

**47th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUNE 12-13, 2009
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER,
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA**

SEEING VISIONS... DREAMING DREAMS...

June 12, 2009

Moderator Sharon Guffey-Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Moderator Guffey-Lewis introduced the other persons at the dais. They included Charles Aurand, parliamentarian; Mary Stonebraker, Secretary; and Tim Darmour-Paul, Assistant Moderator. After verifying the delegate count, Moderator Guffey-Lewis announced that there was a quorum present for the conduct of business.

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting

2009 AM-1. M/S to approve the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting as presented. Approved unanimously.

Report of Annual Meeting Task Force

Arlene Drennan presented the report of the Annual Meeting Task Force.

Introduction of Guests

Moderator Guffey-Lewis introduced the guests in attendance at the Annual Meeting: Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of the Justice and Witness Ministry; Rev. Donald Hiscox, Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest; Marlene Hummel, Iowa representative of United Church of Christ Insurance Board; Sharon Strohmaier, Executive Director of Iowa Religious Media Services, Inc.; Aaron Lauer and Stella Schoen on behalf of CUE; and Julie Eberbach of Our Sacred Space, Inc.

2009 AM-2. M/S to grant the introduced visitors voice without vote for the Annual Meeting. Approved unanimously.

Report of Nominating Committee

The Chair of the Board Directors, Laura Lof, presented the following nominations as the report of the Board acting as the Conference Nominating Committee:

Moderator:	Tim Darmour-Paul, Davenport, Faith UCC (Clergy)
Assistant Moderator:	Joyce Fisher, Sioux City, First Congregational UCC (Lay)
Secretary (2-yr Term):	Mary Stonebraker, Eldora, Iowa Falls First Congregational UCC (Licensed)

Board of Directors

At-Large (3-yr Term):	Sharon Guffey-Lewis, Walnut, Peace UCC (Clergy/Retired)
Ass'n Representatives, Class of 2012 (3-yr Term):	
Central:	Joel Love, Reinbeck, Union Congregational UCC (Clergy)
Northeast:	Marilyn Sargent, Tripoli, Faith UCC (Clergy)

Northwestern: Karl Whiteman, Milford, Union Memorial Church (Clergy)
Southeastern: Carl Vass, Danville, Olds UCC (Licensed)
Continuing to Serve:
2010 Eastern Iowa: David Mears, Clarence, St. John's UCC (Clergy)
2010 Northeast: Dick Douglas, Cedar Falls, The UCC (Lay)
2010 Northwestern: Bill Howie, Manson, UCC Congregational (Licensed)
2010 Southwestern: Brian Wohlhuter, Minden, UCC (Clergy)
2010 At-Large: To be named
2011 Central: Laura Lof, Grinnell, UCC Congregational (Lay)
2011 Eastern Iowa: To be named
2011 Northeast: Jim Altenbaumer, Cedar Falls, The UCC (Clergy)
2011 Northwestern: John Noer, Onawa, First Congregational UCC (Clergy/Retired)
2011 At-Large: To be named
2011 At-Large: David Nelson, Des Moines, Plymouth Congregational UCC (Lay)
Treasurer: Larry Hanon, Tipton, First Congregational UCC (Lay/appointed)

Mayflower Homes

Board of Trustees, Class of 2012 (3-yr Term)

Elected: Marlene Hunt, Hiawatha, Hope UCC (Lay)
Don Schild, Grinnell, UCC Congregational (Lay)
Appointed: Joseph Deal, Burlington, Zion UCC (Lay)
Continuing to Serve:
2010 Elected: Christopher Burtnett, Schleswig, UCC (Clergy)
Gayle V. Strickler, Jr., Marshalltown, Urbandale UCC (Clergy)
2010 Appointed: Marjorie Groves, Jewell, Webster City First Congregational UCC (Lay)
2011 Elected: Joanne Andersen, Des Moines, Urbandale UCC (Lay)
Steve Langerud, Grinnell, UCC Congregational (Lay)
2011 Appointed: To be named

General Synod Delegates

Class of 2009:

Michael Dack, Newton, Congregational UCC (Clergy/Male)
Bob Hamilton, Davenport, Edwards Congregational UCC (Clergy/Male)
Edwin Moreano, Monticello, United Church of Monticello (Clergy/Male)
To be named (Lay/Male)
Patricia Aurand, Mason City, First Congregational UCC (Clergy/Female)
Barbara Brandt, Reinbeck, Union Congregational UCC (Lay/Female)
Allyson Jolynn Lloyd, Mapleton, Rodney UCC (Lay/Female)
Mackenzie Lorenzen, Tipton, First UCC (Lay/Female Under 30)
Leslie Sheridan, Des Moines, Urbandale UCC (Lay/Female)

Class of 2011:

Phillip Corr, Charles City, First Congregational UCC (Clergy/Male)
Ben Ewert, Harlan Congregational UCC (Lay/Male Under 30)
Chris Portero Paff, Council Bluffs, St. John's UCC (Lay/Male Under 30)
Jim Ritters, Burlington, Zion UCC (Lay/Male)
Jess Thomason, Lake View, First Congregational UCC (Lay/Male)
Ken Wells, Sioux City, Onawa First Congregational UCC/Blencoe UCC (Lay/Male)
Elizabeth Dilley, Red Oak, First Congregational UCC (Clergy/Female)
Marilyn Sargent, Tripoli, Faith UCC (Clergy/Female)
Pamela Cook, Decorah, Congregational UCC (Lay/Female)
Hannah Filkins, Hartley, Trinity UCC (Lay/Female Under 30)
To be named (Lay/Female)

2009 AM-3. M/S to approve the Report of the Nominating Committee as presented.
Approved unanimously.

Other Reports and Presentations

The following persons presented reports and/or information as indicated:

1. Laura Lof—report of the Board of Directors.
2. Rev. Linda Jaramillo—greetings from the national setting of the United Church of Christ.
3. Larry Hanon, Treasurer—budget for the year beginning January 1, 2010.
4. Rev. Gayle Strickler, Jr.—report of the Commission on Ministry and report on disaster relief efforts in the Conference in 2008 and 2009.
5. Bob Mann—report on operations of Mayflower Homes.
6. Julie Eberbach—report on operations of and upcoming programming planned by Our Sacred Space, Inc.
7. Conference staff—recognition of new and retired clergy.
8. Conference Minister Pleva—introduction of honored lay women and General Synod delegates.
9. Sharon Strohmaier—report on operations of Iowa Religious Media Services, Inc.

Recess

The meeting was recessed for the day at 3:10 p.m.

June 13, 2009

Moderator Guffey-Lewis reconvened the Annual Meeting at 8:40 a.m. The first item of business was the introduction of Marilynne Robinson, the author of *Housekeeping*, *Gilead* and *Home*. Ms. Robinson will deliver the message at the closing worship ceremony. The Annual Meeting also received the greetings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), delivered by Rev. Don Hiscox.

CUE Report

Stella Schoen delivered the CUE report.

Annual Report to the Iowa Conference/Recognition of Covenant-Keeper Congregations

CM Pleva delivered the Annual Report to the Iowa Conference. During his report, he recognized the Covenant-Keeper congregations for the year 2008.

Election

The chair of the Board of Directors, Laura Lof, announced that there was an addition to the report of the Nominating Committee. Rev. Elizabeth Dilley has been nominated to serve as a representative of the Iowa Conference on the board of directors of Our Sacred Space, Inc.

2009 AM-4. M/S to accept the nomination of Rev. Dilley as an addition to the Nominating Committee report, to close nominations and to declare the nominees elected. Approved unanimously.

2010 Budget

2009 AM-5. M/S to approve the 2010 budget as presented. Approved, with all voting

“Aye” except for one vote of “Nay”.

National OCWM Contribution Adjustment

2009 AM-6. M/S to adopt the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the ratio for sharing congregational giving to OCWM with the national setting of the UCC shall be increased to 37% if the total undesignated congregational giving for OCWM exceeds the budgeted amount for 2010 by at least \$10,000. Approved unanimously.

2010 Compensation Guidelines

2009 AM-7. M/S to adopt the changes recommended by the Commission on Ministry and approved by the Board of Directors to the 2009 Compensation Minimums for the Iowa Conference and to adopt the Compensation Minimums as amended as the 2010 Compensation Minimums. Approved with all voting “Aye” except for two votes of “Nay”.

Moderator Guffey-Lewis declared the meeting in recess at 9:45 a.m. for the installation of newly elected persons. Moderator Guffey-Lewis reconvened the meeting at 9:55.

Resolution of Thanks

2009 AM-8. Moderator-Elect Tim Darmour-Paul offered the following resolution of thanks for the 2009 Annual Meeting, which was approved by acclamation:

WHEREAS we have come together as the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ to participate in this body’s 47th Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS the Spirit of God is inspiring and challenging us to see visions and dream dreams of new ways to be faithful members and fruitful congregations in our various settings of ministry; and

WHEREAS many people have generously share and are still generously offering their energies to bring us together for these purposes; and

WHEREAS heartfelt gratitude is our most appropriate response to such a sharing of gifts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we lift grateful hearts to the Annual Meeting Task Force, which devoted many hours over the course of many months to envision all the necessary details for giving shape to this meeting. We especially thank the Chair, Arlene Drennan, who pushed the Task Force of Sharon Guffey-Lewis, Tim Darmour-Paul, Chuck Aurand, Michael Bausch, Gary Chapman, Bev Field, Joyce Hertz, Mary Huffman, John Mathias, and Peter Wenzel with the perfect blend of understanding and fierceness to see their dreams come together wondrously.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we offer special thanks to the worship subcommittee – to Chuck Aurand and Jean Norton and Tommi Boeder – for dreaming up our awesome and awe-inspiring expressions of worship; and thanks to the Friends in

Faith Band and to Mona Terry and to Jean Norton for the energetic and engaging music by which our whole bodies have been moved to participate in praise; and thanks to Donnie Drennan and David Vander Kamp for managing the technology behind the sights and sounds of the whole experience.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we sincerely thank our specially invited guests. Thank you to Rev. Linda Jaramillo who brings her dreams of the church as a people who cause a commotion on behalf of the members of society who have been pushed to the fringes; and thank you to Marilynne Robinson who brings her endearing visions of the historic struggles to be faithful families amidst the Iowa culture; and thanks to the leaders of our “Bytes” – to Gayle Strickler Jr., to Pastor Steve Jewett and Sheryl Banks, to John Mathias, and to Joyce Hertz whose “nibbles” of enthusiasm are giving us ideas for ministries to take home; and thanks to our workshop leaders – to Linda Jaramillo and Marilynne Robinson and Don Hiscox and Paul Lasley and Donnie Drennan and Rich McCarty – for sharing their expertise with us later today, that we may carry new dreams with us from this place.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that we thank all our Conference Staff. We particularly acknowledge Lee Hood who brings together a multitude of dreams and visions from a variety of sources and binds them into packets and papers and booklets to keep us all on track; thanks also to Beverly Morgan, Julia Rendon, and Randy Adams for their more-than-capable background support, all of this through the seemingly endless phase of packing up the Conference office all around them; and thanks to our ministerial staff – to the Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva, to Tony Stoik, to Rev. Jonna Jensen, and to Rev. Nicole Havelka for all the time spent on the road, in our sanctuaries and boardrooms, and occasionally in their offices, for all their dreams of strengthening our local congregations and nurturing our ministries throughout Iowa. Thanks also to the Board of Directors, chaired so graciously and gracefully by Laura Lof, for keeping track of programs and budgets and plans for the workings of the whole Conference.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we offer our gratitude to Our Sacred Space, Iowa Religious Media Services, Mayflower Homes, Souls Desires Bookstore, seminary representatives, and other Marketplace presenters for their diverse visions of ways our congregations can strengthen their ministries. Thanks, too, to all the delegates and visitors who have come together to dream for these two days; and thanks to the churches and families that have been left behind as we have engaged in pursuing these new visions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we thank the Eastern Iowa Association and its Advisory Council for dreaming of hosting us, for inviting us to Cedar Rapids, and for finding these facilities for our gathering. Thanks to the capable staff of the Kirkwood Continuing Education Center – Stephanie Bredman, Heather Mell, Kathy Coleman, and Mary Huffman – for patiently working with all our visions to provide for this lively weekend. And last but not least, thanks to the Rev. Sharon Guffey-Lewis for her calm presence and capable handling of our business these days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we not let our dreaming end with these two days, but that we continue to pursue, in all our settings, the vision of that day when God's justice and peace rule every heart and all the earth.

After the approval of the Resolution of Thanks, Moderator Guffey-Lewis passed the gavel to Moderator-Elect Darmour-Paul, who declared the 47th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Mary Stonebraker, Secretary