

Central Association Advisory Council
Saturday, January 17, 2009-9:00 a.m.
Newton Congregational UCC

Those in attendance: Rich Pleva, Donna Gibbs, David Raymond, Laura Lof,
Matthew Mardis-LeCroy, Nicole Havelka, Joel Love, Karl Andersen

Devotions and Welcome- After presenting devotions, Sara called the meeting to order

Approval of Minutes from meeting of September 13, 2008- minutes from meeting held September 13, 2008 approved as printed (consensus).

Treasurers Report- Donna distributed reports- Balance on hand as of January 16, 2009- \$19,358.28. Council briefly discussed seminary scholarships, There are 3 seminarians from the association and no one had information as to the number of CENTER/LEARN students. Treasurer's Report Approved- (Lof/Raymond)

Other Reports

Board of Directors – Laura reported:

- Laura introduced Nicole Havelka, our new ACM for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Also announced that Jonna Jensen has begun her duties as ACM in Eastern Iowa.
- Rich is looking into options for office space to house the Conference Headquarters, and a decision will be made weighing cost effectiveness, location etc.
- Board will meet again on February 7.

Committee on Ministry- Matthew Mardis-LeCroy reported:

- Liz Colton is filling the term left vacant by Lyle Greiner.
- The ordination of Dawn Halstead will be held in May (exact date not yet determined).

Nominating Committee-No report. Nominating Committee representative still not found. Advisory Council will act as Nominating Committee in the interim.

Conference Minister- Rich asked Nicole to tell us a little about herself... and she did! Rich explained that it is the responsibility of the Advisory Council to “shepherd” new church starts, then asked Karl Andersen to speak on behalf of New Mission Church, a group of Des Moines area folks (most are from Urbandale UCC) who are starting a new church and wish to become part of the Iowa Conference UCC. Karl has been acting as a “coach” to the group as they get started. Council discussed fulfilling our responsibility through formation of a committee to help them in the process of becoming UCC and finding a church to act as their sponsor. Ankeny UCC and Crossroads UCC in Indianola were thought to be likely church sponsors. We also talked about issues surrounding this group leaving the Urbandale UCC, reactions of the Urbandale congregation etc.

Representatives of New Mission Church were invited to speak to the Council and showed a video with pictures from their worship services. These folks have been worshipping together since Advent 2008. They spoke to a few of the reasons for wanting to form a new church, and how their meetings/services have been conducted so far.

Council voted to receive New Mission Church into the Central Association as a Church in Covenant Development, according to denominational procedure (Lof/Ramond).

We decided that the the Advisory Council committee to assist them will consist of one or two people from the sponsor church, one from the Advisory Council (David Raymond volunteered), and Karl Andersen.

Sara will speak to Crossroads UCC to see if they will sponsor New Mission Church through the process.

New Business

Council read proposed resolution from Committee on Ministry regarding authorization of guidelines for granting of Recognition of Standing to persons serving in Interim Ministry. Council approved the proposal. (Raymond/Lof)

Spring Association Meeting will be either April 26 or May 3 at Congregational UCC in Baxter –Sara will call Baxter church to find which date suits them best.

(A subsequent email message from Sara says that they have chosen May 3rd.)

Council discussed mileage reimbursement for members of the Advisory Council. It was decided that those who need reimbursed may turn in their mileage and will be reimbursed at the volunteer rate of \$.14 per mile.

Rich announced several upcoming events:

- Thursday, February 12 - "Why Bother With the Church?" Presenter: Gus Nelson (PCUSA).
- Tuesday & Wednesday, April 14 & 15 - "How I'd be a Pastor if I Knew Then What I Know Today" Steve Sterner - UCC Executive Director - Local Church Ministries. This will be our Annual Clergy Retreat. The event will be held outside Boone, IA.
- Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5 & 6 -- Leadership for Contextually Sensitive Congregational Revitalization. Led by Michael Montgomery from the Illinois Conference. More info will be forthcoming. This even will be held at Pilgrim Heights.

Next meeting of the Association Advisory Council will be March 7th, at 9:00 a.m. in Newton.

Joel Love, Secretary