

ANNUAL MEETING 2003 MINUTES

**42nd Annual Meeting
"REVIVING OUR MINISTRIES
May 15-18, 2003**

(Editor's notes: These are abbreviated minutes; the full 16-page version can be found at <www.ncnccucc.org>)

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Moderator Roy Mosley (San Francisco, City of Refuge) gathered us joyously "under the tent" and recounted some of our camp meeting/tent meeting tradition of revival. The Planning Committee was recognized for their year-long effort to bring the Annual Meeting to fruition. We joined in opening worship.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Denise Mitchell-Jones, volunteer coordinator, was recognized for her efforts. The Insurance Board and Heffernan Associates were thanked for their sponsorship of last evening's reception.

Moderator Roy Mosley opened the first of two business sessions

1. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Registrar Susan Stofan presented her preliminary report. Present are 102 lay adult delegates, 3 youth delegates and 73 clergy delegates, for a total of 178 voting delegates. Also 20 children, 29 youth visitors, 113 lay adult visitors, 6 nonvoting clergy for a total of 346, representing 89 churches. We do have a quorum.

2. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS RULES

The planning committee has made an effort to develop a "new way of doing business." Discernment sessions will be held for administrative actions and resolutions to afford everyone an opportunity to discuss and learn more about issues. There will be a presenter, and a facilitator for each session. The facilitator insures that all voices are heard and records the debate. The complete rules are printed in attendees' packets. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the rules of the Annual Meeting. The rules were adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Roy indicated that the items on the agenda would be considered in the reverse order from that printed in the packet (i.e. items brought forward by the Board of Directors are voted upon first).

1. Administrative action on fellowship dues & goal budget
2. Administrative action on transgender persons
3. Position statement on Just Peace
4. Position statement on Earth Stewards
5. Position statement on Relationship between UCC and Boy Scouts

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda of the Annual Meeting. The agenda was adopted.

4. NOMINATING COMMISSION REPORT

Ken Jones (City of Refuge) and Rev. Wilfried Glabach (San Francisco, First) presented the work of the Nominating Commission. They will report later in the meeting on further nominations.

5. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast introduced Ron Buford, director of marketing and public relations in the UCC National Office in Cleveland. Ron spoke to us on the theological origins and practical birth of the theme "God is still speaking."

The text of Ron Buford's remarks will be available on the web site: www.ncnccucc.org

FRIDAY EVENING

Rev. Dr. Marty Williams, California-Nevada Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples

of Christ), brought greetings.

Our ASL interpreters, Tony Lewis and Michael Velez, were introduced and recognized for their service to the Annual Meeting.

1. CONFERENCE MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Mary Susan Gast presented her Conference Minister's reflections. Her remarks were concluded with the singing of, "Higher Ground." NCNC staff and Associate Conference Ministers were invited to the stage. Recognized were:

- Retiring Associate Conference Minister Rev. Joyce Ellis
- Joy Davis, NCNC office manager and camp registrar
- Lora Pallato, support staff for the Committee on the Ministry, Search, Call and Placement function, and the Board of Directors
- Rev. David Ray (in absentia) who will be departing our Conference, and his post as Associate Conference Minister for Golden Gate Association (north) churches, to accept a position with Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.
- All other Associate Conference Ministers, who presented their brief reflections on how "God is still speaking" in their ministries (Drew Nettinga, Deborah Streeter, Toni Dunbar, Ned Luther, Jo Siders, Barbara Broadbent, David Bergman-Hill, Tyrone Reinhardt)

Mei Wang, President of the NCNC Board of Directors delivered a message on behalf of the Board.

2. REPORT OF THE MULTIRACIAL MULTICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION TEAM

The MMTT report was presented by Eppie Encabo, Faith Burgess and Rev. Tauoa Head. MMTT received a grant for \$5,000 from national Justice and Witness Ministries. Thanks were given to churches offering special support to MMTT, as well as to the Conference for including MMTT in the Conference budget.

Drew Nettinga invited an offering for MMTT. He remarked that we have come a long way toward being a conference in which everyone can be who they are, but we still have a way to go. He offered a prayer of dedication for gifts received.

3. CELEBRATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mary Susan Gast led us in "family time" — a celebration of new pastors, special guests, great achievements and unique missions in the life of the Conference

Mary Susan recognized special guests Rev. Fed Ranches, who returned to the Annual Meeting from his national staff ministry position, and the Rev. Anagrete Hellner from Essen, Germany (EKU), an intern at First, San Francisco.

Also introduced:

Members of churches in care of the Conference and a new church in care: First Samoan Congregational UCC of Stockton.

Persons in care of the Conference, and those preparing for licensed or ordained ministry; we were led in the laying-on-of hands and blessing for these persons.

Licensed ministers, persons serving interim ministries, pastors emeritus, retired ministers and ministers new to the Conference.

Representatives of two new churches with full standing: Modesto, Via Dolorosa Congregational Christian, Rossmoor, Pilgrim

Recognition of contributions

Largest contributors to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission): San Jose, First; Pleasant Hill, Hillcrest; Berkeley, First

Per capita largest contributors: Hayward, Eden; Berkeley, New Spirit; San Francisco, St. John's

Largest contributors to special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need): Hayward, Eden; Palo Alto, First; Portola Valley, Ladera

Per capita largest contributors: Foster City, Island; Hayward, Eden; Portola Valley, Ladera

4. PRESENTATION FROM GLOBAL SHARING RESOURCES

To NCNC for highest per capita giving of any Conference to One Great Hour of Sharing (and fifth highest total of any Conference overall). Eppie Encabo, representing the national UCC, presented the award to Mei Wang, president of the NCNC Board of Directors.

5. NEW MISSIONS/MINISTRIES

Recognition of churches in ministry to Mexico.

6. THE "GOD IS STILL SPEAKING ..." AWARDS

For the largest reported increase in membership in 2002: Cloverdale, United

For the largest inflow of new members into the UCC in any year: City of Refuge, San Francisco

7. SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE DEBT REDUCTION

Churches which have made the full \$14/member contribution to support debt reduction were honored.

SATURDAY MAY 17

1. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Faith Burgess introduced our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Teruo Kawata who spoke on the theme, "Born Again." The text of Rev. Kawata's remarks will be available on the web site: www.ncnccucc.org

2. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Registrar Susan Stofan presented her final report. In attendance: Delegates: 167 lay adult, 6 youth, 103 clergy, for a total of 276 voting delegates. Non-voting attendees: 24 children, 47 youth, 210 lay adult, 8 nonvoting clergy, for a total of 289 visitor, and total attendees: 565, representing 102 churches Registrar's report affirmed by acclamation

3. NOMINATING COMMISSION REPORT

The updated slate was presented by Ken Jones and Wilfried Glabach. All slots filled are now filled.

Motion: to elect the candidates as presented on the slate. Slate declared elected

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

(a) Goal Budget

Action to be voted: The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ adopts a Goal Budget for year ending June 30, 2004, for the general Fund, in the amount of \$846,000. Motion adopted, with dissenting votes.

(b) Fellowship Dues

Action to be voted: The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ establishes fellowship dues at \$10 per member per year, effective Jan. 1, 2004. The \$2 increase will be used to support the ministries of the Conference. Motion adopted, with dissenting votes.

(c) Ministry of Transgender Persons

Motion adopted unanimously

5. POSITION STATEMENTS

(Full texts of final versions can be found on the NCNC website, www.ncnccucc.org)

(a) Reaffirming NCNCUCC as Just Peace Conference Responding to Current Events Position adopted with dissenting votes.

(b) Earth Stewards

Position adopted.

(c) Relationships Between the UCC and the Boy Scouts of America

Amendment adopted with dissenting votes.

Motion as amended adopted.

The session was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Carol Barriger (Redwood City, First)

Rev. Ann Lougee (Redding, Pilgrim)

Rev. Paul Smith-Telfer (Santa Rosa, First, interim)