

MINUTES

St. Louis Association, Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ
Fall 2007 Meeting
Saturday, September 29, 2007
First Congregational United Church of Christ
10 West Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119

A Pre-Meeting Forum was led by our St. Louis Association Mission Partners as representatives shared information on the services they provide. Attendees had a chance to ask questions and dialogue with the presenters.

Before lunch, Associate Conference Minister John Dorhauer shared announcements and information from the life of the St. Louis Association.

Lunch was provided by our host church, First Congregational UCC of Webster Groves.

Worship began at 12:20, led by Rev. Rick Meyer, member of the Association Council and Pastor of Prince of Peace UCC.

Call to Order: Kathie Spross, Vice-President of the St. Louis Association Council and member of St. Johns Evangelical UCC, Mehlville, called the meeting to order. She introduced the Rev. Jack Batten as the Parliamentarian for the meeting. Kathie also thanked the host church for their hospitality.

A motion by Ellen Hiatt, member of First Congregational UCC, St. Louis; seconded by Paul Cook, member of Kirkwood UCC, to approve the Agenda for today's meeting passed.

The Roll Call of the churches was led by Rev. Tom Ressler, Association Council Recording Secretary and member of Immanuel Congregational UCC. With a total of 63 delegates, 33 clergy, and 20 visitors present, a Quorum was established.

A motion by Rev. Cindy Bumb, Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC; seconded by Rev. Gene Becker, member of Eden UCC, to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Fall 2006y Meeting of the St. Louis Association passed.

The Nominating Committee Report and Slate for 2008 was presented by Florence Simonson of Parkway UCC and Chair of the committee. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion (from the Nominating Committee, no second needed) to approve the slate of nominees passed.

Sue Stohr, Chair of the Outreach Committee and member of Parkway UCC, introduced the Proposed Outreach Budget for 2008. She noted that 80% of the St. Louis Association budget is spent on outreach. She referenced the excellent information we received earlier today from the speakers. Sue also explained the requirements for funding, referencing the St. Louis Association By-Laws. There were 11 applications for funding this year. Two of the ministries that applied did not meet the requirements. After the budget is approved by the Association, letters are sent to the agencies, informing them of the amounts of the grant each organization will receive. The total amount is paid in five quarterly payments, with the fifth payment held until January so that we know that all the funds are available. Site visits are made by Outreach Committee members as part of the budget process. Sue introduced the committee members. There were no questions for Sue or the Outreach Committee.

The Proposed 2008 St. Louis Association Budget was presented by Sandy Muller, Association Council Treasurer and member of Bethany-Peace UCC. She shared that we finished 2006 with a very small deficit, but by the summer of 2007 we had caught up, all bills were paid, and all payments to our mission partners had been sent. Sandy noted that the balance of the budget, after the Outreach portion, goes to administration and programs. A motion by Sandy Muller, with a second from Paul Cook, to approve the 2008 St. Louis Association Budget passed.

Preparation for Ministry Committee Report: Jane Porchey, Chair of the Preparation for Ministry Committee and member of First Congregational UCC, Webster Groves, shared that there are 14 students in-care of the Association at the present time. She noted that Mauri Peaco and Heather Arcovitch have been approved for ordination pending calls.

Committee on Ministry Report: Kevin Cameron, Co-Chair of the Committee on Ministry and Pastor of Parkway UCC, introduced clergy who are new to the St. Louis Association since our last business meeting. He referenced the full report of the Committee on Ministry, which is available on line on the Conference website. Kevin shared that Rev. Carol Keller, Pastor of St. Lucas UCC, is serving as Co-Chair of the Committee on Ministry with him.

One-Minute Speak-Outs were held, under the careful timekeeping of Kathie Spross. Speak-Outs were shared by:

- Helen Davis, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, shared news about the upcoming BEE Dinner for Eden Seminary.
- Rev. Ron Serino, Pastor of First Congregational UCC, St. Louis, spoke about the 20/30 Clergy Group.
- Rick Meyer raised concern about the proposed deficit budget for the Missouri Mid-South Conference.
- Rev. Clela Anderson, member of St. John's UCC, Manchester, spoke about SLAW, the St. Louis Association Women's group.
- Laurel Hayes, member of Evangelical UCC, shared news about the upcoming CROP Walk.
- Anna Mennerick, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, talked about Sycamore Partners and the services they offer.
- Bob Bauer shared information about Project COPE.
- Rev. Bob Patterson, Pastor of First Congregational UCC, Webster Groves, told the assembly about "A Case of Caring."

Rev. Dorhauer brought Greetings from the Missouri Mid-South Conference and shared the following information items:

- On October 7, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., at Union Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), there will be a meeting to celebrate our shared global ministries and to begin a drive to fund a missionary sponsored by the St. Louis area UCC/DOC churches. The goal is \$50,000.
- On November 4, 2007, at 5:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity UCC in Memphis, a service will be held to receive Holy Trinity into the Association, Conference, and United Church of Christ.
- \$10,000 from the Identity Campaign line item in our 2007 budget has helped to fund the position of Coordinator for the Congregational Vitality Initiative.

Rev. Dorhauer also reflected that our life together as an Association and Conference is transitional in nature. On December 1, 2007, Rev. Jeff Whitman arrives as our new Conference Minister. There are

concerns about Conference finances. Our sense of identity and mission has been compromised. There is a proposal before the Conference to eliminate one staff person; this may mean that giving to OCWM will drop. This is an important time in the life of the Association and Conference.

Leah Atkinson, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministries shared news from Camp Mo-Val. She noted the positive difference the new pool made at camp this past summer. She shared thanks for the support the churches provide for the Outdoor Ministries that take place at Camp Mo-Val.

Kathie Spross announced that the Offering received today totaled \$836.55.

Dismantling Racism Task Force Report: Rev. Dorhauer reviewed the history of the Dismantling Racism Task Force, noting the many accomplishments of the past 15 years. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to those who served on the DRTF. John expressed thanks for the work the participants have done on behalf of the St. Louis Association.

Rev. Dorhauer also recognized our brothers and sisters from Holy Ghost UCC, acknowledging the faithful covenantal partnership we have had with Holy Ghost. The way Holy Ghost UCC closed and said good-bye honored their history and ours. At the church's closing service, checks were handed out to our mission partners as a way of saying that ministry would continue. John expressed gratitude for the faithful ministry and dignified closing of the ministry of Holy Ghost UCC.

Rev. Dorhauer invited those elected to positions and offices at today's meeting to come forward. He led the body in an Affirmation and Installation of Elected Leaders in our Ministry for 2008.

Rev. Dorhauer expressed Thanks to Kathie Spross for leading today's meeting. A motion by Paul Cook, seconded by Jane Porchey, to adjourn the meeting passed. Those assembled sang "*What a Covenant.*" Rev. Dorhauer shared a benediction. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Tom Ressler, Recording Secretary,
St. Louis Association Council