

NCNC-UCC Conference Council Meeting Minutes: 10/13/2018 First Congregational Church of Berkeley, CA

Council Members present: Liz Armstrong, Richard Brabham, George Conklin, Shernell Edney Stille, Eppie Encabo, Patsy Finster, Theron Jones, Phil Konz, Patrick Lopez, Roy Mosley, Raj Rambob, Alesana Sunia

Staff present: Diane Weible

Rev. Rachel Bauman of FCCB welcomed us, gave a history of the church, and led the opening prayer.

Richard Brabham presented the agenda. **Patsy Finster moved to approve agenda, seconded by Eppie Encabo. Passed unanimously.**

Quorum was established, 12 members in attendance. The Covenant of Respect was read by everyone.

Treasurer's Report:

Richard presented the report; it was assumed that each member read the report before the meeting. The reports are a bit behind due to some issues with our bookkeeping firm in Hawaii. The financial report has an error, where we are showing a deficit, but the narrative is that we aren't having a deficit. The church office also had a problem receiving mail, due to our new address. This is now resolved.

Questions were uncontroversial and minor. No disagreement or controversy in the questioning. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Jim Ross, Seconded by Melissa Tumaneng. Motion carried unanimously.**

Synod Constitutional Amendment:

Jim Ross moved to accept the amendments as proposed by Mary Susan Gast, second by Eppie Encabo. Roy has a specific question relating to reflecting a procedural change – will need to follow up with him.

Another question: we are charged by AG to send a resolution to Synod that says a thing, but we are changing the way we are sending it. We aren't changing anything about the resolution's content.

Motion carries with 14 yes 1 abstention, no nays.

Slate 2018-2019:

Theron: we need to find more members of Recruitment Committee. People are dropping off, but we haven't been able to find replacements. There was an email sent, but no one replied. A comment was made relating to the "activeness" of the committee members.

Clarifying question was asked relating to how we can get the information on who is on Section E. The information needs to be gotten for who is on Section E.

Jeff Jones – YOMC member, helps at Camp Tam. There was a conflict between him and Wade last winter, but it was resolved. There was a further conflict, and the camp needed to scramble for a cook.

Questions are going around about whether he is fit for further leadership roles. Generally, there is a lot of confusion of what we need to do (or not do). This was a lively discussion, with a lot of ideas that came up. Eventually we decided that someone should speak to Jeff in an official capacity to evaluate the situation. Theron Jones will speak to Jeff about this issue, then report back to Conference Council.

New YOMC members were named: Sara Bocciardi, Emily Ivey, Lee Melbourne-Weaver, Liam Murdocki and Kimberley Williams, and for Cazadero Facilities Committee Maggie Robinson. We still have openings.

Motion by Roy, to approve the slate for 2018, second by George Conklin. Motion carried with all "yes".

Ecumenical Retired Clergy/Partner Retreat:

There are a set of 7 points to be a Fiscal Agent, Raj presented those. Minor edits came in, and all agreed to them.

A question was asked about liability and it was clarified that this is not a membership organization, but a single event. It was clarified that our liability only extends to our *fiscal* relationship to this event. Their existing liability insurance for the event should cover any sort of misbehavior in the event by its participants. An amendment was proposed to add a hold harmless paragraph and a statement that we are only to act as a fiscal agent and nothing more. The exact language is pending discussion between Roy and Raj during lunch.

Moved by Patsy Finster and seconded by Theron Jones. Motion is approved unanimously.

Meeting Locations:

The meeting locations were discussed, no objections were brought up.

Loan Policy:

Jeremy was absent, and he was the one who was to present this policy.

A consensus was brought up that instead of having this formal policy relating to loans, we should have our default answer to be “no” when asked, and direct local churches to contact conference council with these requests.

Gift Acceptance Policy:

Motioned to pass by Liz Armstrong, Seconded by Raj. Motion carried without controversy and the vote was unanimous.

MOM and MOMSA:

Motioned to pass by Melissa Tumaneng and Seconded by Jim Ross. Motion carried after many clarifying questions unanimously.

Do the policies in the Manual on Ministry supersede the previous policies set by the Committee on Ministry? It was clarified that the answer is yes.

The policy was suggested to be amended to say that the Current version is the one that will always have precedence. It was asked about what happens when a clergy person is on leave and decides to come back after many years. They start the process, but during the middle of the process, the MOM changes. There is a policy in the new MOM where that type of situation is accounted for, and those individuals have been accounted for. There were questions relating to promising status, and it appears that those who had questions were satisfied with the answers provided.

Guidelines for Conference Minister Fitness Reviews:

Motion to Table by Phil Konz, Seconded by Eppie Encabo. Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Lopez will go use a notepad++ plugin to compare the differences between the old and the new policy.

Insurance for S. Berkeley Church:

S. Berkeley church is in a vulnerable position where it has lost standing as a church with the Bay Association of the NCNC. The occupants of this church are not cooperative with NCNC and continue to cause liability for our conference. It was discussed we came to a consensus that we should buy the insurance, as we are exposing

ourselves to significant legal liability if we don't. Even with the \$7000 yearly cost, it is worth saving ourselves from even one lawsuit.

Patrick Lopez moved to have the insurance policy purchased to protect NCNC from liability regarding this rogue church. Seconded by Theron Jones. Passed unanimously.

It was determined that the funds will come from the church vitality endowment fund.

Further discussion happened on this matter: It is suspected that there might be some financial tomfoolery occurring there. Further investigation on the matter needs to be pursued.

Camp Caz, Acreage along the edges of the property:

Mike Carr from UCCR did some research and found some initial information, but there are still a whole lot of questions. There needs to be a second investigatory phase to find out more about the property value, leasing options, lot sizes, etc.

Raj motioned to go forward; Patsy seconded (along with many others). The motion passed without controversy.

Note for the record: The council agreed (but didn't vote) that we should look in to leasing our properties that we are in process of trying to sell instead of just selling. This could provide many opportunities for us to create some residual income that will keep the conference running.

Re-affirming our partnership intention for the Pension Board's capital campaign:

Motion to re-affirm by Liz Armstrong and seconded by Roy. Motion carried unanimously.

We will need to come up next with a realistic number that we would be able to raise come the Nov. 2018 meeting.

UCC mental health network meeting next spring:

Motion to hold this meeting by Liz Armstrong, seconded by Alesana Sunia. Motion carried unanimously.

Shernell brought up that her church will be holding a mental health conference on 3/2/2019, so it makes sense for the two events to be merged. Diane will work with her two get them connected.

Shaping the future, UCC National Setting Capital Campaign:

It was moved that the NCNC will not pledge towards this campaign, as we aren't in a financial position to do so.

Motion by Jim Ross, Seconded by Liz Armstrong. Motion passed Unanimously.

Business Committee Nominations:

Eppie announced Roy Mosley, Dick Hom, Patrick Lopez, Renee Stamm-Kirk, and Jeff Spencer

Theron Jones moved to accept; Phil Konz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:36PM with Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Patrick Lopez, acting Secretary