

**Central Atlantic Conference
49th Annual Meeting
Minutes
June 7-9, 2013**

**Friday, June 7
Plenary I**

Steve Wood, Moderator of the Annual Meeting, called the meeting to order at 8:03.

Rev. John Deckenback opened the meeting with a prayer.

Steve Wood asked Rev. Joy Mounts, chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee to welcome everyone to the meeting.

Rev. Joy Mounts welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Steve Wood called upon Connie Heasley, Annual Meeting Registrar, to share the registrar's report.

Connie Heasley announced that at this time there were we have 107 lay delegates, 102 authorized ministers and 25 visitors. Moderator Woods declared that a quorum was present for the balance of the meeting.

Steve Wood invited Conference Board President Jill White to review the Standing Rules.

Jill White moved that the meeting adopt the Standing Rules.

VOTED To adopt the Standing Rules for Meetings of the Central Atlantic Conference
13 AM 01 Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Wood asked Jill White to introduce the agenda and to introduce the members of the board. Jill White did so. Jill White moved that we accept the agenda as presented.

VOTED To adopt the agenda for the 49th Annual meeting as presented
13 AM 02 Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Wood announced that the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting have been reviewed by the board of directors and have been posted on the Conference web site. Jill White moved approval. Seconded.

VOTED To approve the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting.
13 AM 03 Motion carried unanimously.

Rev. John Deckenback introduced special guests to the annual meeting:

- Rev. Cameron Trimble, from the Center for Progressive Renewal
- Florence Coppola, UCC "Disaster Lady"
- Gordon Gilles, Cornerstone Fund
- Don Hart, United Church Funds

- Eric Nichols (Saturday only) Homewood Retirement Homes
- Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis (of the “Wilmington 10”)
- Dr. Irving Joyner (of the “Wilmington 10”)
- Dr. Elsie Scott (of the “Wilmington 10”)
- Jane Henderson (Maryland Citizens against State Executions)
- Rev. Macarthur Flournoy (Human Rights Campaign, coordinated MD’s Marriage Equality efforts)

Rev. John Deckenback moved that we grant voice without vote to these guests. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VOTED To grant voice without vote to the guests listed above.

13 AM 04

Steve Wood asked Rev. John Deckenback to deliver the State of the Conference report. John did so. Highlights include

- Special partnership with the Center for Progressive Renewal, which provided the powerpoint introduction to the report.
- Special visit Saturday evening by one of the “Wilmington 10” along with two former UCC Commission for Racial Justice staff person who worked over the years for exoneration of the Wilmington 10.
- We gave a check to the national church. For the 4th year in a row we were able to hand over the benefits of a surplus to the national UCC. This year was just under \$10,000.
- Retirements of Rev. Sherry Mason Taylor and Rev. Richard Vaught.
- Two new Interim ACMs: Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi and Rev. Dan Schroeder
- Superstorm Sandy’s arrival led to the early arrival of Rev. Dan Schroeder, 6 weeks earlier than initially scheduled.
- We helped Maryland oppose the referendum to repeal Marriage Equality. The referendum was worded as a “yes” vote in favor of marriage equality. Rev. Macarthur Flournoy thanked the UCC for the tremendous support we offered.
- Maryland has repealed the death penalty. John Deckenback offered testimony against the death penalty every year from 1994 to 2013. John Deckenback invited Jane Henderson, executive director of Citizens Against State Executions to thank the Conference for our long-term and active support.
- John Deckenback joined St. Johns UCC in Catonsville for worship on Palm Sunday. They had decided to withdraw financial support for the national church in the wake of the 2005 decision to advocate for same sex marriage. On Palm Sunday, 2013, they gave John a letter rescinding that decision.
- Transitions:
 - First United UCC in downtown Baltimore has closed and been sold, forcing relocation the downtown Supper Club that fed the poor in the area. The building will be transformed into apartments.
 - Paramus Congregational Church has sold its property and established, in December 2012, a \$1.3 million trust to support church renewal, new church starts, seminary training support, and disaster relief. Unfortunately, matters relating to that gift have been subject to litigation for the past 4 years and another hearing is set for next week.

- New congregation! Safe Harbor UCC, in Milton, DE, joined the Chesapeake Association. This is the 5th new church to join the UCC in the last 4 years.
- Church Vitality Seminars, led by the Center for Progressive Renewal, attract sizeable audiences.
- Lancaster Theological Seminary presented Barbara Kerschner-Daniels with a gift and named her an emeritus board member. Anna Winegar-Johnson, past chair of the board, presented the award.
- Last summer had a very successful Nation Youth Event, to which we sent 3 busloads of people.
- John asked Kwame Osei Reed to give an overview of the partnership with the UCC-SA, the United Christian Church - Southern Africa.
- John and several of our pastoral leadership attended various parts of the 2013 presidential inauguration of Barack Obama.
- John closed with a photo of a Syrian village he had taken 3 weeks ago while visiting Israel and a video, taken two days ago, of that same town being shelled during the Syrian civil war.

Plenary session I ended at 9:20 p.m.

Saturday, June 8, 2013

Plenary Session II

Steve Wood convened plenary session II at 1:30 p.m.

Steve Wood called on Gordon Gilles of the Cornerstone Fund to give an overview of the role of the Cornerstone Fund in the UCC.

Gordon Gillis gave an overview of the role of the Cornerstone Fund in the UCC

Steve Wood called on Rev. Wilma White and Judy Bowman to present the Stewardship reports.

Rev. Wilma White and Judy Bowman gave the OCWM and Stewardship reports. Highlights include:

OCWM: \$1,088,087

Christmas Fund: \$63,759

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$105,855

Neighbors in Need: \$60,713

Strengthen the Church: \$26,648

Total: \$1,345,062.

Judy Bowman Treasurer report:

As of December 31 2012 expenses were \$16,260 higher than income, thanks in part to hiring Rev. Dan Schroeder 6 weeks earlier than budgeted in response to Superstorm Sandy. However, once all donations arrived we were able to send an extra \$9,724 to the national church.

Judy Bowman announced that we had a clean audit.

Steve Wood called on Bradley Thomas to introduce the slate of candidates for the Conference board.

Bradley Thomas introduced the slate and moved approval. The slate is below:

Executive Committee

President:	Bradley Thomas	Potomac	2014
Vice President	Lois Carrigan	Chesapeake	2014
Secretary	William Field	New Jersey	2014
Associate Treasurer	Fred Lease	Chesapeake	2015
Moderator	Alexander Vishio	Chesapeake	2014
Associate Moderator	Anne Holmes	Chesapeake	2014

Board

Class of 2016 (to be elected)

Catoctin	Robert Apgar-Taylor	1 st
Chesapeake	Janese Murray	1 st
New Jersey	Adrienne Ward	1 st
Potomac	Felicia Simms-Williams	1 st
Shenandoah	Robert Frye	2 nd
At-large	Wilma White	2 nd
At-large	Hyo-Jung Kim	2 nd

Presented as point of information:
Class of 2015 (continuing membership)

Catoctin	Timothy Leighton	2 nd
Chesapeake	Ellen Witko	1 st
New Jersey	Charles Rush	2 nd
Potomac	Arlene King-Berry	1 st
Shenandoah	Linda Argabright	2 nd
At-large	Nathan Queen	2 nd
At-large	Marian Finney	1 st

Class of 2014 (continuing membership)

Catoctin	Anna Johnson-Winegar	2 nd
Chesapeake	Elsie-Marie Niiler	1 st
New Jersey	Robin Bacon Hoffman	1 st
Potomac	Anne Holmes	2 nd
Shenandoah	Derek Ritenour	1 st
At-large	William Duncan	1 st
At-large	Christine Wiley	1 st

VOTED To approve the slate for Board of Directors as presented
13 AM 06 Motion passed unanimously

Steve Wood called on Rev. Chuck Rush to introduce the Clergy Minimum Compensation Guidelines. The guidelines were distributed by posting them on the CAC website.

Rev. Chuck Rush introduced the Clergy Minimum Compensation Guidelines and moved approval.

VOTED To approve the 2013-14 Clergy Minimum Compensation Guidelines
13 AM 07 Motion passed unanimously

Steve Wood called on Treasurer Judy Bowman to introduce the 2014 CAC budget.

Judy Bowman introduced the 2014 goal budget and walked the group through some highlights. Judy Bowman moved adoption of the budget. After some discussion and clarification of the meaning of some of the lines, the motion passed with one vote in opposition.

VOTED To approve the 2014 goal budget for the Conference.
13 AM 08

Steve Wood called on Rev. Wilma White to introduce the **CAC Endowment Fund Policy**.

Rev. Wilma White introduced and described the Endowment Fund Policy. The policy was distributed on the website. Rev. White moved adoption of the policy.

VOTED To adopt the Endowment Fund Policy
13 AM 09 Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Wood called on Jim Meehan to introduce the resolution **Renewing Our Commitment to Non-violence as a Just Peace Church**.

Jim Meehan, New Ark UCC, Newark DE, introduced the resolution and gave an overview. He and Jenny Greenzweig, co-author, offered a new version of the text after comments were offered in the hearing held on Friday. The focus is now more local than the earlier language suggested.

Jim Meehan moved the adoption of this resolution. William Field offered an amendment to the final point. It was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Rev. Ellen Witko offered an amendment to the final point. It was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

VOTED To amend the resolution as follows: replace the first word "produce" of the final point
13 AM 10 of the "therefore" section with "identify;" replace "Christian Education" with "Faith Formation" and strike the passage from the semi colon to just before the final period.

VOTED To amend the resolution as follows: add "Virginia Tech" to the list of school shootings.
13 AM 11 The amendment passed on a voice vote.

VOTED To adopt the resolution as amended.
13 AM 12 on a unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Steve Wood called on Rev. John Deckenback for announcements.

Rev. John Deckenback thanked Moderator Steve Wood.

Plenary session ended at 2:46 p.m. The Annual Meeting was adjourned after the worship on Sunday.