitizing the file, copier repair or replacement. With the addition of the two new ACMs We need additional office space. Space requirements are 1200 square feet, at least three rooms and hopefully accessible to employees current and those coming on staff. Fed Ranches agreed to be on a Facilities Committee.

Motion: to create an Office Space Task-force.

Moved by Eunice Aaron, seconded by Liz Armstrong passed unanimously.

- There will be a joint conference call With the Committee on Ministry co-chairs and Association Moderators to discuss changing/coordinating issues regarding Transfer of Standing for Ministers and the purpose of Section C and implementing its resurrection.

Motion: that Drew Nettinga stay on as Associate Conference Minister until Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones starts work at the end of January and Ken Iha stays on until November 30, allowing for transition time.

Moved by Eunice Aaron, seconded by Liz Armstrong passed unanimously.

• **Conference Treasurer**

Tom Clarke

Motion: to recommend that the members of FABC minus the Conference Minister and Treasurer be appointed to act as audit committee. These members would be Milton Fujii, Gene Nelson and Barbara Colliander.

Moved by Mike Hill, seconded by Eunice Aaron passed unanimously.

• **Outdoor Ministry (YYA -OMC)**

-A verbal report was made by Matt Broadbent of a meeting with Char Asher, Diane Weible and Joy Davis considering Outdoor Ministry Committee proposal to set new fees for Cazadero (an increase of \$25 per camper), and keep fees the same at Tamarack.

-OMC will work on policies for Scholarship allocation and support for the camping program in churches of the Conference.

-OMC requested a United Camps Conferences & Retreats (UCCR) rep by the February 19, 2016 meeting.

• **Annual Gathering Planning Team (AGPT)**

Davena Jones, Kelly Wilson

-Annual gathering planning team Consisting of Jim Peck, Diane Weible , Diane Johnson, Kelly Wilson Janice Tim and Barbara Ham met October 3rd. Jim Peck and Jeannie Hobson agreed to serve as co-chairs of the upcoming 2016 Annual Gathering.

-There was a discussion of a three-year contract proposed by Sonoma State. We decided to hold action seeking more information and vote on it next month.

-Planning is going well for the Annual Gathering and if people have ideas look for the forums on the website and encourage participation in those.

-People can also contact Joy Davis in the office to assist with the Annual Gathering

• **Follow up on Ecumenical House**

Eunice Aaron

-No more information is available as a follow up on the ecumenical house situation.

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

-Everyone is encouraged to have their church members sign up for the newsletter.

-A discussion was held concerning Diane installation which will be held sometime soon in consultation with First Congregational Church of Berkeley

-There was a discussion of the Faith Community Church in Sacramento, currently being used by the Marshalese Church. The rent for facilities does not cover expenses and there may be a better way of treating this property as an asset to support new ministries. We recommended the Sacramento Valley Association work on it.

- **Closing Reflection and Prayer by Kelly Wilson**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m. with prayer.
Respectfully submitted Richard Brabham acting scribe