

**Central Atlantic Conference
48th Annual Meeting
June 8-10, 2012**

June 8, 2012

Plenary I

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference was called to order at 7:15 p.m by the Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson, Moderator.

The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback, Conference Minister opened with a prayer

Moderator David Stinson called on Rev. Clara Young to welcome delegates and friends to Annual Meeting. Clara Young welcomed the delegates and friends to Annual Meeting.

Moderator David Stinson called on the registrar to declare if we had a quorum.

Registrar Connie Heasley announced that 88 Lay Delegates and 72 Clergy delegates are present, satisfying the quorum.

Moderator David Stinson welcomed Parliamentarian Bill Cooper.

Moderator David Stinson called on Board President Jill White to present the Standing Rules for the meeting.

Jill White moved the acceptance of the Standing Rules. Seconded.

VOTED by affirmation to accept the Standing Rules for Meetings for the Central Atlantic
12 AM 01 Conference.

Moderator David Stinson called on Board President Jill White to present the Annual Meeting agenda.

Jill White moved the adoption of the agenda with the addition of a 20 minute discussion of the governance issue to be held during plenary session III. Seconded

VOTED by affirmation to adopt the agenda for the Annual Meeting with the addition of a
12 AM 02 20 minute discussion of the governance issue to be held in Plenary III.

Moderator David Stinson presented the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting. Jill White moved their acceptance. Seconded

VOTED by affirmation to approve the 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes.
12 AM 03

Moderator David Stinson called on Jill White to introduce the business items. Jill White described briefly the three resolutions and the item on governance:

Resolution on bullying

Resolution on mountaintop removal coal mining
Resolution on the Healthy Maryland Initiative
Vote on the governance changes

Moderator David Stinson called on Rev. John Deckenback to welcome our guests.

John Deckenback introduced Rev. Dr. John Dominic Crossan, keynote speaker tonight.

John Deckenback introduced Rev. Jim Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries and newly elected member of the Collegium.

John Deckenback introduced Dr. Carol Lytch, new president of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

John Deckenback introduced Mr. Donaldson Hill, Minister and Team Leader, Financial Development Ministries.

John Deckenback introduced Tracy Carnes, Minister for OCWM Promotion.

John Deckenback introduced Elizabeth Leung, Minister for Racial Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries.

John Deckenback introduced Rev. Cheri Lovell, of the United Church Foundation and the Cornerstone Fund.

John Deckenback introduced Suzanne Schlattman, Outreach Director, Maryland Health Care for All.

John Deckenback introduced Rev. MacArthur Flournoy, Faith Director, Marylanders for Marriage Equality

John Deckenback introduced Jane Henderson, Maryland Coalition Against State Executions

John Deckenback moved that we grant these guests voice without vote for the duration of the meeting.

VOTED To grant our guests voice without vote for the duration of the Annual Meeting.
12 AM 04 Motion carried by voice vote.

Moderator David Stinson announced the appointment of 8 tellers for the duration of the meeting and asked that they meet with him and the parliamentarian during Saturday lunch. He also thanked the UCC Pension Boards for sponsoring the Friday dinner. He announced some details for the weekend:

a social sponsored by the Financial Development Office of the UCC Friday evening.

an informal run at 6:00 am Saturday.

the Annual Meeting bookstore, managed by the Potters House bookstore and its organizer Tom Taylor, is in room 111.

Morning Watch is at 7:00. Breakfast is at 7:30.

John Dominic Crossan's talk is immediately after breakfast.

Lunch will be sponsored by the Conference's Campaign for the Conference.

Plenary Session I Session closed at 7:35 on Friday.

Plenary Session II

called to order at 9:40 am on Saturday.

Rev. John Deckenback offered an overview of the State of the Conference.

Plenary Session II adjourned at 10:45 am on Saturday.

Plenary Session III

called to order at 1:30 pm on Saturday.

Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniels opened with a prayer.

Moderator David Stinson asked Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel to speak

Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel offered greetings from the Pension Boards, gave an overview of donations to the UCC Christmas Fund (which supports retired pastors and lay workers) and updated Annual Meeting on Pension Boards expenses.

Moderator David Stinson asked Board Pres. Jill White to speak.

Board President Jill White offered the president's report. The main thrust of the report was to thank our Conference team for their years of service: John Deckenback celebrating 40 years of ministry and 20 years of service as CAC Conference Minister, Arnetta Jones celebrating 21 years of service to the Conference, Sherry Taylor and Richard Vaught retiring from their positions as ACMs after 17 and 18 years respectively, and Kwame Osei Reed still going strong after 25 years as ACM.

Moderator David Stinson asked Bradley Thomas to present the slate of candidates for the Conference Board.

Vice President Bradley Thomas introduced the slate for the 2012-2013 Board of Directors:

President: Jill White

Vice President: Bradley Thomas

Secretary: William Field

Treasurer: Judy Bowman

Associate Treasurer: Fred Lease

Moderator: Steve Wood

Associate Moderator: Erin Richardson

Class of 2015:

Catoctin: Timothy Leighton (2nd term)

Ellen Witko (first term)

Charles Rush (2nd term)

Arlene King-Berry (1st term)

Linda Argabright (2nd)

Nathan Queen (2nd)

Marian Finney (1st)

Class of 2014

Anna Johnson-Winegar (2nd)

Elsie-Marie Niiler (1st)

Robin Bacon Hoffman (1st)

Anne Holmes (2nd)

Derek Ritenour (1st)

William Duncan (1st)

Christine Wiley (1st)

Class of 2013

Gerry Hanberry (2nd)

Alexander Vishio (1st)

William Field (2nd)

Felicia Simms (completing an unexpired term)

Robert Frye (1st)

Hyo-Jung Kim (1st)

Wilma Houston White (1st)

Motion to approve the slate made and seconded.

VOTED To approve the slate for the 2012-13 Board of Directors as presented. Motion carried by
12 AM 05 voice vote.

Moderator David Stinson asked Mrs. Judy Bowman, Associate Treasurer to introduce the 2012-2013 Clergy Minimum Compensation Guidelines.

Judy Bowman moved that we approve the 2012-2013 Compensation Guidelines. Seconded.

VOTED To approve the 2012-2013 Clergy Minimum Compensation Guidelines Carried by voice
12 AM 06 vote.

Moderator David Stinson called on Judy Bowman to present the 2013 Conference Budget.

Judy Bowman called on Rev. Craig Sparks, Treasurer to present the annual Treasurer's Report.

Rev. Craig Sparks delivered the annual Treasurer's Report. He announced we had a clean audit and had a surplus of \$2,000. We operated on a 70-30 OCWM split with the National Church. The surplus allowed us to send an additional \$10,000 to the National Church, delivering a 64.3-34.7% split of OCWM funds.

Judy Bowman moved the 2013 Conference Budget. Seconded.

VOTED To approve the 2013 Conference Budget. Carried by voice vote.
12 AM 07

Judy Bowman announced total OCWM receipts of \$1,095,855 and asked that we continue to give generously.

Moderator David Stinson invited Jill White to introduce the Resolution on Unified Governance commonly known as U-Gov.

Jill White asked the Conference to ratify the resolution to implement by-law changes.

Moderator David Stinson called on Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Catocin Association to move the resolution.

Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel moved the resolution. Seconded.

Rev. Jim Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries, gave an overview of the existing governance structure and an overview of how the changes will alter the governance structure, increase efficiency, and reduce expenses by replacing the 300+ members of 5 boards with one board of 52 members.

Discussion followed.

VOTED To approve the Resolution on Unified Governance Motion carried on a paper
12 AM 08 ballot. 172 ballots were cast. Total in favor 117. Opposed: 54. Abstention: 1.

Moderator David Stinson called on Rev. Gerry Hanberry, chair of the working group on Mission, Vision, and Communications, to present the Resolution on Bullying.

Rev. Gerry Hanberry, jointly with Nathan Queen, co-chairs of the working group, introduced a resolution on bullying to be forwarded to the 2013 General Synod for consideration.

Rev. Gerry Hanberry moved the adoption of the resolution. Seconded.

VOTED To approve the Resolution on Bullying and forward it to the 2013 General Synod for
12 AM 09 consideration Passed on a voice vote.

Moderator David Stinson called on Rev. Amy Sens, Chesapeake Association to move the Resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

Rev. Amy Sens moved the adoption of the resolution. Seconded.

VOTED To approve the Resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia and to
12 AM 10 forward to the 2013 General Synod for consideration Motion carried on voice vote.

Moderator David Stinson called on Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Catoctin to present the Resolution in Support of the Healthy Maryland Initiative.

Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar moved the resolution in support of the Healthy Maryland Initiative. Seconded. Discussion followed.

VOTED To approve the Resolution in Support of the Healthy Maryland Initiative. Motion carried
12 AM 11 on a voice vote.

Plenary Session III adjourned at 3:10 with the statement that the Annual Meeting would adjourn at the close of worship Sunday morning, June 10.

Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination

Presenters: Central Atlantic Conference

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports the right of students to attend schools that are safe and free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ encourages and expects all churches of the denomination to provide and enforce church policies to ensure the safety of all children and youth participating in church activities; and

WHEREAS, providing safe learning environments in all settings, be it churches, schools, sports complexes, etc., that ensure both the physical and emotional safety of students, and create the conditions necessary to foster success in all endeavors where children and youth are involved; and

WHEREAS, bullying is one of the more common and vicious ways by which such success is imperiled; and

WHEREAS, bullying is any behavior that happens when someone is subjected to negative actions from one or more people and has a hard time defending him or herself. Moreover, bullying takes various forms: teasing, taunting or verbal abuse, punching, shoving and physical acts, spreading rumors, ganging up on others, or excluding someone from a group; and

WHEREAS, cyber-bullying occurs when a person uses the Internet, mobile phones, or other electronic devices to bully, the impact can be more long-lasting. Some examples of cyber-bullying are: sending mean or threatening texts, e-mail, or instant messages; posting damaging pictures or hurtful messages online; tricking someone into revealing personal information and sending it to others; and creating websites to make fun of someone; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in three students is involved in bullying as victims, perpetrators, or both, which amounts to about 5.7 million children (©2009 Bullying Statistics – Stop Bullying, Harassment, Violence <http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/bullying-and-suicide.html>); and

WHEREAS, school violence as a whole is declining, bullying behaviors have increased by 5%. In 2009, surveys showed more than 100,000 children carried guns to school as a result of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, kids who are obese, gay, or have disabilities are up to 63% more likely to be bullied than other children; and

WHEREAS, children ache to be considered a viable and vital part of their community and yearn to be treated with dignity; and

WHEREAS, some significantly effective practices are being developed around the country, increased collaboration among schools, churches, community service organizations, and civic clubs needs to be encouraged and those various entities need to be equipped to develop strategies to enhance their effectiveness in reducing bullying; and

WHEREAS, Romans 12:5-8 says “so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others”; and

WHEREAS, in Luke, Jesus quotes Leviticus 19:18: “He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’”

WHEREAS, the writer of the letter to the church at Ephesus says in 4:31-5:2a, ” Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.* Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us* and gave himself up for us...;” and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports communities that develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention and elimination of violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Atlantic Conference and all conferences of the United Church of Christ will work with a broad spectrum of conferences, local community stakeholders, parents, students, teachers, instructors, and staff to develop, implement, and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive learning climate free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination by creating places of worship that foster and support such a climate as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ is urged to invest in, promote, and support comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative strategies to prevent violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination in places of learning so that all students have the opportunity to attend school, engage in the classroom, achieve academic success, and participate in other school activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to General Synod 2013.

Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia
Submitted by the Central Atlantic Conference
A Resolution of Witness

SUMMARY

Mountaintop removal coal mining devastates communities and the environment. We urge the United Church of Christ to work to bring it to an end and encourage the use of clean, renewable energy.

BACKGROUND

Mountaintop removal coal mining has a devastating impact on the economy, ecology, and communities of Appalachia. Mining companies use heavy explosives to blow the tops off mountains in order to reach a thin seam of coal. The companies then dump this “overburden” - millions of tons of rubble and toxic waste - into the streams and valleys below the mining sites.

This destructive practice has damaged or destroyed nearly 2,000 miles of streams and threatens to destroy 1.4 million acres of mountaintops and forests by 2020. The mining poisons drinking water, destroys beautiful forests and wildlife habitat, increases the risk of flooding, and wipes out entire communities.

Mountaintop removal pollutes waterways and allows toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, selenium, and arsenic to leach into local water supplies -- the same water that Appalachia's people rely on. But the danger is not limited to drinking water; mountaintop removal also causes air pollution that affects communities for miles around. Many of the toxins that pollute mountaintop-removal sites are carcinogens, and cancer rates are twice as high for people who live near mountaintop-removal sites.

When mountains are demolished for coal mining, they are gone forever. They lose their topsoil and forest, animal habitat and ability to filter water, and they become uninhabitable places for humans and animals.

Mountaintop removal also destroys the valleys in Appalachia where people have lived for centuries. It destroys their culture, their way of making a living, and their family structures. It occurs in remote places where there is very little self-determining political organization and is a colonization and exploitation of the land by outside interests. If it were a profitable enterprise for the people of Appalachia, then they would at least benefit economically. The opposite is true, however, as the Appalachian counties are consistently among the economically poorest in the United States.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

Mountaintop removal is a permanent desecration of the gift of creation by a benevolent and gracious Creator. God created the earth and everything in it, and God calls upon humans

numerous times in the Bible to be a steward of the divine creation - to protect, care for, and learn from it:

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; and the world and they that dwell therein.” - Psalm 24:1

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live... you shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell." - Numbers 35: 33-34

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; or birds of the air and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you; or let the fish of the sea inform you...In God’s hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” - Job 12:7-10

The Bible further calls for justice for the poor and oppressed:

“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” – Isaiah 1:16-17

“What does the Lord require of thee but to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

Power can be generated in ways that are sustainable and beneficial to the health of Appalachia’s mountains and eco-systems, and the people who live there. For example, in West Virginia’s Coal River Valley, the mountains can sustain wind farms that lead to power generation, local jobs, and a sustainable eco-system.

We cannot move from one destructive source of energy to another for this region. Clean energy is the answer for Appalachia. Accordingly,

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God’s creation by blowing up mountains and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian communities and their culture; and

WHEREAS as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in our lives; and

WHEREAS we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation; and

WHEREAS we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God's creatures and creation...

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the United Church of Christ , through the Office of Justice and Witness Ministries, will share its concerns about mountaintop removal coal mining by giving a copy of this resolution to the United States Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as appropriate congressional committees;

Be it further resolved, that the 2013 General Synod of the United Church of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean, renewable sources of energy;

Be it further resolved, that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ call upon the Office of Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal coal mining;

Be it further resolved, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage its member congregations to determine where their electricity comes from and, if it is coal sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining, to work to find another source (with guidance from the national office);

Be it further resolved, that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and its member congregations urge the Environmental Protection Agency and the Obama Administration to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

Be it further resolved, that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and its member congregations advocate for renewable energy to replace mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body

RESOURCES:

Christians for the Mountains: www.christiansforthemountains.org

Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign: www.beyondcoal.org

Appalachian Voices: www.appvoices.org

I Love Mountains: www.ilovemountains.org

Appalachian Mountain Advocates: www.appalmad.org

“The Last Mountain” documentary: www.thelastmountainmovie.com

“Deep Down” documentary: www.deepdownfilm.org

“Coal Country” documentary: www.coalcountrythemovie.com

Resolution in Support of the Healthy Maryland Initiative

Sponsored by: The Central Atlantic Conference Board of Directors

Whereas, the basic tenants of our faith include mandates that we as Christians are called to be Christ's agents of healing; and

Whereas, the Central Atlantic Conference 2010 Annual Meeting affirmed a resolution sponsored by the Potomac Association calling for Health Care for all which supported efforts in Virginia and Maryland through state-based coalitions, including the Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative; and

Whereas, this resolution was communicated broadly throughout the United Church of Christ and to other organizations that are working nationally to promote universal health care; and

Whereas, General Synods and other bodies within the United Church of Christ have been long-time supporters of Universal Health Care and more than 70,000 members signed petitions encouraging congressional action that were personally delivered by United Church of Christ General Minister and President Geoffrey Black and Central Atlantic Conference Minister John Deckenback to U.S. Senate leadership; and

Whereas, efforts to retain expanded health care coverage for all continue in the courts, legislative bodies and through local initiatives; and

Whereas, the efforts of the Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative have been instrumental in dramatically increasing the availability of health care coverage for the uninsured through the revenue generated by increased cigarette taxes; and

Whereas, the increased cigarette taxes have also substantially reduced cigarette purchases and use; and

Whereas, the Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative has asked the Central Atlantic Conference to support its "Healthy Maryland Initiative" which calls for an additional increase in the state cigarette tax by \$1 per pack, along with a similar increase to the tax on other tobacco products, with the revenue from these tax increases to fund the state tobacco control program and the state health improvement process and other

community-based health initiatives that address childhood obesity, long term care for seniors, and[,] improved access to health care services for Maryland families;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

The Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ 2012 Annual Meeting affirms and endorses the Healthy Maryland Initiative and urges the members of its congregations, the Conferences clergy, churches and associations to take similar action.

For additional information contact: Rev. Gerry Hanberry, co-chair, Central Atlantic Conference Board of Directors Mission and Vision Working Group (pastorgch@comcast.net) or Mr. Vincent Demarco, Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative (demarco@mdinitiative.org) or visit the Health Care for All web site: <http://healthcareforall.com/>