

Approved 6/23/18

MINUTES
63rd ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
Piedmont College, Demorest, GA
JUNE 24 – June 27, 2017

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches convened on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 1:30 PM in the Swanson Theater at Piedmont College in Demorest, GA.

- Business Session 1 Moderator, Laura Hamby, gave opening remarks and called the 63rd annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to order.
- Constituting Prayer The Constituting Prayer was offered by Cory Ward, a member of the NAPF/HOPE Leadership and NAPF/HOPE officers, Emily Smith and Liz Russell. Moderator Laura Hamby thanked them for their blessing on the conference and expressed joy that we will be sharing time together this year at Piedmont with the NAPF and HOPERS, including a mission activity for the “Rise Against Hunger” on Monday afternoon.
- Intro and Welcome by Host Committee and others Laura Hamby acknowledged members of the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee and then introduced the co-chairs of the Host Committee, Rev. Joyce Acree, Methodist Congregational Federated Church, Demorest, GA and Dr. James Mellichamp, President of Piedmont College, who welcomed everyone to Piedmont College and acknowledged all the work of the local church and the College staff. This year the college is celebrating its 120th Birthday and the 20 year anniversary of the establishment of the Butman Chair for theological studies which has been held by Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor.
Rev. Tim Garvin-Leighton, head of the Piedmont Campus Ministry spoke briefly and read a letter of greeting from the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.
Dr. Judy Taylor, president of the Habersham Chamber of Commerce welcomed us sharing much information about the area and raffled gifts.
- Introductions Moderator Laura Hamby then introduced the individuals on the platform: Vice Moderator Jim Waechter; Secretary Judy Campbell; and Parliamentarian Sherry Glab.
- Quorum and Call to Order The Credentials Committee reported that 95 delegates are present, which represents approximately 28 % of active 340 member churches. With more than 20% of our member churches represented, Moderator Laura Hamby declared a quorum present so we would proceed with the business at hand.
- Approval of Agenda
2017 AM 01
Adopted The Moderator referenced the published agenda beginning on page 4 of Program Booklet. She then entertained a motion to approve.
Motion by Greg Jurewicz to approve the agenda was seconded and adopted.
- Review of Standing Rules
2017 AM 02
Adopted Moderator Laura Hamby reviewed and explained the standing rules on page 20 of the booklet pointing out that new business must be submitted to the secretary by 7:00 PM.
Motion by Greg Abbott to adopt the standing rules.
- Approval of Minutes
2017 AM 03
Adopted Minutes of the 62nd Annual Meeting held in Dearborn, MI, June 2016, were previously read and approved by the 2016 Minutes Certification Committee: Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer, Doug Loux, and Rev. Wendy Van Tassell and were posted on the NACCC website.
Motion by Robert Riddley to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Minutes Certification
Committee
2017 AM 04
Adopted

The Moderator announced three people she has asked to review this year's minutes and asked for other suggestions from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Motion by Sharon Higgins to accept the appointment of three volunteers, Miriam Bryant, Doug Loux, and Rev. Bobbie Chapman, selected by the Moderator as the 2017 Minutes Certification Committee to review the Annual Meeting minutes before they are distributed.

Introduction, Vote and
Welcome to New Churches
accepted into Membership
2017 AM 05
Adopted

Rev. Patti Haaheim, chair of the Membership Committee of the Leadership Council, reported that the Leadership Council recommends that 3 new churches be accepted into membership and that we welcome back 1 church that has completed the requirements for re-instatement.

Motion by Rev. Patti Haaheim for the Membership Task Team that the following Churches be accepted into full membership in the NACCC: St John Church of Idalia, Colorado; South Bridgton Congregational Church, Bridgton, Maine; and Haven Congregational Church of Haven, Kansas; and that the First Congregational Church, Tomahawk, Wisconsin be reinstated to full membership in the NACCC as recommended by the Leadership Council.

Installation of New Churches

A member or a representative for each church came forward. The Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum performed the installation ceremony.

Speakers:

Moderator Laura Hamby then introduced the speakers.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum summarized activities over the past two years with emphasis on the goal to improve communications. He recognized staff from both the Oak Creek and Center for Congregational Leadership locations.

Olivet College

Dr. Steven Corey, President of Olivet College, spoke on the 175 year anniversary and relationship to the Congregational Way. The school has benefited from the association with the NACCC through the Center and although he understands the reason for the move, they will miss having Michael Chittum on campus as he transitions to the Oak Creek office.

Editor's Report

Editor of *The Congregationalist* magazine, Marianne King, reported on the progress of the publication since taking over as editor. She thanked former editor Larry Sommers for his assistance.

Vanguard Investments

Eric Salzer, a representative from Vanguard spoke to the group about how our investments were handled.

Break (3:00 pm)

Vice Moderator Jim Waechter gave announcements.

Meeting reconvened at 3:20 PM.

Reports

Moderator Laura Hamby explained that the written reports for the Leadership Council, Board of Directors and Congregational Foundation were in the packets. The three entities have been working closely and will give an integrated report of work they have done on your behalf. **Leadership Council** Chair Moderator Laura Hamby, **Board of Directors** Chair Vice-Moderator Jim Waechter and **Congregational Foundation** Chair Varn Philbrook, reviewed the Vision and Goals that were the focus this year. A Town Hall meeting will be held Monday evening for informal discussion and answers.

Ministry Council reports:

- **Growth Ministry Council** – Chair Rev. Dawn Carlson reviewed the accomplishments of the GMC and its task teams. Projects and tasks this year included development of guidelines for devotionals, establishment of the Unified Theory of Congregationalism Task Team, discussion of “revitalization” with the Vitality Ministry Council and revision of Hurting Churches Fund information. The GMC is supporting a new church plant, New Day Church in Boston.
- **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (M.O.M.C)** – Chair Greg Jurewicz reviewed his written report. He spoke of having to discontinue support of the Travancore Church Council in India due to the government of India prohibiting the transfer of funds to non government organizations. Members of MOMC visited the Mariner’s House in Boston, MA. He thanked everyone for their support to missions.
- **Vitality Ministry Council** – Chair Rev. Michael Fales reported on activities and accomplishments this past year including the Minister’s Convocation and the work of the CFTS and other task teams. All current CFTS students are in attendance at this meeting. Two students will graduate from the program this year. The move to a single executive has created issues regarding activities at the Center. A task team is being formed to address those issues. There are also plans to combine the Lay Ministry Task Team with CFTS.

CFTS Director Report: Rev. Dr. Charles Packer – written report in AM&C report packet. Dr. Packer will give remarks during the celebration of graduates on Tuesday.

New Business

Moderator Laura Hamby asked if there was any new business to come before the assembly. Per standing rules, new business must be introduced from the floor today and submitted in writing by 7:00 Saturday evening to be considered on Tuesday.

Rev. Bobbie Chapman presented a proposal regarding a permanent modification of the standing rules. The proposal will be brought before the assembly for discussion on Tuesday.

Congregational Lecture

The Congregational Lecture was presented by panelists Rev. Garry Fisher, Rev. Julie Johnson Staples, Rev. Kay Miller-Todd, Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, and Rev. J.R. McAliley, III, moderated by Rev. Dr. Beth Bingham.

Business Meeting in Recess until Monday morning.

6:30 PM

Dinner at the Museum.

7:15 PM

Open dialogue and discussion with Congregational panelists.

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Morning Worship

Worship Services were held at Piedmont College Chapel.

1:00 PM

Bible Lecture Part 1 - Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor

Afternoon/evening

Workshops and receptions.

Monday, June 26, 2017

Business Session 2

Laura Hamby called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM following the opening prayer by Patrick Stewart, member of the Leadership Council and Youth Leader.

Former Moderator, Mr. Bill Ahrens, asked for a few minutes to address the assembly.

Nominating
Committee Report
All nominees elected

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere gave the report of the Nominating Committee, reading the list of nominees for each position. **She then moved that the entire slate of candidates as announced be elected.**

Moderator – Laura Hamby, Soquel, CA (continuing – no vote required)

Vice Moderator – Jim Waechter, Brooklyn, NY (continuing – no vote required)

Secretary – Judy Campbell, Farmington Hills, MI - 1 yr term

Treasurer – Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, WI - 1 yr term

Historian – Rev. William C. Lange, Detroit, MI - 1 yr term

Youth Representative to the Leadership Council

Patrick Stewart, Marshalltown, IA – 1 yr term

Ministry Council Representatives to the Leadership Council – 1 yr terms

Growth Ministry Council: Mary Brooks Prendergast, Pastor Carol Taylor

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council: Joelle Sommers, Janet Grace

Vitality Ministry Council: Rev. Marisol Ferrer Malloy, Rev. Dr. Irvan A Gammon

Annual Meeting and Conference Committee – Member-at-large

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd, Des Moines, IA – 3 yr term

Corp Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Fox Point, WI – 4 yr term

Congregational Foundation Representative on the Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Demorest, GA – 1 yr term

Growth Ministry Council

Rev. Dr. John Tamilio, Beverly MA – 3 yr term

Mary Brooks Prendergast, Pomona, CA – 3 yr term

Mission & Outreach Ministry Council

Rev. Jamie Bonnema, Maple Hill, KS – 3 yr term

Barbara Dabul, Sun City, AZ – 3 yr term

Vitality Ministry Council

Rev. Sarah Gladstone, Saugatuck, MI – 3 yr term

Rev. Justin Nierer, Jackson, MI – 3 yr term

Moderator, Laura Hamby, asked for any additional nominations for these positions.

Hearing no other nominations, she declared the nominations closed and all nominees elected to these uncontested positions.

Election of Nominating
Committee
Nominees Elected

Moderator, Laura Hamby, requested nominations for two open 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee. The following names were placed in nomination from the floor for the **Nominating Committee**:

Rev. Joyce Acree, Demorest, GA

Beth Borland, Detroit, MI

Moderator, Laura Hamby, asked for any additional nominations for these positions.

Hearing no other nominations, she declared the nominations closed and both nominees elected to these uncontested positions.

Approved 6/23/18

Ratification Board of
Directors' Actions
2017 AM 06
Adopted

Jim Waechter presented the list of Actions of the Board of Directors from June 2016 through June 2017 that require ratification which appear on pages 1 and 2 of the "Actions of the Board of Directors" in the delegate packets, **removing 2016/17 C 044** for later consideration. Other pages (3-5) in the packet list procedural motions by the Board of Directors that do not require ratification in regular type, and those motions being presented for consideration separately in Italics.

Motion by Jim Waechter that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Board of Directors from June 2016 through June 2017 (motions 2015/16 C 049; 2016/17 C 001, C 017 – 018, C 020 - 023, C 027, C 031, C 033, C 036 – 038, C 042 & C 048) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.

Ratify Leadership
Council Actions
2017 AM 07
Adopted as corrected

Laura Hamby presented the list of Actions of the Leadership Council requiring ratification. Those actions appear on page 1 of the Leadership Council Report in the delegate packets. The following pages (2 & 3) list procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type and those motions being presented for consideration separately are in Italics. **(Correction made to 2015/16 LC 024, the word "paintings" should be "prints")**

Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Leadership Council from June 2016 through June 2017, (motions 2015/16 LC 024 as corrected; 2016/17 LC 001, LC 007, & LC 019) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.

Introduction of Resolutions
and Bylaw Amendments

The Moderator and Vice Moderator then read proposed motions and resolutions, placing them on the floor to be discussed and voted during business session 3 on Tuesday. Copies of motions not already distributed will be printed and available.

- Motions 2016/17 C 035, C 043, C044, C049
- Motion 2016/17 C 050 (as amended during pre-meetings.)
- Motion 2016/17 C 055 (motion passed during pre-meeting and not on printed list) to transfer existing NACCC endowments into the Congregational Foundation subject to all financial, legal and donor restricted limitations.
- Motion (2016/17 C 039) to amend Article V paragraph 1, to increase the number of members on the Leadership Council from 13 to 14 by adding a Representative from the Board of Governors with voice, but not vote.

Speakers

Piedmont College - Dr. James F. Mellichamp, President, addressed the conference, bringing greetings from the college and expressing joy in having the conference at their campus. Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor is retiring from the position she has held at the college the past 20 years and the trustees have been discussing the requirements for someone to fill the Butman Chair.

10:15 AM

Bible Lecture Part 2 - Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor.

11:30 AM

Missionary presentation

Recess

Business meeting broke for lunch, followed by all conference worship and mission activity "Rise Against Hunger" and town hall meeting.

Business Meeting in recess until Tuesday, June 27, 8:30 AM.

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Business Session 3	Business Meeting reconvened at 8:30 AM following prayer by Ryan Prendergast.
Credentials Report	Laura Francisco reported for the Credentials Committee that there were 102 delegates and 68 alternate delegates in attendance, representing 107 churches from 28 states. In addition, there were 17 missionaries, 47 attendees, 6 Observers, 8 others (speakers and staff) and 65 host workers. She submitted a written report.
Vote on Nominations If needed:	No outstanding nominations from the Nominating Committee. Any new positions may be brought forth later in the meeting.
Vote on Resolutions and Bylaws Amendment	Moderator Laura Hamby called upon speakers to present motions for action by the assembly.
Alternative to Sale of the Oak Creek Property 2017 AM 08 Adopted	Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum presented following motion previously adopted by the Board of Directors motion 2016/17 C 043 for discussion and vote. Whereas the sale of the Oak Creek, WI property has not occurred as authorized by the delegates at the 2010 AM&C and there has not been a credible offer to purchase the property, the Board of Directors may investigate and pursue other alternatives to the sale of the property while still exploring the possible sale. Such alternatives may include continued use of the property, dividing the building for joint use with another non-profit, or leasing out the entire building and seeking other space for the NACCC offices.
Amendment to Corporate Bylaws to add member To the Leadership Council 2017 AM 09 Adopted	Moderator Laura Hamby presented the following motion previously adopted by the Board of Directors (2016/17 C 039) to amend the Bylaws. Motion to amend Article V paragraph 1, strike the word "thirteen" and insert the word "fourteen"; paragraph 1.a., strike "four (4)" and replace with "five (5)"; paragraph 1.1.ii, insert "a liaison from the Board of Governors," between "vote," and "the Executive Director". The purpose of the amendment is to increase the number of members on the Leadership Council from 13 to 14 by adding the Representative from the Board of Governors as a member of the Leadership Council with voice, but not vote. The paragraphs will then read: Article V – The Leadership Council 1. The Leadership Council. The Leadership Council shall consist of thirteen fourteen members: a. Nine (9) voting members and four (4) five (5) nonvoting members. ii. Members with voice, but not vote, include a liaison from the Board of Governors, the Executive Director, the Secretary, ...
Motion to ratify Board of Director's action 2016/17C050 To transfer funding for DODC and staff To the SMF 2017 AM 10 Adopted	Vice Moderator Jim Waechter presented motion 2016/17 C 050 as amended for ratification. Motion from the Finance Committee that the BOD in collaboration with the BOG transfer the financial obligations for funding the DODC and the DODC's assistant to the Corporation's SMF starting in fiscal year 2018-19. The Finance Committee urges (and believes) that this can be done without changing any of the current responsibilities and reporting structures for the positions that are currently in place.

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Motion to ratify Board of Directors' action
2016/17C055
To transfer endowment funds to the Congregational Foundation
2017 AM 11
Adopted

Varn Philbrook presented motion 2016/17 C 055 and moved for ratification. **in keeping with the Congregational Foundation's responsibility for protection and preservation of assets, managing endowments and maximizing transparency, I move to transfer all existing NACCC endowments into the Congregational Foundation subject to all financial, legal and donor restricted limitations with the recommendation of the endowment fund account consolidation committee, with the understanding that all future endowments would exist in the Congregational Foundation.**

Motion to Move Executive Director from Olivet to The Oak Creek office
2017 AM 12
Adopted

Moderator Laura Hamby and Rev. Dawn Carlson presented the following motion as proposed by the Board of Directors (2016/17 C 044) and moved its adoption. **"to make better use of Executive Director's and Staff time, the office of the Executive Director will be moved to Oak Creek, WI. The move will take place between July 1 and August 31, 2017.**

Nominations for remaining or new open positions
BOG rep to LC
Nominee elected

Moderator Laura Hamby requested nominations from the floor for the position that had become open. There were no other positions that remained unfilled. **Board of Governors Representative to the Leadership Council (new position created by adoption of bylaws amendment) - 1 yr term**
Bob Smith nominated by Varn Philbrook.
Hearing no additional nominations for the BOG Rep to the LC, the Moderator declared nominations closed and the nominee elected.

Financial Report

Association Treasurer Jeff Dillon presented a slide show of the Financial Reports, explained details and assumptions, and answered questions. Financial challenges remain great. The Financials for the year ending March 31, 2017 received a good report from an audit by Reilly, Penner and Benton, LLP.

Introduction of Budget Proposal

The proposed 2017 - 2018 Operating Budget of the Shared Ministries Fund, the Center for Congregational Leadership and Ministry Council budgets were presented as recommended by Board of Directors action 2016/17 C 035. Proposed balanced Budget total of \$864,450 in both revenue and expenses.

New Business
Proposed standing rule change
2017 AM 13
Lost

Laura Hamby read the following motion that was submitted on Saturday as new business by Rev. Bobbie Chapman.
Motion by Rev. Bobbie Chapman that going forward, it will be a permanent standing rule for all association wide meetings when any vote is contested, the vote will be taken by a paper ballot or counted and recorded standing. Motion seconded and discussed. Motion lost: 18 Yes; 50 No.

Announcements and short break

10:30AM

Bible Lecture Part 3 - Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor.

11:30 AM

Business Meeting in recess until 2:00 PM, following Missionary presentation, lunch and other presentations.

Presentations 1:30 PM

Larry Sommers presented information on the 2018 ICF Meeting.
Shirley Linden from the 2018 Host committee presented information on the 2018 AM&C in San Diego, CA hosted by the Cal-West Association. June 23-26, 2018. The theme is **Unleashed.**

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Business Session 4	Business Meeting reconvened at 2:00 PM following prayer by Rev. Lowell Linden.
Voting on Budget 2017 AM 14 Adopted	Motion by Jeff Dillon, to approve the Shared Ministries budget, CCL and the Ministry Council budgets as recommended by the Board of Directors and presented by the Treasurer in Business Session 3. Balanced Budget.
Installation of Officers	All elected officers and Board members and Committee members were sworn into their positions.
CFTS Director Report	Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Director of CFTS, reviewed his written report and introduced the CFTS graduates.
CFTS Graduates	CFTS Committee had two graduates from the program this year, Rev. Jacob Poindexter who received the Alfred D. Gray Award and Rev. Paul Jackson who received the John Claxton Award. Each was presented with certificates and their preferred Bible.
Necrology	Historian Norm Erlendson presented the necrology listing the many members who have died since the last meeting.
Recognition and Awards	MOMC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charles Rush Award – Charles Sagay, Cameroon Vitality Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harry R. Butman Award – Dewey Gierke• Jeanette R. Butman Award – Cynthia Grey• J.J Russell Sermon Award – Pastor Carol Taylor Board of Directors Citation presented to Barbara Mullen . Host committee recognition: Methodist Congregational Federated Church and Piedmont College staff - Rev. Joyce Acree, Demorest, GA Moderators award to Laura Hamby, Soquel, CA
Adjournment	The Moderator thanked all for their assistance in preparing and conducting the meeting. She then declared that the business meeting was ended and that the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is adjourned following dinner and receptions this evening.

Judy Campbell
Secretary

Read and approved by the Minutes Certification Committee:

Miriam Bryant
Rev. Bobbie Chapman
Doug Loux