



NCNC
Council Minutes – Open Session #1
Saturday, November 11, 2017
St. John's UCC, San Francisco

In Attendance:

Council Members: Richard Brabham, Roy Mosley, Rev. Melissa Tumaneng, Rev. Fed Ranches, David Letuligasenoa, Rev. Phil Konz, Eppie Encabo, Rev. Liz Armstrong, Theron Jones, Eunice Aaron (phone), Casey Ream (phone)

NCNC Staff: Diane Weible, Tom Clark (phone)

Guests: Rev. Elder Tauoa Head, Cornelia Supero (guest host),

10:12 AM – Welcome and opening prayer by Richard Brabham

Motion: To approve today's meeting agenda.

Moved and approved unanimously without discussion.

Motion: To approve the October 2017 meeting minutes.

Moved and approved unanimously without discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Overall things look good. Expenses are running under budget. Diane asked Joy to run a report of those who have not given to OWCM. OWCM is a contribution because we are in covenant; it is not a gift. Forty of our 120 had not contributed; Diane, Davena and Daniel sent a hand-written letter to most of them. Diane provided updates and council discussed the 40 churches.

Sidebar: Davena, Daniel, and Diane are the only ones who visit our 120 churches. Eppie and Melissa requested a list of each church still needing a visit. Kudos was given to Davena for visiting 4 of the Sacramento churches. We discussed how culturally some churches only want to see the Conference Minister.

Treasurer's report produced and emailed same day post meeting. Therefore there was no motion to approve the budget.

United Samoan Ministries (USM)

Elder Tauoa Head further educated council on the USM Northern Region organization. Handouts were given describing the elected officers and list of churches that are founders of this new organization. USM members comprise of UCC and non-UCC churches. Two of the churches are conservative; the rest are progressive. There are two main churches: West Samoa (mother church) and American Samoa. Elder Tauoa is the founder of Congregational Samoa Church in America. USM exists to bring together all Samoan churches with a common vision and mission.



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The council recognizes the large number of conservative churches USM brings together. We recognize the number of young people and generational churches that are involved. We recognize that USM makes up the 6th member of the Council of Racial Justice (CORJ). PAAM is one of the ministries bringing us together. The PAAM youth retreat is an opportunity for Samoan young adults to participate and make their presence known. We recognize and appreciate the Samoan's involvement in the PAAM concerts.

Elder Tauoa requested financial support for a USM Sunday. In September 1830, the Gospel reached the shores of Samoa. Thus Elder Tauoa is suggesting 9/24 as possible USM Sunday, just as there is a PAAM Sunday. Donations to support USM are not coming from the national church setting. What should NCNC do? NCNC promotes PAAM/USM/etc. as educational events first. It's not a "call to offering" event. Therefore we need to educate first then ask for a donation. Of the 52 Sundays each year, at least 40 of them are for educational events. Elder Tauoa expressed appreciation to the council members with particular appreciation to our CM and ACMs.

Annual Gathering Report

AG7 and the business committees met. The theme is "The Three Great Loves" and 2 of 3 speakers have been booked and confirmed. Sonny is working on the logo to be a combination of the 3 great love + NCNC logo. Phil will send a letter on letterhead:

1. To reiterate the deadline for proposals/resolutions.
2. To put a call out for musical talents/volunteers for different times of the conference. He received a suggestion to start the major sessions with a musical presentation to attract people into the room instead of the speaker themselves.

The AG planning is on schedule. At the business meeting, there was a lack of resolutions. There has been a decline in the number of resolutions coming to AG. With this decline, what will it look like in the future (e.g. 5 yrs) for bringing resolutions to General Synod or NCNC? Maybe we need to do resolutions or business in a different way? In the face of social media, we've started this dialogue already. Positive sentiment was expressed that we discuss resolutions without the format of the resolutions. Thus the main question is: *How is this lived out in practicality?*

An idea is to perhaps write a "Resolution on how we have resolution" as a "proposal for action" instead. A reference to the following TED Talk by the Mayor of Albuquerque was mentioned. Please watch the following:

https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_j_berry_a_practical_way_to_help_the_homeless_find_work_and_safety



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The idea is to have 2 ways of submitting proposals.

1. For those that want to use the resolution format, we accept and proceed as usual.
2. For those things that do not need to go to General Synod, perhaps have as a “Proposal for Action” instead.

Regarding the AG Service Projects, per Rev. Dr. Curran Reichert of Sonoma Congregational Church, it’s too early for new projects particularly because of the North Bay fires. She recommends that we go to the schools as we did for last year’s AG project. She also requests cleanup buckets. “Roy’s magical musical group” has other commitments and will not be able to participate at AG. Finally it was mentioned that the Rev. Ed Sunia family, including our Council Member Alessana, (Wellspring Congregational Church, Santa Rosa) is living in a trailer since losing their home due to the fire. No current needs.

12:28 PM – Open session #1 meeting adjourned.

13:03 PM – Closed session meeting began.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Melissa Tumaneng



NCNC
Council Minutes – Open Session #2
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In Attendance:

Council Members: Richard Brabham, Roy Mosley, Rev. Melissa Tumaneng, Rev. Fed Ranches, David Letuligasenoa, Rev. Phil Konz, Eppie Encabo, Rev. Liz Armstrong, Theron Jones, Eunice Aaron (phone), Casey Ream (phone)

NCNC Staff: Diane Weible

Guest: Cornelia Shapiro (guest host)

14:18 PM – Begin open session #2 meeting.

I. Vision for 2017-2018

- a. Support local congregations and ministers in their work so they can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in their communities and around the world.
- b. Be a prophetic voice and witness in the communities of this Conference that supports the work of the local churches and also reminds all of us that when we work together in the areas of justice and witness we can do so much more than we can do alone.
- c. NCNC may be a prophetic voice related to justice issues and other issues facing both society and the church as the church seeks to be relevant in the 21st century.

II. Upcoming Programs/Concerns

- a. Annual Gathering – Possible June 9-12, 2019 (Sun-Wed). Tentatively for 2020-2021 is the week *before* Father's Day (Thu-Sun) to avoid conflict with Father's Day. Asilomar's cost is prohibitive. Decision for dates to be made in January 2018.
- b. Endowment for Church/Clergy Vitality – Announcement sent out. Some interest and questions received.
- c. Partnership with CB&LF and Cornerstone related to church buildings – Unsure where we are. CM doesn't have control of the survey they sent out.
- d. The Balm-media presence – Nancy is good to go, though we need a coordinator.
- e. Justice and Witness Issues--RESET – They are meeting this week in person and video. Davena working with Sonny.
 - i. Anti-Racism Training (update)
 - ii. Domestic Violence Awareness
 - iii. Sanctuary Churches
 - iv. Actions (Stop Urban Shield/DACA, etc...)



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III. Misc. Items to report/request feedback on

- a. 2018 Housing Allowance

Motion: Approve the request for 2018 housing allowance. Diane for \$36,000. Davena for \$30,000. Daniel for \$18,000. Sonny for \$15,180.

Moved and approved unanimously without discussion.

- b. 2018 Salaries
- c. Widening the Welcome 2018 – The Disabilities Ministry put forth a request for us to involve them in the planning process and local insights. The Conference Inclusion Taskforce is being redone and is in flux. Faith Burgess is the disabilities contact with the wider church. Conference Council gives CM Diane general support to explore this further.
- d. Conversation with Mike Carr – Update and discussion on how we can make Camp Caz accessible. Few specific suggestions provided.
- e. COM Issues
- f. Office Update (Office space/Database Roll-out/Phones) – We will rent directly with a lease beginning January.
- g. Video System Update – We are beginning to order systems.
- h. Church and Ministry Meeting Location – Still to be determined.
- i. Personnel Handbook
- j. Guerneville/Livermore/NCF/S. Berkeley Churches – **Guerneville** is looking to close. Davena studying up on how to close a church. For **Livermore**, we received an email from Rev. Tony Bynum (DOC) the list of things that need to be fixed by the current renters. We are waiting to hear from them regarding the timing of what is next for this church. For **New Community of Faith** (NCF), there is a PSR intern there plus another became a Member in Discernment. As of 11/24/2017, **South Berkeley** will become uninsured. If nothing done, it reverts back to us. Eunice reached out to someone at the church.
- k. Sacramento Marshallese Church/Christian Cathedral
- l. Office 365/Council Work Integration
- m. YOMC/UCCR/Facilities Management
- n. Wildfires – Continue to find ways to help our churches.

IV. Visits since Last Conference Council Meeting

- a. October 8-9: Authorized Ministers Retreat
- b. October 15: Bill Lyons Installation, Phoenix
- c. October 17-21: United Church Board



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- d. October 22: Reformation Commemoration Pleasant Hill
- e. October 24: PSR Visit
- f. October 29: Grace North Fork
- g. November 1: Insurance Board Meeting by Phone
- h. November 5: FCC Sonoma
- i. November 8: Association Moderators Meeting

ACM Davena's Report

- Davena has taken over the churches in Search & Call.
- She is arranging neutral pulpit for 8 churches.
- We hope to use a new video for the Communities of Practice.

Closing prayer by Theron Jones.

15:03 PM – Open session #2 meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Melissa Tumaneng