

Final

Executive Council Minutes from Meeting of July 6, 2009

Members Present: Aldene Ault (Deacons), Tom Ault (Trustees and Search Committee), Kristen Curlee (CE and staff), Trish Esposito (Past Moderator), Tom Gustafson (Clerk), Marilyn Hall (Stewardship), David Main (Clerk of the Rolls), Pete Macleod (Outreach & Engagement), Greg Muncill (Financial Secretary), Dan Pence (Treasurer), Jackie Walters (Communications Officer), Anne Weissenborn (Social Witness and staff), Carolyn West-Gipson (Church Life), Tim White (Moderator).

Others Present: The Reverend Susan Henderson (Interim Senior Minister), Dianne Abraham (Church Administrator).

Moderator Tim White convened the meeting at about 7:35. The agenda was accepted, and members present introduced themselves and their responsibilities.

Minutes for the meeting of June 1, 2009, were approved with minor corrections.

Tim passed on a reminder from Susan Gray that up-to-date **minutes for all Boards** should be submitted to the church office in a timely fashion.

Tim presented a report from the Nominating Committee (its chair, Priscilla Peterson, was detained elsewhere). The Committee made the following **nominations**:

1. Moderator-Elect, Cyndy Wright-Johnson.
2. Archivist, Jeanne Young.
3. Historian, Jeanne Young.

Anne Weissenborn suggested appropriate recognition be extended to Bill Carnahan for his many years of service as Archivist and Historian. In addition, Bill has been taking pictures of new members for 50 years, composed a history of CCC for its 60th anniversary, and has performed many other services.

A motion to elect the nominees to the positions indicated passed unanimously.

Tom Ault provided an update on the **Search Committee** for the Senior Minister. The Committee has been meeting weekly and has met with Kwami Osei Reed. The Committee is circulating a next-to-final draft of the church profile its members and expects to send it to the Conference by the end of the month. It will then appear in UCC's national job listings on about August 11, and the posting will be open for applications for about 90 days. We expect to start receiving ministers' profiles immediately. The Committee is finalizing the position description in cooperation with the Personnel Committee. Susan Henderson reported she encountered several ministers at the General Synod who expressed interest in the possibility of applying.

The Council heard reflections and reports on three meetings: the CCC Annual Meeting, the meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and the Central Atlantic Conference annual conference.

The **General Synod** welcomed the new UCC President, Geoffrey Black and said good-bye to John Thomas. Tension surrounded consideration of issues of church governance, with many discussions about race. Susan noted that the next General Synod will be in Tampa, and it would be desirable to arrange to send some of our youth. Susan mentioned that Trish Esposito was honored for her activities as a laywoman at both the General Synod and the CAC meeting. CCC was recognized as one of the largest contributors to Our Church's Wider Mission; our contribution is in the upper one-third of congregations in the denomination.

At the **CAC meeting**, the theme was environmentalism, but concern and sadness centered around issues of leadership. Because of inadequate resources, the ministerial staff of the association is being reduced from five to three.

Anne Weissenborn noted that the interest in the bigger church among our congregation is limited, but the burdens on the denomination staff are heavy and growing. She suggested we might take additional steps, including publicizing our interactions with the denomination, to help this situation.

Board and staff updates:

- **Stewardship:** Marilyn Hall reported the latest results of the Stewardship campaign. As of July 6, 66 pledges had been increased and 28 decreased; 71 pledges are unchanged from last year; 9 units that pledged last year are no longer pledging; and 19 new pledges have been received. Twenty-nine units that pledged last year have not yet sent in a pledge, and the Board is following up with them. Pledges to date total \$640,152. The budget is based on a realized total of \$675,000, assuming actual payments are 98 percent of the total eventually pledged.

Dan Pence reported that the fulfillment rate at the end of the last fiscal year was 95 percent. Loose plate donations last year totaled \$63,880, up \$10,000 from the prior year and \$6400 more than was budgeted. Tim observed the loose plate amounts have been gradually increasing over the last five years or so.

Jackie Walters suggested we should communicate congratulations to the congregation for excellent results in hard times. She will help prepare an article for *News Notes*.

- **Church Life:** Carolyn West-Gipson reported that the Board is working on plans for a beach weekend in August, a church picnic on September 13 to coincide with the start of church school, and a Halloween party on the 24th of October (Halloween itself appears on a Saturday this year).

- **Outreach & Engagement:** Pete Macleod reported we will staff a booth at the Takoma Park Folk Festival in September. The Board is planning for a “Get the Scoop” ice cream social in October. New member classes are going well, though the format needs a few tweaks. Kristen Curlee noted that the parents of 40 percent of the participants in the vacation bible school are not church members and suggested follow-up with this group.
- **Communication Officer:** Jackie Walters reported that a group is working on redesign of the church webpage, with the intent of having the new version up by about the time of the launch of the search. Trish Esposito called attention to the need to update board pages. Barry Johnson, the webmaster, should be advised to remove updated material, but he can’t second guess these matters. Trish is also working on a policy relative to linking to Facebook.

Jackie stressed the importance of keeping the church calendar up to date and to avoid doubling up events at the same time. Tim urged boards and others to schedule for the entire year and also to be sure to cancel room reservations if an event is cancelled, so we can use the space in another way. Anne suggested those scheduling events should look beyond room availability to consider what events might be in competition at the same time.

- **Trustees:** Tom Ault reported that the Trustees are expecting an offer from the YMCA sometime this month. The Board is working with the Personnel Committee and Susan to get out letters to the stipendiaries.
- **Deacons:** Aldene Ault reported on a successful Deacons’ retreat.
- **Treasurer:** Dan Pence reported that the preliminary outcome for the 2008-09 budget was a surplus of \$19,300, as opposed to a planned deficit of about \$19,000. In other words, results were about \$38,000 better than expected. One source was income from use of building: Dan complimented Dianne Abraham for securing \$92,403, versus the expected amount in the budget of \$82,000.
- **Financial Secretary:** Greg Muncill reported he had been giving out the new pledge envelopes, tailoring the number to the unit’s giving pattern.
- Anne Weissenborn, in her capacity as **social witness** staff member, reported the Board of Social Witness is considering trying again to hold an event on the Middle East in the Fall. She reported that the Fine Arts Committee had denied a request to use the Tate Gallery for an exhibit on a social witness theme; the Board expects to have further discussions on this issue. The Board looking at ways to partner with other groups in the congregation about social witness projects/programs, especially including a reintroducing our three covenants to the attention of the congregation, including informing new members about them.

- Kristen Curlee reported that the **Christian Education** program is preparing for the Fall semester. A new, ecumenical curriculum will be employed, based on the lectionary used for the worship service, thus providing increased opportunities for communication on the themes between parents and children. Fourth and fifth grade teachers are still being sought. During the Fall, two teacher training sessions will be held, with help of Jim Stedman. E-mail contact regarding content of lessons is also being explored.

She is pulling together calendars for the youth group for the whole year. The Sunday evening sessions will start a half-hour earlier, at 5:30, to afford more time for devotion and fellowship. Nae Pearson will be involved in the devotions.

- Susan Henderson reported that **summer camp** is going well. The water pump and the hot water heater both went out but were soon back on line.

Susan had recently met with a number of past Moderators to consider the **organization of CCC** and how the various elements work together. She is concerned that we have at least better language to make how the church works to make it more understandable to a new minister. She noted that she has been here almost two years now and still doesn't fully understand the structure and how it operates.

Susan also noted two priorities for her activities: First, a focus on **building community**, because about two-thirds of the members appear to be not well connected. Second, **intergenerational worship** and trying to understand what it means in this congregation.

Following a prayer led by Susan, the meeting adjourned at about 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gustafson,
Church Clerk

Approved August 2, 2009