



NCNC

Council Minutes

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Congregational Church, Ripon, California

In Attendance: Eunice Aaron, Liz Armstrong, Richard Brabham, Matt Broadbent, George Conklin, Patsy Finster, EJ Hinojosa, Jeannie Hobson, Diane Johnson, Steve Mevert, Fed Ranches, Jim Ross, Kelly Wilson, Tom Clarke, Diane Weible, Davena Jones,

10:00am – Welcome and worship. Rev. Jim Ross gave brief history of the Congregational Church of Ripon and led group in worship.

NCNC Council

- **Check in and Prayer.** 10:30 am – meeting opened by Matt Broadbent. Council members shared “what did it take to get here today” as check-in. In addition Matt reminded Council that we are about setting priorities and policies for the NCNC – not run the NCNC. The running of the conference is the responsibility of NCNC staff and committees. Matt also welcomed guests attending the meeting from the Ripon church.
- **Stewardship and Technology Follow-up:**
A stewardship letter had been written and circulated – no response from this letter at this time. Question regarding whether the letter actually was received by churches – only one Council member acknowledged receiving this letter.

NCNC needs to learn the various platforms for information – what technology is useful and appropriate to use to get information out to the churches. “My Committee” is in its infancy – we need to start using this technology.

- **Justice and Witness:** Information shared regarding the NCNC Justice and Witness committee – it was set up as an “oversite Board” but evolved into receiving the “Neighbor’s in Need” collections and then deciding where the grant money should go – or what do we do when there is not money available. The recommendation was to dissolve the committee and now the responsibility for Justice and Witness is back in the NCNC Council. Council needs to now look at how can Justice and Witness be re-envisioned: At this point there are 4 goals for 2016:
 1. Create clear expectations/recognize the past/propose the future
 2. Create infrastructure between local, conference and national settings of the UCC
 3. Define the work of the Council in terms of outcomes for 1 year/3 year/5 year plans
 4. Share Justice and Witness resources within the NCNC

Matt asked Council to split into small groups and discuss:

1. What do you feel are Justice and Witness priorities address 2016 NCNC
2. How can we create a network to communicate information to our churches?

SEE ATTACHED FOR RESULTS OF THESE SMALL GROUPS



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- REPORTS:

1. Conference Minister Report: - Written Report see attached.

- a. Staff updates: Davena Jones has begun as Associate Conference Minister and is a blessing to have on staff. Daniel to start officially on January 20th but has already begun via e-mail.
- b. Stewardship letter – will work to get it into the NCNC newsletter
- c. Office Space Update: Current space not productive – too small to accommodate full staff – kudo’s to Joy, Tammy, and Davena for working in this situation. A new space has been found in the Oakland Business Center – near Oakland Airport. 1300sq feet vs current of 800 sq. feet. No contract has been signed as of yet. Eden – Once notice is given if they cannot rent the space then Eden will hold NCNC to its lease agreement. Cost is for Oakland space – \$1500 for 1300 square feet vs Eden \$1200 for 800 sq. feet.
- d. Leadership for Committees on Ministry Section A and C. Tauoa Head has been leading Section C alone but is now moving to Section A. Section C needs to be re-populated. Diane in conversation with someone to chair. Requests to ask associations (and Council members) for names to populate Section C. Send names to Eunice Aaron. Eunice will also make contact with associations. What does Section C do?
Works with groups that are interested in the UCC, works with churches wishing to become part of the UCC. Section C does not meet on a routine basis just as needed. The size of the committee should be 1 member for each association + the chair. The best practice would be a 50-50 split of lay to clergy.

Motion: NCNC Council appoints Rev. Tauoa Head as member of NCNC Committee on Ministry Section A. Moved Liz Armstrong, 2nd Eunice Aaron – Motion Passed Unanimously

- e. NCNC Council supports sending Tom Clarke, Daniel Ross-Jones, and Diane Weible to the stewardship conference in Orlando in March. Diane and Tom to work on details and funding for this trip. Is it possible for NCNC members to give frequent flyer miles?
- f. Diane Weible’s installation will be February 20th @ FCCB – get the word out to churches in your associations
- g. “New Beginnings” NCNC to pilot this program. It is for churches in decline or stagnant. Uses Assessors – come to the church and enter into conversations with the church. After the initial assessment – church has work to do and the assessor will continue work with church bringing outside resources to the table. Some churches in the NCNC have been identified as potential churches. If interested there will be a “come and see” at Arlington Church on Feb 6th from 9:30 – 11:30 am. The NCNC will sponsor the event, lowering the cost for each church by \$1000.00.

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However, if a church cannot afford the remaining cost the NCNC will work to find a solution. This is a program for churches to reflect where they are on their journey and where they want to be. Are they now at a “tipping point”

- h. Church Day – encourage churches to register
 - i. Domestic Violence workshop – March 5th @ Danville church – encourage registration
 - j. Gathering for Sr. Pastors (for multi staffed congregations) March 1st
 - k. Young Adult Retreat: Targeted YA leaders – object is to brainstorm what YA needs are. Scheduled for Jan 29th
 - l. Daniel is planning a 20-30 yr. old clergy retreat gathering
 - m. Personnel policies need some updates. Diane to bring suggestions to the February Council meeting
 - n. General Synod Delegates: Can NCNC staff be delegates? Deadline for names for delegates by AG 2016 as they will need to be voted upon. Associations recommend 2 people – Conference Council to will make final decisions to fill vacancies – to be on February Council agenda.
2. Budget: Revenue at 79% of budget, Expenses at 78% of budget – good but if we had been fully staffed (ACM’s) we would be in a deficit. Need to be aware of this and look closely as we are now staffed fully. Fiscal year is Jan 1 – Dec 31 for NCNC. Tom has a concern regarding the 2016 budget – not enough travel money as we are now fully staffed and the expectation is that there will be a lot of travel to NCNC church settings. Currently pursuing a new accounting agency. Audit Committee (Milton) has submitted report.

Motion: The NCNC UCC Council accepts the audit report of 2014 – Moved Richard Brabham, 2nd Fed Ranches – motion passed unanimously

3. Outdoor Minister (YYA-OMC) now Youth and Outdoor Ministry: Mid-Winter camp registration down. Possibly because advertising this was late. Feb Camp registrations now open. National Youth Convention will be in Orlando. Cost will be \$1420 which includes air and registration.
4. Annual Gathering: AGPT will meet on January 23rd. Plans are progressing in good time frame. Encourage all churches (especially delegates or those attending AG) to read one of the “books in common”. They are listed on the website.
5. Follow up on Ecumenical House: Nothing new to report.

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS AND MINISTRY TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

1. Personnel Policy for Feb meeting
2. General Synod Delegates for Feb meeting
3. Start thinking on Justice and Witness questions – what do we want to send out to our churches (questionnaire)
4. Get Committee C proposed names to Eunice Aaron



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5. Thinking about Vice Moderator

3:00 pm Meeting adjourned in Prayer

Addendum: 12/22/2015

Motion to be voted: Resolved: The Northern California Nevada Conference (UCC), designates the following housing allowance beginning December 24, 2015, under the Revenue Code, Section 107: Rev. Diane Weible/\$55,000.00. Moved. Rev. Matt Broadbent, 2nd Jeannie Hobson. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeannie Hobson

Conference Minister Written Report – January 2016

1. Church/Community Visits:
 - a. November 15: Skyline UCC
 - b. November 17-19: Western Regional Conference Ministers meeting, Pasadena
 - c. November 20: Committee on Ministry meeting
 - d. November 22: Island United Church
 - e. November 22: FCC Redwood City
 - f. November 24: PSR Chapel
 - g. November 25: Interfaith/Community Rally at Oakland Courthouse
 - h. December 1: PSR Chapel
 - i. December 6: Oakland Faith
 - j. December 8: Santa Clara Association clergy
 - k. December 12-13: Angels Camp
 - l. December 17: PSR-Interfaith Panel in support of Muslim community
 - m. December 19: Akiko Miyake Stoner's installation
2. Items to Report:
 - a. Staff updates
 - b. Office update
 - c. Section C of Committee on Ministry
 - d. Stewardship Conference
 - e. Installation – February 20th



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Council Break Out Reports – Jan 9th

Group I

Conversations about Justice and Witness:

Kelly W., Diane W., Davena, Diane J, Fed R.

How do we create a network of information within NCNC?

Priorities we should be addressing?

RESPONSES:

Supply resources

- Justice and Witness Lenten sermon series – offer resources?
- Survey Monkey? -- list of questions

There are so many J&W issues – various passions

Privilege is a core component of all J&W

Sharing with others what's happening

Facebook page

Power of relationships!! Need to share what's happening

Distinction between "Content" or categories of justice and witness work, i.e., Interfaith Action,

Economic Justice, Hunger and homelessness, etc. AND Infrastructure – how does NCNC assist in building capacity around the content issues

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:

Levels/Types of Information That Are Shared:

Direct Actions

Resources

Stories

How?

Newsletter

Facebook Page

One on One

Conference Staff

Associations

One Year:

Survey – baseline, what are churches doing?

Series of newsletter stories (at least 12)

of actions

Annual Gathering

Heard from other groups:

Social justice and faith

Justice Issues:

Gun control

Fighting prison industrial complex

Social equity

Women's issues



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A2A – disability
ONA
Animal Rights
Transgender
Climate change
Create resource guide – coordinate at NCNC office
Page on the website
Create an action plan for J&W
The ministry of presence – showing up at various actions
How do we use technology?
Interfaith councils

Group II

Unice Aaron, Liz Armstrong. Richard Brabham. George Conklin, Jim Ross,

Breakout session notes 1/9/16

What do you feel are Justice & Witness priorities for Conference this year?

Acknowledge where your church and community is on these issues.

Possibly have it backwards = Witness and Justice

Race-humanism, the continuum

Possibly rename Social Justice and our faith, --let the group find language that is non-threatening.

Watch out for insular behavior. Work on interfaith alliances

First get the story straight.

How can we create a network sharing Justice & Witness ministries?

>Speakers

>Books

>DVD's - George Conklin is restoring a video of 20 years ago "A Primer on Islam, Understanding Islam".

Comparisons of the Koran and the Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Brabham, scribe by default.



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Group III

Matt Broadbent, , Patsy Finster, EJ Hinojosa, Jeannie Hobson, Steve Mevert, Tom Clarke,

There were two questions we addressed:

- 1) What are the priorities of Justice and Witness Ministries, and
- 2) How do we network with churches and ministers in the NCNC

Priorities:

Racism and White Privilege
Islamophobia and Religious Extremism
Criminal Justice System
Gun control

Issues of Justice for women:
equal pay for equal work, and body-shaming.

(priorities we have dealt with in the past)

Access to All (A2A)
Open and Affirming (ONA)
Need to address transgender concerns
Animal Rights
Physician Assisted Death

Networking/ Telling the Story

Racism and White Privilege is being addressed at the Annual Gathering
Create a data base (resource guide) of what churches are presently doing
Create an action plan to connect needs for Justice and Witness information
with churches and ministers who are dealing with similar issues.
Encourage the use of Interfaith Councils and religious networks outside of UCC
Curate information through media technology to create a library of resources