



NCNC
Council Minutes
Saturday, October 7, 2017
First Congregational Church, Tulare, California

In Attendance:

Council Members: Mike Hill, Jeremy Johnson, Casey Ream, Jim Ross, Eunice Aaron, Richard Brabham, Theron Jones, Fed Ranches, Melissa Tumaneng, Eppie Encabo, Phil Konz, Roy Mosley (phone), Tom Clark (phone)

NCNC Staff: Diane Weible, Davena Jones

10:05 AM – Welcome and opening prayer by CM Diane Weible

Motion: To approve today's meeting agenda.
Moved by Eppie Encabo. 2nd Jim Ross. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve the September 2017 meeting minutes.
Moved by Mike Hill. 2nd Richard Brabham. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Overall income is above budget; we're under budget in almost all categories. Annual gathering shows surplus due to limited number of commuters. Only those within a 10 mile radius received commuter status. Overall we're pleased with the bottom line.

Daniel commented on how this is the most detailed report he has seen and very informative. Hawaii conference does our budget. His questions:

- Why has land depreciated by \$110k?
- Who owes us \$414k?

Tom will look into it. Diane will meet with the office manager of the Hawaii conference.

Motion: To approve the budget presented.
Moved by Phil Konz. 2nd Eppie Encabo. Motion approved unanimously.

Annual Gathering Report

Recommended due dates are as follows:

- 2/15/18 – All resolutions and first brief description of proposal
- 3/1/18 – Send out standing rules
- 4/2/18 – Final revision of proposal

Proposals must be in the same General Synod format so that we can send it off to General Synod for consideration.



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We are pleased that Sharon Fenema agreed to design worship again. However it's difficult to get our national setting officers of our denomination to our conference. Traci and John D. are not be able to attend AG. We do not have a speaker as of yet.

The NCNC staff thought of the idea of "The Three Great Loves (Love of Creation, of Neighbor, of Children)" as our AG theme. The idea is to have a preacher each night (Thu/Fri/Sat) and then be part of a panel for questions and answers. Diane will preach on Sunday. Casey liked this idea, especially the ability to engage in questions and answers. Mike like this idea too, suggesting David Vasquez-Levy as a speaker. Richard agrees with theme and DVL. It was unanimous to go forward with three speakers and the Q&A panel.

Eppie, Phil, and NCNC staff members to meet on Thursday, October 26, at 3:00 PM at the NCNC office to further discuss speaker ideas. Plan A for speakers include:

- Love of Creation – Corrina Gould, Indigenous Justice Movement Leader
- Love of Neighbor – David Vasquez-Levy, PSR President
- Love of Children – Sandhya Jha, Oakland Peace Center

Motion: To give \$1000.00 to each speaker as their fee. NCNC covers their costs.
Moved by Jeremy Johnson. 2nd Casey Ream. Motion approved unanimously.

Phil suggested having longer association meetings in order to meet the by-law requirements. Diane says the challenge is some want more time; others don't. Eunice mentioned that PAAM has both social and business time at AG. Mike like's Phil's idea. No decision made.

ACM Davena's Report

Overview of Tasks and Projects

1. **Search & Call-** support with Local Churches and networking with Authorized Ministers. Currently we have about **10 Congregations** in different stages of the search process. a. Placement of **Settled pastors:** b. **Interim Minister-** First Congregational Church of San Rafael has called The Reverend Sally Train as Interim minister. c. **Designated term pastors-** d. **Training of Pastoral Search Committee-I** facilitated a Day of Discovery with First Congregational Church of Eureka. This Sunday I will meet with the Search Committee of St. John's in Woodland. I will also meet with Campbell United Church of Christ Search Committee later this month. e. **Ministerial Profile validations and conversations with pastors is ongoing.**



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2. **Justice & Witness**- We struggle to get folk to gather via Conference call to have regular meetings. However, we have a scheduled meeting in person/zoom meeting Thursday, November 16th. I attended "Put the Guns Down" on Saturday, September 30th. It was a well-attended and successful event. It was led by Minister Elana Bolds at the Booker T Anderson Community Park. Richmond. Many thanks to our Conference Minister for donating funds to purchase scooters. It was great to see the children so happy to receive something new.

3. **Communities of Practice**- Sonny continues to work hard to get these up and running. Currently he is training a few more facilitators so that more groups can be formed around our Conference geographically. There is a high demand for the groups, however, not enough facilitators.

4. **Pastoral Support**- I continue to provide support to our Authorized Ministers during, times of transition, distress, stress and difficulties. I was blessed to meet and have coffee with over **6 Pastors** last month. I listened as they shared their stories, joys and concerns.

5. **New Beginnings**-Nothing new to report.

6. **Congregation Visits**- I am currently making rounds to Congregations to worship with them and to learn of their ministries and outreach. My church visit included for the month of September and First two Sundays in October were: Squaw Valley Chapel (Installation), First Congregational Church of Oroville (Preached) Reception into Full Standing of Satauro O le Ola-Cross of Life UCC (Preached), Christian Cathedral UCC (Preached) First Congregational Church of Eureka UCC (preached and Day of Discovery) and St. John UCC in Woodland (Service of Release and meeting with Search Committee).

CM Diane's Report

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



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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 (Survey) – What should we do about 2019? Richard and Eunice to meet. Our contract with Sonoma State ends in 2018. We are challenged with the timing because of the early date of GS. Do we change our AG dates? Do we change the location? The conference survey is split between Asilomar and returning to Sonoma State.
- b. Authorized Ministers Retreat – Starts 10/8/17 with 32-35 attendees. Kudos to Kit Novotny and Sonny for making this happen. We need a volunteer by end of December 2017 for next year's retreat, otherwise it will be cancelled.
- c. Endowment for Church/Clergy Vitality – The application and policy are in place. Plan is write a "Let's Talk" article to announce it. First applications due on Dec 31, 2017 for fund distribution in Jan/Feb 2018.
- d. Partnership with CB&LF and Cornerstone related to church buildings – Diane will reach out.
- e. The Balm-media presence – Diane to reach out.
- f. Justice and Witness Issues--RESET – Plan for a meeting in person/ZOOM combined. Terry De Grace-Morris, Casey Ream, plus 1-2 others have expressed general interest. The reset is to get some structure in place so that NCNC staff knows how to support. Two main things to discuss at meeting. (1) What is the conference wide work for J&W events? (2) What is the resource list of what other churches are doing with respect to J&W? J&W newsletter is written by Casey who also sends it.

Fed asked if the communication for J&W will be sent to the leader of the Council of Filipino Ministries? Diane reiterated that the information is already out there in the newsletter, Facebook, Diane's report, and the NCNC calendar.

Casey mentioned two circles of communication: (1) Team meetings which is open to anyone to attend. Davena and Sonny are the main contacts. (2) The newsletter that goes to the conference.

Jeremy mentioned there is a Women's Association of (4) Female Ministers in Tulare that started a J&W ministry. He will reach out to them to see if they're interested in participating in NCNC's J&W ministry.



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Diane suggested that each of our 119 churches each identify 1 person to come to the event and bring a friend. Stated that “targeted asks” is more successful to get attendance and support.

Fed mentioned that in some cultures, a point person is best to spread communication. This person needs to be someone in the position of authority to get their attention.

Diane stated that we want a point person at churches and at ministries. We want both.

- i. Anti-Racism Training (update)
- ii. Domestic Violence Awareness – We are working on a partnership with the Alameda Justice Center.
- iii. Sanctuary Churches – The Church of San Mateo has a family living there for a sanctuary church. They have taken this ministry to a new level.
- iv. Actions (Stop Urban Shield/DACA, etc...) – How do we get our churches here? She noticed a good attendance by the Jewish community; they assembled well. How can we do the same?
Melissa, Casey and Fed suggest a description of what is expected.
(1) They are to attend the event themselves, or if not, specify another person that has agreed to attend in their place. (2) Are they to be public or private contacts of the congregations? (3) Provide the subject matter in the request to the point person.

TO DO: Davena will add Jeremy to the J&W distribution list.

III. Misc. Items to report/request feedback on

- a. Office Update (Office space/Database Roll-out/Phones) – **Office Space.**
February 2018 is the end of the lease on the current space. Thank you to Daniel’s father, Jerry, who helped us with getting Internet connected (4-5 mos ago) and Phones connected (more recently). There are still other issues that have not been addressed, particularly no sink as of yet and more.

We are looking at a new space in San Leandro just off of 580. It’s a free standing house that has been converted to office space. Owner wants a business and likes the idea of us as long-term tenants. It is a little smaller space than we have now. However there already is internet, a kitchenette, and bathroom. There is 1 parking spot, however, it’s a neighborhood environment. It becomes available in November. Richard proposed the idea of the owner “donating rent for 2 mos” as a tax write-off. We have not signed the lease.



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Database Rollout: Daniel to complete Salesforce rollout by his vacation leave. Blythe, a student at PSR, is helping out part-time with the database input. We are trying to coordinate the newsletter, church contact, and church stats in Salesforce.

b. Video System Update – Redwood City will have 2 systems. Palo Alto Foundation hopes to get 2+ systems. We need a minimum of 6-7 systems to launch this program. Bay Association donated \$1000.00 towards this. The Brown Grant (in support of clergy) has a portion of general grants for projects and events that support clergy.

Possible uses include:

- Virtual “brown bag” lunches
 - COP Think tank – Works most successfully where there’s an “affinity” of groups (e.g. chaplains, interim clergy, etc.) The facilitator of the group would not be a member of the group.
- c. Church and Ministry Meeting Location
- d. Amicus Brief-Sanctuary Cities – Request from the Southwest Conference. We are a signature on the brief and it’s gone to court.
- e. Annual Gathering Theme Idea
- f. Personnel Handbook – We discussed each change Diane made to the document.

Motion: To add the Vision Benefit for NCNC staff to our Personnel Policy Handbook under section B.OTHER BENEFITS > 4. Group Health, Dental, Life an Accident Insurance > b. All eligible staff...

Moved by Jim Ross. 2nd Theron Jones. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: To approve the revised and updated on October 7, 2017 Personnel Policy Handbook.

Moved by Richard Brabham. 2nd Fed Ranches. Motion approved unanimously.

- g. Guerneville/Livermore/NCF/S. Berkeley Churches – **Livermore** / DOC was having a meeting today (10/7/17) with their renter/tenant. We obviously could not attend. DOC wants to sell. They’re trying to figure out if we have an interest or right in the property. Diane to give update after speaking with her contact, Tony.
- h. Sacramento Marshallese Church/Christian Cathedral– **Marshallese** / Mike hopes to find out more next Saturday on October 14.
Christian Cathedral / Thank you Davena that they want to be part of the UCC. All churches except these two are now members of the UCC.



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United Samoan Ministries (USM) / Elder Taua Head is the national Vice-Chair of USM that was created in 2003 and has a seat at the table. This is part of PAAM and they're active. To be part of USM is the same process to be part of PAAM. Some of the UCC Samoan churches don't want to be part of the USM. These churches remain UCC.

TO DO: Eunice to invite Elder Taua to November Council meeting to educate us on the USM and whether all USM churches are UCC.

- i. Office 365/Council Work Integration
- j. YOMC/UCCR/Facilities Management

IV. Visits since Last Conference Council Meeting

- a. September 10: Niles Discovery
- b. September 15: Committee on Ministry
- c. September 16: Raise the Roof Concert at CCCSF
- d. September 17-20: New CM Orientation
- e. September 21-22: Mini AM 21 Denver
- f. September 26-27: COMPASS in Cleveland
- g. October 1: CC San Mateo
- h. October 1: Shernell Edney Installation FCC San Jose

1:45 PM – Open session meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Melissa Tumaneng