

## **Annual Meeting Minutes: Saturday June 10, 2017**

**Business meeting** called to order by Gus Byrom at 8:15 am.  
A quorum was established with 19 churches represented.

Susan Wordal moved and Trudi Downer seconded a motion to approve minutes from the last annual meeting. Motion carried.

Jan Clinard from Plymouth church welcomed all and made a presentation on the capital campaign and church renovations.

### **Affinity Group Presentations:**

**East:** Nicholas Knoblauch (Broadus) reported:

- Need for community
- Congregations plan to meet at Tongue River Winery for get together

**Central:** Cheryl Stewart, Tracy Heilman, Chuck Aurand

- Plan to get together a joint church picnic for fun, food, music, games
- Get together for youth activities and ministries including OWL
- Work together in the community on a VISTA project

**West:** Dick Weaver, Roger Lynn, Nate Podgajny

- Plan a small planning retreat to further explore opportunities
- Rotating pulpit exchange with other congregations that would include both pastor and church members with a potluck after worship service
- Looking to further explore technology to see how it can be utilized to bring churches separated by distance together

### **Budget Report:** Terri Goodsell

Task Force members include: Gus Byrom, Terri Goodsell, Tracy Heilman, Jack Lehman and Marc Stewart. Terri noted they could use one more member.

- Financial Task Force Budget was discussed
- Changes made in the Budget include
  - Staffing needs
    - Full time Conf. Administrator (Jennifer Penfield)
    - ½ time Faith Formation (Carolyn Rosen)
    - Camp Manager (Josie Caton)
- Stewardship Committee formed to help with financial drive in the Fall
- Vanguard Funds changed to better performing funds
- Budget helped a great deal by the Plentywood monies given to the Conference

Terri encouraged churches to continue to pay dues and OCWM

Terri briefly outlined and highlighted areas of the narrative budget included in the annual meeting literature packets.

- 75% of church dues go to the Conference general budget fund and 25% go to National and Regional events such as Faith Formation activities and development.
  - She encouraged church members to consider Estate Planning with the

- Conference in mind.
- On the expense side 15% goes to National but we get a great benefit back to our Conference. EX: 3 National Reps attended our Conf. Bd. Meeting at Camp M in October.
- The Conference Minister's Salary includes salary, travel and expenses
- Carlee Downer Funds are available to help send kids to Camp. Terri encouraged churches to use those funds to get more kids involved in Camp.
- Noted that Camp M can always use additional funds to help maintain facility and keep up with repairs.
- Faith Formation also has grants available for church projects; apply with Roger Lynn
- There are also monies available from Strengthen the Church

### **Camp Mimanagish:**

We are off to a slow start putting together rentals etc.

We hope to break-even but might possibly be short. Everyone was encouraged to promote camp for both kids and adults camps and activities. Roger Lynn pointed out that Jennifer Penfield is working to set up a grant site on the Conference Web site very soon.

There is a Ferguson Memorial Fund that is still active: Dividends are used each year for Camp M projects as needed.

Tracy Heilman pointed out that the Strengthen the Church offering stays in the conference but is the least supported by our churches. We need to remind people that this fund specifically benefits our Conference.

Gus thanked Terri and the Task Force.

Adjourned 9:05 am

Business Meeting reconvened at 9:50 am

**Committee Reports:** Gus Byrom asked if anyone had any questions concerning committee reports in their packets. There were no questions

### **Speak Outs:**

Steve Gordon (Billings)

- Steve invited everyone to attend the Billings Pride Parade and events in Billings June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Roger Lynn (Helena)

- Announced there were several mission opportunities available on Saturday afternoon that would give back to the Helena community.
  - Farm in the Dell (community garden)
  - Friendship Center (domestic abuse center)
  - Intermountain Children's Home

Lyn Spencer Smith (Great Falls)

- Announced they will be hosting an OWL training at their church in Great Falls Sept. 15-17

Rick Thompson (Glasgow)

- Glasgow church founded in 1908 will be closing soon. They have furnishings and items to be given away if anyone is interested.

Kathy Baker

- Spoke about the Intermountain Children's Home. Some of the services they offer include outpatient counseling, adoption and advocacy for children.

Nate Podgajny (Bozeman)

- Spoke about the new mission to attract millennials to Pilgrim and the opportunities available. He noted that we as Christians are more than our words.
- Program is focused on mission: Standing Rock, climate change etc.
- 3 core concepts: Seek, Grow, Serve

Trudi Downer (Molt)

- Spoke about the Molt church and their story.
- Highlighting their Time Line she explained how the Sunday school kids worked to put it all together.
- Pointed out that Molt is one of the small churches that Carolyn Rosen helped with curriculum that is a Camp curriculum that Molt adapted for their Sunday school.

## **Nominations**

Marc presented the nominees up for election and confirmation:

Board Members:

Vice Moderator (confirm) Tracy Heilman

West At Large (confirm) Dick Weaver

Human Resources (2<sup>nd</sup> Term) Tawnie Lehman

Church and Ministry:

East Lay (2<sup>nd</sup> Term) Carol Sparks

West Clergy (2<sup>nd</sup> Term) Dick Weaver

West Lay (2<sup>nd</sup> Term) Hank Branom

Central Clergy Ken Crouch

Steve Baker moved and Susan Wordal seconded a motion to accept nominations. Motion carried.

## **Speak Outs:**

Mike Mulberry (Billings)

- Highlighted refugee and immigration issues
- Billings has a large facility that is only used on Sunday
- Billings has 77 homeless citizens of which 74 are native American
- Billings has been able to reach out and now has 6 native American centered recovery groups meeting in the building
- He discussed other opportunities for outreach and showing how we can be good

citizens not so much outside the building as we can inside the building.

- He challenged all to become a more emboldened and spiritual church and good citizens becoming the body of Christ together.

### **Conference Minister's Report:**

- Highlighted his Annual Report
- He read our Covenant put together by the Bd. of Directors and then discussed working toward that covenant.
- Outlined and explained the "Montana Mountains" in his report which maps out how he spends his time as our Conf. Minister

Gus Byrom then invited Lyn Spencer Smith and her delegates to extend the invitation to our Annual meeting next year. Lyn then invited everyone to the 133<sup>rd</sup> conference to be held in Great Falls on June 15-17, 2018. She then announced that Rev. John Dorhauer our UCC President will be our guest.

### **Speak Out**

Rick Thompson (Glasgow)

- Rick wanted to point out that while the Glasgow church is closing the life cycle will continue. Both a mental health facility and a center for youth service will be using the building when it is sold. AND the UCC will still have a presence in the community.

Carol Shipley (National UCC Bd. Rep.)

- Carol shared some highlights from her annual report.
- Outlined the nation structure and pointed out that of the 36 member board our Conference is represented by both herself and Doug McClelland
- The UCC has a prophetic voice and we all should take a part in it.

Cheryl Stewart (Billings)

- Cheryl made another plea for 15-19 camp counselors that are needed the weeks of July 16-22 and July 23-29

Gus called for a motion to accept all reports. Kathy Barker moved and Susan Wordal seconded. Motion carried.

### **Installation of Officers**

Marc called all the Board members and officers forward. He then introduced and duly installed everyone.

Closed with prayer.

Adjourned 11:05 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Tawnie Lehman