

Hospitality Resolution for the 45th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ, meeting June 6-8, 2008 at Hankinson, North Dakota

Whereas, the people, led by Paul and Lucy Bladow, and David Roehl, the pastor of the Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Hankinson, with the assistance of the people and pastors to the Union Congregational United Church of Christ, Hankinson, and of the United Church of Christ, Wahpeton, have excelled in graciousness as they warmly welcomed the participants in the 45th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ, feeding us so well with outstandingly superb food both in quality and in quantity, at every meal and break time, and letting us enjoy the facilities of the newly “Green” Emmanuel church building, and of the Union Congregational Church building for the men’s lunch, which again, did not invite us to rest easy but to be up and about God’s work: and

Whereas, the musical group of Susan Lester, Enno Limvere, Jean Limvere, and Jared Zimmerman in the several occasions in which they led services of worship did indeed enable us to “Celebrate the Joy of being the UCC;” as did organist Paul Buckhouse and pianist Kathy Holmes, at the several hymn sings, and the Living Waters with their inspiring après-banquet entertainment: and

Whereas, the Keynoters, David Schoen, and Mary Schaller Blaufuss, who also led workshops, as did the speaker at the Women’s Luncheon, Lydia Veliko, as well as David Holden, speaker at the Men’s Luncheon, informed us not only of their work, but of the work of the church in such manner that we could “Celebrate the Joy of being the UCC, as they also graced us with their presence and personal conversation: and

Whereas, our other workshop leaders, Wade Schemmel, and people from the Charles Hall Youth Services; our Disaster Ministry Coordinator, Lindy Holt; who also oversaw the paint-a-tent for Darfur Project, and our Youth Ministers, Carlton and Darcy Borden; ably informed us on the topics presented: and

Whereas, Conference Council President Keith Mills so ably presented the budget prepared by Treasurer Darla Schafer, that it passed with only one amendment: and

Whereas, Conference Moderator Karl Limvere presided with grace and humor, facilitated by the work of the Standing Committee Chairs: Susan Fandrich, Church and Ministry; Frank Picard, Mission and Outreach, and David Roehl, Faith and Nurture; and not least the work of Beth Begg, Conference Secretary, all enabling the work of the conference to “Celebrate the Joy of being the UCC:” and

Whereas, Peg Schemmel the Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister, so ably performed the tasks associated with registration for, and the administration of the Conference Meeting, that for the first time in human memory there was a 100% attendance of all who had pre-registered for the Annual Conference Meeting: and

Whereas, George Borden was not only the youngest of the participants, making certain his voice was heard, even as he patiently accepted the adoration of everyone; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the 45th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ does unanimously express gratitude to God for the many blessings experienced and for the many and diverse ways Holy Spirit has enabled the Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit to be among us: and

Be It Further Resolved, that we express our deep thanks to Paul and Lucy Bladow, the people, and David Roehl, the pastor of the Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Hankinson, the people and pastors to the Union Congregational United Church of Christ, Hankinson, and of the United Church of Christ, Wahpeton, the musical group of Susan Lester, Enno Limvere, Jean Limvere, and Jared Zimmerman; organist Paul Buckhouse and pianist Kathy Holmes, and the Living Waters: and

Be It Further Resolved, that we express profound gratitude to our Keynoters, Luncheon speakers and our workshop leaders, our Disaster Ministry Coordinator, and our Youth Ministers, Conference Council President Keith Mills, Conference Moderator Karl Limvere, Conference Secretary Beth Begg, and Conference Treasurer Darla Schafer, and the Standing Committee Chairs: Susan Fandrich, Church and Ministry; Frank Picard, Mission and Outreach, and David Roehl, Faith and Nurture; and Peg Schemmel, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister, and to George Borden; and all who shared knowledge, skills and talents, making it possible for this Annual Meeting to be a Conference, doing together the work God has for us, to faithfully share the story, and “Celebrate the Joy of being the UCC.”