

**Northern California Nevada Conference  
United Church of Christ  
Annual Meeting of the Conference  
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA  
June 3-6, 2004**

Thursday evening, June 3, 2004

1. Gathering Music. Rev. Dr. Richard Schlosser led gathering music.
  
2. Call to Order. (Paula Turk, Moderator (Palo Alto, First))  
The meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm. Paula offered words of welcome.
  
3. Announcements. (Cherie Whaples (--church--?))  
Any announcements to be made from the stage should be given to Cherie.
  - a) Various announcements of a housekeeping nature were shared.
  - b) The reception this evening is courtesy of the Heffernan Group (insurance broker). Carrie Heffernan was introduced
  
4. Welcoming Special Guests. (Rev. Mary Susan Gast)  
Conference Minister Rev. Mary Susan Gast welcomed special guests:
  - Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
  - Rev. Art Cribbs, San Diego
  - Ulrich --?--, Essen, Germany (EKU)
  - Rev. Paula Bishop, Interim Regional Minister for the Northern California Nevada Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Bishop shared a few remarks.
  
5. Worship Service.
  
6. Reception.

Friday morning, June 4, 2004

1. Gathering Music. We gathered in Merrill Hall to the spirited music leadership of Barbara Hamm (Benicia, Community)

2. Announcements. (Cherie Whaples)

- a) Housekeeping announcements were shared.
- b) Following this morning's keynote speaker, we will move directly to workshops, lunch, and discernment sessions; goal budget discernment sessions will be held in Merrill Hall
- c) Sunday morning worship will (as traditional) include names of those who have passed away. Please provide names to Joy Davis.

3. Business Meeting. (Paula Turk)

Moderator Paula Turk (Palo Alto, First) welcomed everyone and invited first-time Annual Meeting attendees (85 so far) to stand and be recognized and welcomed. She acknowledged our gathering as a diverse family. Some of the features of this year's meeting: More free/fellowship time, standalone youth program, and Chapel used for mediation and craft projects.

The discernment sessions are important because as a body we have the opportunity to be heard, and to influence decisions on a national level. During the business meeting, you will only be recognized if you attended a discernment session. (Meeting will **not** run by Robert's Rules of Order.)

a) *Call to Order*

*POSTPONED?*

b) *Registrar's Report – Quorum (Susan Stofan)*

*POSTPONED?*

c) *Explanation of Annual Meeting Rules*

*POSTPONED?*

d) *Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules*

*POSTPONED?*

e) *Adoption of Annual Meeting Agenda*

*POSTPONED?*

f) Fair Trade Coffee Announcement. (Tom \_\_\_\_\_)

Beneficio is a faith-based company, dealing in fair trade coffee. They have been in the coffee business for many years and watched as people suffered as commodity prices drop and the retail corporations gain a larger and larger share of the coffee market. Beneficio's mission statement is to insure that coffee farmers get a fair price for their product.

He encourages us, and our churches, to change our coffee-buying habits. Beneficio provides \$1.26 per pound (fair rate) to farmers up front, instead of current diversion through co-ops. Their goal is 33% participation of UCC churches at a minimum of 1 case per month. \$500,000 will go back to farmers in Costa Rica; \$288,000 in OCWM back to the UCC. There will be two

fair trade coffee workshops held later in the Annual Meeting, plus there is an information table in Merrill Hall.

g) GISS Program (Jim Smith, Hillcrest)

**God Is Still Speaking.** Jim has served for over 10 years as stage manager for Annual Meeting, working with Wade Hobson on sound. Due to other duties outside the hall, he often misses other aspects of meeting, but last year he heard Ron Buford speak and became excited about his church, Hillcrest, joining in this project.

Jim and wife Carolyn are co-coordinators for outreach at Hillcrest. They ordered the \$250 identity kit. After consultation with Council and local cable channel (where they learned it would take \$2500 to run commercials for 8 weeks), they joined with other churches to cut the cost of running the commercial.

A TV ad is not enough. You need to do more. They used door hangers with special stickers about activities at Hillcrest during the holiday season. These coordinated with banners available through Bay Assn. They ran another spot during Lent (videos shared). The night club commercial will be run again in the fall; plus another new one around Advent time. Materials available at table in Merrill.

Contact your local cable outlet – this is the way to get out info on your events. We need to tell people about the United Church of Christ; to let people know who we are and what we are about.

*No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here* – try using this on your bulletin and other materials

4. Keynote Address. (Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, UCC)  
Rev. Mary Susan Gast, Conference Minister (Benicia, Community) introduced Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ.

“A Voice for the Vulnerable”

John brought greetings from his colleagues in the national setting of the UCC.

A further word about GISS – the night club commercial was test-marketed in 6 locations. They want to go national with it, following it up with further commercials, trainings, web sites to prepare churches to welcome and receive people. This is a unique opportunity to clarify the unique mission and identity of the UCC. It is hoped that it can be linked to a new stewardship emphasis to increase generosity across settings of the church. This will cost a lot of money and John is looking at donor possibilities (need several million dollars by September)

God is still speaking – what is God saying? God speaks to a world experiencing its own vulnerability.

a) He visited a Native American congregation in the Northern Plains Conference (Ft. Berthold), home of the Mandan people. The church is now deserted and crumbling. The communities were dispersed years ago by flood control and electrification processes. The church stands witness to the continued violation of the Native American communities. UCC folks in other congregations will reach out and minister to these communities.

b) He visited a chapel in Beirut, Lebanon, a place beginning to rebuild and revitalize after the havoc of the 80s. He was hosted by the Armenian Evangelical Church, bringing a variety of ministries – they themselves once nearly destroyed by the genocides of the last century and dispersed much like the Native Americans on this continent. They gathered at Central Armenian Church, still showing damage – a church which never missed worship even during the war years of the 80s. They visited a church camp in the hills, destroyed by being used as artillery outlook and target. The Armenian church was finally able to reclaim the chapel, and found the chancel filled with dirt, formed into a topographical map of Beirut with target flags used by Syrians.

Thinking about those two congregations (the Native American church, and the Armenian church camp) John sees them as memorials to hope, and also to real vulnerability. He recalled the words of Jeremiah in Lamentations: *How lonely sits the city ...* Vulnerability, however, is not only for communities like this. It is experienced by us personally – in the insecurity of our jobs and relationships, aging, health benefits, etc. Vulnerability stalks all of us.

We also live in a culture of violence – terror, school violence, Defense of Marriage legislation, eroding protections for women’s rights – these are the **real** "weapons of mass destruction." The UCC experiences its own marginalization, financial challenges, and exclusion. Sometimes it seems there is a lack of vision and clarity and mission; hence, we embark on the God Is Still Speaking campaign.

There were many who were very vulnerable before September 11. It’s simply that most of us just discovered it as it crept into our lives since then. Vulnerability is not new to this world, or to our lives. We need to address it spiritually. We need to listen to the still-speaking God. We are struggling in our churches with people who have conjured an image for themselves of being surrounded by a vast and fearsome darkness. John has spent much of the last year engaging the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as Bonhoeffer dealt with the reality of a complicit church. Quoting from *Letters and Papers from Prison*: “We have been silent witnesses of evil deeds, we have learnt the arts of equivocation and pretense. Are we still of any use?”

How do we respond to our sense of vulnerability – either long-known or newly-felt?

- a) Do we withdraw into a small and safe place? Cower without confidence.
- b) Do we complain, blame, accuse? There is a culture of complaint in the world and in the life of the church. When it becomes unhealthy, we turn that in our ourselves.
- c) Do we seek to control and conquer? In church, corporate life, and government? The war in Iraq is a furious attempt to reclaim a place we believe was taken from us on 9/11. Are we taking our vulnerability and foisting it back on those who were always more truly vulnerable than we?

God is still speaking to us – a voice to the vulnerable. And we hear three voices from scripture

a) Ezekiel (likened to standing in the ruins of the World Trade Center) – from the valley of the dry bones – "Mortal, can these bones live?" "O Lord, thou knowest." Ezekiel – do your job! Prophecy to the bones! Ezekiel, in the midst of the greatest vulnerability one could know, is nudged from despair to hope. The first word of the still-speaking God to vulnerable people is to call us out of despair to hope ... by doing our job. (Yes, we'd prefer to have plans and strategies, but when we don't ... just do your job). Preach the good news. Announce the future; proclaim God's power. Live as if you **believe** God's power to bring life and hope out of death. Times of deprivation teach us how to be a church for the poor; a voice for the vulnerable, by experiencing our own vulnerability

b) Elijah (a voice calling us from the cave). Elijah flees when threatened by Jezebel after slaughter of the prophets of Baal. He receives sustenance in his travel to the cave and spends one night there. The cave is not dismissed as inappropriate ... but only for one night. Cave, yes, but "cave-ism," no. "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He responds by complaining to God that he's the only one left after faithful service. (*pastors, have you been tempted?*) Go back to the place of your most profound vulnerability. In spite of your complaint, there are thousands left – thousands who have not bent the knee to Baal, **and** there is Elisha to take up the mantle. The voice gives encouragement!

c) Esther. Esther finds herself in a place of privilege in the palace, when a plot is hatched against her people the Jews, by Haman. Mordecai challenges her to speak out on behalf of her people. "I can't do *that!*" she protests. Mordecai replies with the voice of the still-speaking God – do not think that your privilege will save you. Your people may survive, but you yourself will die. God has brought you here for just "such a time as this." Privilege will not save you. It is time to use privilege to resist and speak out for the vulnerable of the world. Walter Brueggemann: the church must keep alive the ministry of imagination; to resist the imagination of imperial power as the only one appropriate for our time. See alternatives to what the king would have us believe is the only way. "Jesus Christ, the one word of life we are to hear, hope in and obey" Yield our privilege to resist the violence of the world.

Ultimately, vulnerability is not something we are to escape. It is the message of the cross. We are to go in vulnerable, unarmed, in order to win trust. The way of the cross is to toss aside the way of weapons, power and triumphalism. Put aside caves, the temptation to complain and to withdraw. It is to risk our privilege.

Bonhoeffer: *The ultimate question... is not how [one] might heroically extricate oneself ... it is how the coming generation is to live*

The voice of the still-speaking God is a word of hope and courage to go back to the places of danger knowing that God will provide the encouragement and challenge. To risk for the weak and the fragile.

## 5. Workshops and discernment sessions.

Friday evening, June 4, 2004

1. Gathering Music. We were led in gathering music by Skip Grizzell (San Francisco, City of Refuge).

2. Conference Celebrations and Milestones (Mary Susan Gast)

We were treated to a parade and a multimedia presentation of music and slides highlighting celebrations and milestones in this past year of the NCNC.

Introduction of ministers new/newly installed in our conference: --, Evelyn Vigil, Jack Dawson, Annie Petger (?), Julie Cedrone, Sophia DeWitt, T'Shala Olivieri, Susan Meeter, Felicity Wright, Dave Schlicher, Ann Jenney, Michael Hollingshead, Bran Scott, Dave Klingensmith, Nathan Meckley, Laura Barnes

Adam Blons (FCCB) and Tara Barber (Sebastopol) presented the new initiative in youth ministry. A group of youth leaders/pastors have begun meeting regularly, nurturing one another and exchanging ideas and resources. The Youth Leadership Group is open to anyone who would like to come; they meet monthly in various locations. Aug 20-22 – Conference-wide youth leadership retreat, for adults working with youth come together to get energized and exchange ideas.

Rev. Bill McKinney, President of Pacific School of Religion, brought greetings from PSR and thanked those who have supported the Annual Fund. PSR graduated 90 students on May 23. Those attending with a PSR connection were asked to stand and be recognized.

The retirement of Rev. Tyrone Reinhardt as Associate Conference Minister in the Santa Clara Association was marked. David Brown presented a certificate of appreciation for his service.

The Conference support staff, Joy Davis and Lora Palatto, were recognized – “the women who move mountains.”

3. Reflections from the Conference Minister (Mary Susan Gast)

We are identified by our name tags, by color: blue (ministerial members), green (board of directors, or representative of local church); by name of your church, and town. Most also say “UCC” as we claim our identity. You may have multiple identities, but you are here to celebrate the part of you which is UCC (whether or not “UCC” is actually part of your church name). There is meaning beyond that which may seem superficial.

Mary Susan presented a statement of “who we are.” She reflected on the uses of commas – indicating something more is coming, to set something off, to denote a pause ... even comma as tornado! What does the comma mean in our spiritual syntax? If we are a people of the comma, then this gathering is a gigantic “comma as you are party!” (groan)

Our lives are an ongoing series of events, separated by the commas of God still speaking. Many individuals and groups in our conference share the work of “bishop” held by one person in other denominations; focus on the work of the NCNC Committee on the Ministry. The “bishoply

work” of setting and maintaining standards for ministry is vital. Standards of behavior and accountability are important so our churches will remain safe places, and the pastoral office will be trusted. This past year has been somewhat overly full with these bishoply concerns. This has meant a great investment of time, prayer and presence. People and churches have stepped up with practical and financial support when it was needed.

*We are all called to raise hell and lower heaven.* William Sloan Coffin

4. Announcements (Cherie Whaples)

5. Evening Activities

Available for our evening amusement and enlightenment – Bible bingo, and singing and drumming at fire circle

Saturday morning, June 5, 2004

1. Gathering Music

We were led in gathering music by the Transcendence Choir (San Francisco, City of Refuge).

2. Worship

We joined in worshipping together. We were graced by the presence of the Transcendence Choir and the Dancers' Circle (Orinda, Community).

Scriptures for the day: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10; Romans 12:9-18

We heard Rev. Art Cribbs preaching on *God is Still Speaking: What is God Saying?* Art was introduced by Rev. Yvette Flunder (San Francisco, City of Refuge).

Building monuments to ourselves at an unconscionable cost to the vulnerable sends a dangerous and uncompassionate message. God hears and feels the suffering of the people. Something happens when we ignore the suffering and the Godlessness.

Paul calls upon the Romans not to return evil for evil; to outdo one another in doing good.

God is speaking to us and saying: Be strong and courageous. Don't say that we can't do anything because we don't have any resources. What **do** we have? What **can** we do? Let's bless what we have; have a transformation of attitude! *Bless what we got!* Being truly blessed is predicated on how much we give away, not how much we have.

Suffering cannot be quantified. Once some have suffered; all have suffered. God is listening ... and suffering. What is God saying? I love you.

Saturday afternoon, June 5, 2004

1. Gathering Music. We were led in gathering music by Rev. Doris Dunn.

2. Registrar's Report (Susan Stofan)

--Present as voting delegates: 128 lay adults; 2 youth; 103 clergy, for a total of 233

--Present as visitors and guests: 19 children, 13 youth, 171 adults (lay), 16 visiting clergy, for a total of 219

--Grand total in attendance 452

--87 churches represented (quorum is 30% of eligible churches)

--103 clergy/ 130 lay delegates present to vote (lay delegates must be at least 50%)

3. Message from the Board of Directors (Louis Knox, president, San Francisco, City of Refuge)  
Louis expressed what a privilege it was to serve as president of the Board of Directors, and lifted up the great accomplishment of eliminating the Conference deficit! The Board was able to accomplish some things left from Boards past to be done. As much as we accomplished in the realm of diversity, there is more to be done. Whose side are we standing on? We need to look more carefully at people on the margin and how we interact with them.

What does it mean to be a conference which lives on a promise of diversity? Diversity means celebrating one another's differences; decrying injustice wherever we find it; having respect for mutuality, e.g. "I may not understand everything you do, but I understand that your being here makes me better." Can we be more committed to being with people who are different from us?

4. Nominating Commission Report (Gretchen Choate, North Fork)

Additions/corrections

2008 Board members at large: Alexander Peters (San Francisco, St John's)

Administration and Finance: Should state class of 2008 not 2007

Committee on the Ministry, Section A; says Rev. Randy Sweringen (delete *Rev.*)

Committee on Ministry, Section B: add seminarian James Kosko (Kenwood)

General Synod delegates: Class of 2007, Sequoia Association, add Patsy Finster (Fresno,

First)

Alternates (class of 2007) Rev Sophia DeWitt (Fresno, First)

Gretchen moved adoption of the slate of nominees as presented

Paula requested election by acclamation; the assembly responded with applause.

5. Rules for the Business Session

Correction - #16 (re administrative action) *position statement* should be *administrative action*

Paula proposed that the rules be adopted by acclamation; the assembly responded with applause.

6. Goal Budget Presentation and Discussion (Mary Susan Gast & David Bergman-Hill)

Mary Susan presented the statement of our purpose and mission as NCNC-UCC. She outlined our primary ministries: Search, Call and Authorization for Ministry; Outdoors Ministry; Crisis Response to Congregations and Ministers & Resolution; Church Development and Revitalization

David Bergman-Hill presented the latest forecast for the 2003-2004 year – \$801,000. Dedicated to debt reduction – \$153,000. Increased fellowship dues and a special offering in 2002 made a big dent in reducing the deficit. As of this date the DEBT IS ELIMINATED! David presented a summary of the steps to debt elimination. Final step – to use \$125,000 of the Alexander bequest to retire the debt completely.

The proposed budget is a lower total (\$829,000) with \$23,000 more for ministry – because the debt is eliminated. Staff will receive a 1.8% COLA Jan 1, 2005. Propose to hire 1 support person 1/1/2005 (when we know we are “holding”)

OCWM trends have been of concern in recent years. The baseline giving from churches is still dropping. The \$637,000 goal is not achievable this year. – so an appeal was made for a supplemental \$30K to balance. Looks like we will make it for this year, but that cannot go on, year to year.

UCC Bicycle Adventure raising funds to support OCWM, and gather bikes for the Puente Ministry. Pledge per mile for those riding around the bay. It will be credited to your churches.

#### 2004-05 Goal Budget Sources

Fellowship dues           \$170,000

#### 2004-05 Ministry Spending Plan

(Jo Siders (MV & SEQ), presenting) Search, call and authorization for ministry 22%  
 (Gayle Madison (GG), presenting) To the ministries of associations 2%  
 (Deborah Streater (SCV), presenting) Coordination of ministries 14%  
 (Ned Luther (SAC), presenting) Church development of revitalization 9%  
 (Toni Dunbar (GG), presenting) Crisis response & resolution 12%  
 (Drew Nettinga (BAY), presenting) National and worldwide missions of the UCC 20%  
 (Barbara Broadbent, presenting) Outdoor ministries, faith enhancement, leadership development 23%

Tony Lewis (Hayward, Eden) presented for the Board of Directors the goal budget of \$829,000 as position to be voted.

#### a) Speaking in favor of the motion.

--David Durant (Pleasant Hill, Hillcrest) – Concern about wider education as to mission of Conference. Asks that each church consider tithing to the Conference

--Becky Luther (Sacramento, Pioneer) – Thanksgiving for hard work; fiscal responsibility demonstrated by not spending money we don't have

--Tony Lewis (Hayward, Eden) – Lack of funds for administrative support has severely impacted Mary Susan's ability to minister. But Board needs more income from churches. Pay attention to the “comma in your checks.”

#### b) Speaking in opposition

--Laura Barnes (Danville, Congregational) – Specific opposition to 1.8% staff increase. It is unjust. Reconsider.



Insert instead: “The hours beyond the prevention and reporting requirements and the ethics and boundary requirement could be fulfilled in multiple ways depending on individual foci and interests.”

Speaking in favor of the amendment:

- a) Elane O’Rourke (Campbell, Congregational) spoke to the amendment. Requiring that those things necessary for the safety of the congregation must be contact hours. The other things (enhancing the minister) could be in other settings than contact hours.
- b) Sally Stewart (Belmont, Congregational) – Gets us out of the larger issue of trying to decide what’s right and wrong for individuals. Online learning **is** as interactive as you can get in the classroom.

Speaking in opposition to the amendment:

- a) Melinda McLain (Fremont, Niles (interim)). Ministry is face-to-face; therefore all the education needs to be face-to-face (contact). Online education is not adequate at this time. There were significant questions in the discernment sessions about this.
- b) Kevin Manz (Sacramento, Pioneer) – Feels there was adequate broad-ranging discussion on what was desired and required. Never felt that the attached implementation was immutable.

Vote on the amendment: Call for division of the house Yea: 116 Nos: 82

Move to vote on the motion as amended: Passed with dissension.

8. Intentional New Church Development (Marian Conning, Vacaville, Amistad)

Marian Conning moved the following position to be voted:

That the NCNC-UCC reaffirms its commitment to welcoming existing and newly-formed congregations into our fellowship and also commits itself to planning for the intentional development of new congregations of various racial and cultural identities;

And that this Annual Meeting directs the Board of Directors of the NCNC-UCC to

- a. Fill and activate the Church Formation and Transformation Team and charge them to bring to the 2005 Annual Meeting the first draft of a ten-year plan for new church development;
- b. Budget at least \$1000 for demographic studies or other new church development planning costs;
- c. Hire or assign a staff person at least 10% FTE to act at the new church development liaison ...
- d. Convene a meeting of all those persons who have, at any time past or present, been involved in the gathering, planting or launching of a new congregation, with the mandate to pray heartily for the presence of the Holy Spirit in helping us to establish

Speaking in favor of the motion:

- a) Rebecca Anderson-Jones (Suisun-Fairfield, Congregational) – This is a great opportunity to realize the vision we have of ourselves as multiracial, multicultural. Inspired by seeing what happens when we think outside the box; inspired by Amistad (initially supported by Fairfield-Suisun).
- b) Jerry deJong (Suisun-Fairfield, Congregational) – Read from scripture, the call of the first disciples *I will make you a new kind of fishermen* and the Great Commission. Reminder of the seeds sown – some grow, some do not. This is not a recommendation; it is a scriptural mandate.
- c) Gerry Paulsen (Auburn, New Faith) – Support the motion because the time is right (even past due) that we **all** become part of a denomination that supports new life. Grow beyond what we have become. We must do this so we do not decline.
- d) Dave Self (Angels Camp, Union) – We must **try** to do something! Look at the experience of the prior new church start group. Look for the people who can make it happen. New church development doesn't dilute existing ministry/churches.

Speaking in opposition to the motion:

- a) Becky Luther (Sacramento, Pioneer) – Fundamentally, no one disagrees with the concept. The difficulty is with the reality of accomplishing anything with a 10% FTE.
- b) David Durant (Pleasant Hill, Hillcrest) - Do not want to impede the work of the Board of Directors in making difficult decisions about the allocation of available resources. Using current off-budget funds – at some point they will run out. How then, do you set priorities? Let us allow the Board to review this need prayerfully on a regular basis.
- c) Felicity Wright (Kensington, Arlington) – Appreciation and respect for the practice of evangelism. We should feed the “Still Speaking” campaign. That comes first. The new church starts and the church growth will follow.
- d) Frank Baldwin (Orinda, Community) – If it stopped at the end of the first paragraph, he would support it. The procedural issues which are included cause concern. We have a number of ministries which are underfunded (campus, international, etc. etc.) People feel passionately about many of these. The precedent here is to mandate the staffing and funding of our individual ministerial passions. We might feel good about adopting this; but would come to regret our micromanagement.

→ Amendment: changing the word *directs* to *recommends*; and end point a) after the words “Transformation Team”; point b) change to *hire and assign*; point c) present draft of 10 year plan at Annual Meeting 2005; point d) is unchanged.

Speaking in favor of the amendment:

- a) Ellen Sweetin (Pescadero, Community) – What precedent do we set to direct some things this specifically and not others? We desperately want to honor so many ministerial passions. Do not

direct the Board. Please allow us to deal with the competing claims on our resources; how will we honor them.

b) Alan Kelchner (Danville, Congregational) – Proper action of the Annual Meeting is to recommend to the Board rather than direct. We must trust our conference leadership. Remove \$1000 budget requirement. It is not wise or responsible to add a new budget item. However, must ask conference leadership to be more creative and proactive with money set aside for church formation and transformation.

[Point of information: Frank Baldwin – is it true that there is \$100K available for new church development? Response from David Bergman-Hill: There is about \$44K currently designated. Some is currently encumbered. About \$30K is available]

c) Therese desCamp (Carmel, Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula) – Advocates for “recommend”

Speaking in opposition to the amendment:

a) Jerry deJong (Suisun-Fairfield, Congregational) – Fears that “recommend” will not carry the necessary urgency

Vote on the amendment: Accepted, with dissension

Vote on the motion as amended: Passed, as amended

## 9. Health and Healing

Position presented to be voted by Becky Anton (Sacramento, Parkside)

The NCNC-UCC affirms the resolution of General Synod XXI, “Reclaiming the Church’s Ministry of Health and Healing” and encourages local congregations to develop/include in their mission a commitment to health and wholeness, engage health and wholeness issues through ongoing health cabinet/ministry teams, and to consider the implementation of a health ministry/parish nurse program;

1. Joins with the United Church of Christ national ministries ..
2. Call upon our local churches ...
3. Call upon our local churches to recognize parish nursing..
4. Requests the national UCC office of Parish Life and Leadership to recognize and consider including health ministry/parish nursing in the listing of specific church-related ministries qualifying for commissioned ministry, and to consider developing guidelines and educational standards to be included in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry

Speaking in favor of the position:

a) Susan Nettinga (San Lorenzo, Community) – Health and healing are core visions of Christian ministry. We should call on the denomination to affirm and uphold the professionalism and call of the people who seek to fulfill that.

b) Steve Holly (Hayward, United) – He is a lay person involved in a healing ministry. All can take a role in the need for spiritual, emotional, and physical healing of the world.

No amendments proposed.

Vote on the position: Passed

10. Declaring the NCNC-UCC to be a Jubilee Conference

The 2004 AM of the NCNCUCC declares itself to be a Jubilee Conference [debt forgiveness] and encourages all local churches of the Conference to consider becoming Jubilee Congregations

Speaking in favor of the position:

a) Drew Nettinga (San Lorenzo, Community) – Staffs justice and witness ministry. The importance of debt forgiveness in order to allow humanity to move forward.

b) Louis Knox (San Francisco, City of Refuge) – Subscribe to the day of jubilee as described in Leviticus. The way to insure constant enslavement of people is to ensure that they can never pay their debt off. Part of making peace is to forgive those who cannot repay; and can never be equal partners without forgiveness.

Speaking in opposition to the position: none

Vote on the position: Passed.

11. New Business

Lindsay LaBrock (Murphys, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational) – Declared intention to submit an amendment to the conference by-laws to increase the number of delegates per church – must be youth between junior high school age and 25. [point of personal privilege to present ... will be voted upon next year]

12. Moderator's Farewell (Paula Turk)

Thanked all who supported her and introduced the incoming moderator, Rev. Tauoa Head. Mary Susan Gast also expressed appreciation to Paula and presented a gift.

13. Installation of New Officers (Mary Susan Gast)

Mary Susan called forward all elected and continuing to serve on NCNC boards and committees. All affirmed their willingness to serve. All assembled pledged their love and support. A prayer of thanksgiving and blessing was offered and the officers were declared installed.

Scribes for the meeting

Rev. Carol Barriger

Rev. Paul Smith-Telfer

Rev. Kyle Lovett