

-Northern Plains Conference – United church of Christ
46th Annual Meeting
June 5 – 7, 2009
Minot, North Dakota

Moderator Karl Limvere called the meeting to order following the opening worship conducted by Rich Weis. His message of bold reliance introduced us to the theme of the conference: “the joy of being bold disciples.”

Presentation of ‘the Amistad’ - Wade Schemmel Conference Minister called on Steve Holmes to participate in the presentation of a model of the Amistad that Steve had made. It is given to the Conference as a symbol of the boldness and struggle for justice that is part of our heritage. The host church of the Annual Meeting will keep it for display until the next Annual Meeting when it will be presented to the next host church.

Introductions - Wade introduced our guests: Marc Stewart, acting Conference Minister of South Dakota; Rich Weis, Dean of United Theological Seminary; Jim & Jayanthi Wilson, missionaries to Botswana; David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary; Charlene Smith of our National Church.

Establishment of a quorum - R. J. Stohler gave registrar Peg Schemmel’s report. There is a grand total of 75 persons. 67 are delegates representing 25 churches. A quorum is established. **Motion** to receive the report establishing a quorum. Seconded; carried. R. J. invited people to shop in the store in the church basement.

Standing Rules - The Council recommends the adoption of the Stand Rules of the Annual Meeting. **Motion** to adopt the Standing Rules. Seconded; carried.

Agenda - **Motion** to adopt the agenda. Seconded; carried.

Minutes of the 45 Annual Meeting - **Motion** to suspend the reading of the minutes of the 45th Annual Meeting and to accept them as printed. Seconded. Corrections were made. Motion carried.

Granting voice to guests - **Motion** to give voice without vote to our six visitors. Seconded; carried.

Nominating Committee report - Karl gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the next business session.

Resolutions before this Annual Meeting were introduced by name only: ‘Health Care Reform for All Men, Women & Children’ and ‘Making Mission and Ministry Our First Priority.’ **Motion** to close resolutions for this Annual Meeting. Seconded; carried.

Presentation of 2010 budget - Darla Schafer Treasurer and Bookkeeper presented the proposed 2010 budget. The following changes are to be noted: Adjunct staff is increased to \$2,700, making the total for employees \$16,700. Total Expenses are increased to \$171,242. This means a deficit of \$7,543. Projected expenses are greater than projected income. If the budget is accepted, the Council will have a special fund raising so we do not end up with a deficit.

Wade introduced Bert Holvik UCC insurance representative. He is available to answer any questions about UCC coverage.

Karl declared this session in recess.

Moderator Karl reconvened the business meeting Saturday morning following worship, led by Keith Mills, focusing on doing rather than just talking. The first item of business is hearing the committee reports.

Faith and Nurture- Susan Lester reported that there are recent changes to the printed report. The portfolios 'Elderly Ministry' and 'Family & Marriage Enrichment' are now combined into one portfolio 'Life Ministry.' 'Camping Ministry' is now included in 'Youth Ministry.' Carlton Borden reported that currently there is no official youth council. We have an unofficial one by means of facebook.com. Camille Grothier gave a report of the 'Sisters in Christ' inviting women to attend the retreat September 26-28 in Richardton. Peg added to the report that the committee meets six times per year. **Motion** to receive the written and/or oral reports of the Faith & Nurture Committee, including Youth Ministry and Sisters in Christ. Seconded; carried.

Mission and Outreach – Frank Picard chairman gave an oral report. There are UCC shopping bags still available. Grants were awarded to First Church Fargo and Independence Church. Plans are to have Brian Crousore of Church World Service come to ND to conduct workshops on how to deal with traumatic stress following the flooding. **Motion** to receive the Mission & Outreach report and also the printed reports of the Financial Development & Stewardship Task Force and the Evangelism Task Force reports. Seconded; carried.

Church & Ministry – Steve Holmes chairman gave an oral report. This past year there have been some difficulties with which the committee has had to deal. Members of the committee have attended installation services. The committee has worked with the lay ministers' program and the multiple paths to ministry guidelines. Camille thanked the Committee and Wade for expediting her endeavors to complete work for the associate degree in theology. It was noted that this year the Jack Seville fund will be earning interest. Peg Schemmel Pulpit Supply Coordinator expressed gratitude for those who meet the needs for pulpit supply. **Motion** to receive the oral report of the Church and Ministry Committee and the oral and written reports of the Pulpit Supply Coordinator. Second; carried.

Treasurer's Report – Darla went over her report for 2008. An audit has been completed; the auditor made a few comments in order to clarify entries in the report. **Motion** to receive the financial report. Seconded; carried.

Nominations –

Conference Secretary: Beth Begg. **Motion** to close nominations for secretary. Seconded; carried.

Treasurer: the Nominating Committee had no recommendation; there were no nominations from the floor. **Motion** to close nominations for treasurer. Seconded; carried.

Faith & Nurture Committee: Susan Lester for a 2-year term. There were no nominations from the floor for the other 2-year positions. **Motion** to close nominations for 2-year terms. Seconded; carried. Betty Zimmerman for a 1-year term. **Motion** to close nominations for a 1-year term. Seconded; carried.

Mission & Outreach: Frank Picard, Marilyn Levin, Ron Hildahl. **Motion** to close nominations for the Mission & Outreach Committee. Seconded; carried.

Nominating Committee: Leola Adams, Howard Ebsen. **Motion** to close nominations for the Nominating Committee. Seconded; carried.

Barbara Price, a member of our Bismarck church, was introduced. She works for ndpeople.org. She has placed a display downstairs of 'Health Care for America.' **Motion** to welcome her to the meeting and to give her voice without vote. Seconded; carried.

Announcements - quilt with squares contributed from various churches is on display downstairs. Churches that did not contribute a square are encouraged to do so. Another quilt can be pieced together then. Be sure and get a square of material if your church is not represented on the completed quilt. He called our attention to the SERRV table downstairs. The Minot people worked to pack their store merchandise, because the shipment intended for the Annual Meeting was stolen! We were asked to remember Kathleen, who is the mother of Charlene Smith, in prayer. Charlene was notified that her mother has been hospitalized with a stroke.

At this time Dr. David Greenhaw gave a keynote address based on Psalm 139. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. As with the frontier peoples' profound caring about life in the here and now the social gospel developed, in the present we need to help people not to go unnoticed. It is hell on earth not to be noticed. Though budgets may be strained what we do is important so that folks who might go unnoticed are noticed. Following the Keynote presentation there were workshops. Next were the Women's luncheon and the Men's luncheon. Beginning the afternoon session the Rev. Marc Stewart led us in worship reminding us of the many ways we dare to do in our lives and our challenge to dare to be bold disciples. Next were church groups' reflections on the future, followed by groups considering what is the role we see for the NPCUCC.

Moderator Karl reconvened the business meeting. Next is a change in the agenda. Jim Moos will present his report.

East Timor Foundation – Jim Moos gave a report on the progress of the school supported by the Foundation. Though there is much yet to be realized, classes have begun. It was noted that East Timor is the least developed country in the world and also the poorest. **Motion** to receive the report of the East Timor Foundation. Seconded; carried.

2010 Budget – **Motion** to approve the adoption of the 2010 budget proposed by the Conference Council as amended. Seconded; carried.

Election of Officers – R. J. Stohler parliamentarian ruled that nominations for the Nominating Committee should not have been closed earlier if there are to be nominations from the floor for that committee at this time. **Motion** to reopen the floor for nominations to the Nominating Committee. Seconded; carried. There were no further nominations. **Motion** to instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees for the Conference Council, Committees and offices. Seconded carried.

Remembering Jim (Austin) Engel – members of the conference shared their remembrances of Austin Engel who for many years was our attorney of record, almost always pro bono. He died suddenly last October. He will be greatly missed.

The meeting is in recess until Sunday morning.

Moderator Karl reconvened the meeting

Resolutions – **Motion** to adopt the resolution for ‘Health Care Reform for All Men, Women and Children,’ seconded. **Motion** to amend the resolution such that the first three paragraphs of the second page be replaced with the three paragraphs added below. Seconded; carried. The motion to adopt as amended carried. **Motion** to adopt the resolution ‘Making Mission & Ministry Our First Priority.’ Seconded; carried.

Charles Hall Youth Services Report – Gayle Klopp gave a report on how needs are being met for the residents of the homes. **Motion** to receive the oral and written reports. Seconded; carried.

Disaster Recovery Report – Lindy Holt Disaster Ministry Coordinator talked about the many concerns involved in the recent flooding in our state. At any given time there were likely people preparing for flooding and/or evacuating, assessing damages clean up and recovery of both material things and of emotional trauma. Many agencies worked together to minister to the flood victims. **Motion** to accept Lindy’s oral and written reports and to accept Melvin Grilley’s report of the history of the Northern Plains Disaster Recovery Team. Seconded; carried.

Reports of the Executive Council of the UCC by Jim Moos, Wider Church Ministries by Darla Schafer, Local Church Ministries by Peg Schemmel and the Resource Center – **Motion** to receive the above written reports. Seconded; carried.

Conference Council Report – Keith Mills chairman of the Council gave a report of the work of the Council. It has been developing long-range goals, which are revisited to determine if they are work. The council seeks to do and be things which individual churches are unable to do and be by themselves. The Conference is the glue that holds our churches together. **Motion** – to receive the Conference Council report; seconded; carried.

Moderator's Report – a printed report was distributed. Considering the variety of assets each church possesses, in order to realize our goals and visions we need to release energy within our own churches. **Motion** to receive the Moderator's oral and written reports. Seconded; carried.

Conference Minister's Report – Wade emphasized that though we have financial concerns, money is but a detail as we look to fulfill our mission. With faith and courage we can meet whatever challenges lie ahead. **Motion** – to receive the Conference Minister's report. Seconded; carried.

Hospitality Resolution – R. J Stohler presented a resolution expressing our gratitude for the hospitality shown us by the UCC of Minot and Hope Congregational UCC of Granville and for all who have in any way contributed to the planning and/or presentation of this 46th Annual Meeting. The resolution was passed by unanimous consent.

Invitation for the 2010 Annual Meeting – Carole Umsted of the Valley City Church read a letter from the church inviting us to meet there June 3- 6, 2010. **Motion** to receive the invitation. Seconded; carried.

Adjournment – **Motion** to adjourn upon the conclusion of the Worship Service. Seconded; carried.