

Central Atlantic Conference
47th Annual Meeting June 10-11 2011
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference was called to order at 7:30 on Friday June 10 by Judy Bowman, Moderator

Rev. John Deckenback, Conference Minister opened with a prayer

Barbara Ware, chair of the Annual Meeting Task Force from the Catocin Association, welcomed the delegates to the Annual Meeting

Connie Heasley, registrar, reported on registrations. There are 75 authorized minister and 90 lay delegates registered for the annual meeting.

Judy Bowman, Moderator, declared that a quorum exists for the duration of the meeting.

Judy Bowman introduced Ralph France as parliamentarian.

Ralph France called for a motion to approve the standing rules for the meeting, as posted on the CAC web site Moved and seconded. No debate.

VOTED To adopt the Standing Rules for Meetings of the Central Atlantic Conference
11 AM 01

The Standing Rules are attached to these minutes as **11 AM Exhibit 01**

Judy Bowman called on Rev. Jim Bundy, President of the Board of Directors, to present the agenda.

Jim Bundy moved the adoption of the agenda and seconded.

VOTED To adopt the Agenda as written as the order of the day.
11 AM 02

The agenda is attached to these minutes as **11 AM Exhibit 02**

Judy Bowman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting. So moved and seconded.

VOTED To approve the minutes of the June 2010 Annual Meeting of the Conference
11 AM 03

Judy Bowman called on John Deckenback to introduce special guests. Rev. Deckenback welcomed several people:

- A delegation from the Evangelical Church of Central Germany, the Evangelische Kirche im Mitteldeutschland led by its bishop, Isle Junkermann.

- The new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Geoffrey Black.
- Pierson Kemp, chair of the United Church of Christ Executive Council and former chair of the CAC's New Church Development committee.
- Michael Downs, the head of the UCC Pension Boards, which is also sponsoring tonight's Ice Cream Social
- Cheri Lovell, from the Cornerstone Fund
- Jennifer Craig, from the Local Church Ministries staff of the UCC, working to promote OCWM.
- Faye Martin, from Homewood Retirement Communities
- Robert Orr, Undersecretary of the United Nations for Planning, Saturday's keynote speaker.
- Michael Joseph, a Global Ministries missionary in Colombia.
- Donaldson Hill, Team Leader of the Financial Development Ministries of the UCC.

John Deckenback moved to give voice, but not vote, to these guests. Seconded.

VOTED To give voice but not vote to guests of the Conference Annual Meeting

11 AM 04

Judy Bowman called on Pierson Kemp to introduce Rev. Geoffrey Black. Pierson Kemp did so.

Plenary Session I adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June, 10, 2011

Plenary Session II called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Moderator Judy Bowman began the meeting with a scripture reading, Mark 14:32-42.

Judy Bowman called on John Deckenback to open with a prayer.

Michael Downs delivered a greeting from the Pension Boards of the UCC, gave an overview of the Pension Boards' finances, and called for the planting of new churches to strengthen the UCC.

Judy Bowman called on Board Treasurer, Craig Sparks, and Bob Ziegler, past chair of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee (which Judy Bowman currently chairs) to deliver the financial report of the Conference.

Craig Sparks reported that the financial condition of the conference is "fairly solid", though investment income is down because of the need to draw from the endowment during the previous three years. However, we did not draw on the endowment this year, thanks to staff reductions and a change in OCWM distributions. Craig Sparks announced that we were able to almost return to the 65/35 split of previous years, sending to the national church 34.6% of OCWM contributions. The audit was clean. No questions were offered.

Judy Bowman called on Rev. Jim Bundy for the President's report.

Rev. Jim Bundy offered a specific thank you to the Ministry team, for the spirit in which they carried on in the face of diminished financial support and a higher work load as they adjusted to changes in staffing and job descriptions. We are a lot better off than we could be, thanks to them. However, we can't let the current situation continue – burnout is a real possibility – and we need to reconfigure the

Conference as we move toward replacing Richard Vaught and Sherry Taylor after they retire. Jim Bundy also offered a big thank you to the association leaderships and local churches for adapting and cooperating with the new ministry configuration.

Judy Bowman called on Rev. John Deckenback to deliver the State of the Conference.

John Deckenback thanked the planning committee, the visiting national colleagues, the staff of the CAC, and the volunteers who make the annual meeting possible, and the Board of Directors. He spoke of the changing church and the future of the church, offering several names up for special comment. He spoke of the upcoming General Synod resolution calling for a new understanding of baptism shared with the American Conference of Catholic Bishops. He called on Richard Vaught to give a report on his work on Boundary Training and his work in the Shenandoah Association.

Boundary training has gone very well. John Deckenback spoke of the rebuilding of Christ Reform UCC (Middletown, MD) after the fire a year ago.

He called on Kwame Osei Reed to deliver a report. Churches are awakening, as Kwame mentioned programs that have sprung one church and spread into several others. John Deckenback lifted up Michael Joseph and his peacemaking work in Colombia and Sheila Helgerson for her work at Earl's Place. John Deckenback called on Sherry Taylor to deliver a report.

Sherry Taylor spoke of a program aimed at middle school students created by Betsy Richardson and Ellen Witko that has developed into a youth retreat. She also announced that we officially welcomed Grace UCC into full membership of the New Jersey Association.

John Deckenback mentioned a new church start in Hagerstown, MD (Veritas) and the Board of Directors authorized two new churches in formation at its Friday meeting. He also spoke of our relationship with Howard University and the \$10,000 donation from the church to them. He spoke of his testimony to the Maryland General Assembly in favor of marriage equity.

John Deckenback spoke of trends in American religion, emphasizing the growing number of "nones" in the general population and the muting of public theology.

He spoke with concern about the strains on the ministry team and talked about the rebalancing of Search and Call responsibilities, providing assistance to local church committees.

He presented OCWM trends in the Conference from 2000-2010, showing a sudden drop starting in 2007. The national drop has been more dramatic.

He reported that the ministry team has been involved in resolving conflict in many local churches, over policy, pastoral conduct, and in particular Paramus Congregation Church which is close to resolving a lawsuit. With the settlement of the lawsuit and the pending sale of the church, 27% of the proceeds will go to local mission ministries chosen by the church members and the remainder will be placed in a trust fund, administered by the Board of Directors, to support congregational vitality, new church starts, scholarships at Lancaster Theological Seminary, and disaster relief through Church World Service.

Judy Bowman called on Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar to bring greetings from Lancaster Theological Seminary. Dr. Johnson-Winegar spoke of the hiring of a new president and the development of new programs, including on-line courses and programs.

Judy Bowman called on Mr. Pierson Kemp to introduce Rev. Geoffrey Black. He did so.

Plenary Session II adjourned at 10:24 am.

Plenary Session III called to order at 1:15

Judy Bowman called on Kwame Osei Reed to open with a prayer.

Judy Bowman called on Jill White, convener of the Stewardship Committee, to deliver a report

Jill White gave an overview of 2010 OCWM contributions -- \$1,046,452, exceeding anticipated contributions, which allowed us to send almost 35% to the national church. She and Rob Peters delivered the case statement for an OCWM stewardship drive.

Several questions were asked and answered.

Judy Bowman called on Rev. Geoffrey Black to deliver the State of the UCC

Rev. Geoffrey Black delivered comments.

Judy Bowman called on Jill White to introduce the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors.

Jill White offered the slate of candidates after acknowledging the outgoing Board members (Jim Bundy, Bob Ziegler, Glenn Patterson, Bill Federici, and Alexis Slonin).

Jill White, President
Bradley Thomas, Vice President
Rev. J. David Stinson, Moderator
Steve Wood, Associate Moderator
Judy Bowman, Associate Treasurer
William Duncan, At Large
Rev. Christine Wiley, At large
Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Catoclin –nominated member
Rev. Elsie Marie Niiler, Chesapeake –nominated member
Rev. Robin Bacon-Hoffman, New Jersey –nominated member
Rev. Anne Holmes, Potomac –nominated member

Jill White moved the slate for election. Seconded

VOTED To elect the slate of officers and members of the Board of Directors.

11 AM 05

Judy Bowman called on Craig Sparks, Treasurer, to introduce the 2012 Budget for the Conference

Craig Spark moved that we continue the 70-30 split of OCWM contributions between the conference (70%) and the national setting (30%), with any surplus going to the national setting as happened for 2010-2011.

VOTED To continue the 70/30 split of OCWM contributions between the Conference (70%) and the National Setting (30%), with any surplus going to the national setting.

11 AM 06

Craig Sparks moved that we adopt the 2012 budget

Rev. Stephanie Wiener offered an amendment that the line item of the Lancaster Theological Seminary be increased from \$6,000 to \$8,000, with the \$2000 coming from the OCWM Challenge Fund (the budget-balancing reserve). Seconded. Discussion: Amendment to the amendment offered to remove "with the \$2000 coming from the OCWM Challenge Fund".

VOTED To amend the amendment on the increase for Lancaster Theological
11 AM 07

The amendment to the amendment passed 134-15.

The amendment, now worded, says "the line item of the Lancaster Theological Seminary shall be increased to \$8,000 from \$6,000."

VOTED That line item of the Lancaster Theological Seminary shall be increased to \$8,000 from
11 AM 08 \$6,000
Amendment passed on a voice vote.

The budget now shows a deficit of \$2,000.

The delegates than

VOTED To approve the 2012 Budget for the Conference as amended
11 AM 09
Motion on the budget passed on a voice vote.

Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, acting president of Lancaster Theological Seminary, offered her thanks.

Jeannette Brown, lay delegate from NJ, spoke in favor of the banking policy "Putting your money where your values are" for General Synod.

Judy Brown called on Rev. Chuck Rush, chair of the Operations and Personnel Working Group, to present the Clergy Compensation Guidelines.
Church Rush offered a proposal that incorporated a small increase in minimum compensation guidelines.

VOTED To approve the 2011-12 Clergy Compensation Guidelines
11 AM 10

Motion passed on a voice vote.

Judy Bowman called on John Deckenback to introduce our next speaker.

John Deckenback introduced Bishop Ilse Junkermann.

Bishop Ilse Junkermann offered remarks about the state of the church in Germany, the merger of a Lutheran church and an evangelical church to create the Evangelical Church of Central Germany, her experiences in the United States, and cooperation between the CAC and the (EKM).

The delegates were invited to worship. There being no further business the Annual Meeting was declared adjourned following worship on Sunday morning.