

**46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
IOWA CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
JUNE 13-14, 2008  
GRINNELL COLLEGE, GRINNELL, IOWA  
A NEW DAY IS DAWNING**

**June 13, 2008**

Moderator Robert Mann called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Rev. Susan Weier, pastor of UCC Congregational, Grinnell, Iowa, led the meeting in opening worship.

Moderator Mann introduced the other persons present at the podium, Donald Schild, parliamentarian; Mary Stonebraker, Secretary; and Sharon Guffey-Lewis, Vice Moderator.

Secretary Stonebraker reported that there were 60 ministerial delegates and 58 lay delegates in attendance. Moderator Mann declared that a quorum was present.

**2008 AM-1.** Jess Thomason (Lake View First Congregational UCC)/Lois Danger (Ames UCC Congregational) to approve the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting as presented. Approved unanimously.

**2008 AM-2.** Cheryl Lang (Donnellson St. Paul's UCC)/Luverne Schmidt (Klemme Immanuel Reformed UCC) to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented. Approved unanimously.

**2008 AM-3.** Karen Candee (Dubuque First Congregational UCC)/Marge Groves (Webster City First Congregational UCC) to adopt the rules of procedure as presented. Approved unanimously.

CM Pleva introduced the guests who were present

**2008 AM-4.** Richard Pleva (Ankeny UCC)/Jeffrey Filkins (Hartley Trinity UCC) to grant voice without vote to the introduced guests. Approved unanimously.

The following reports were presented:

1. Julie Eberbach presented the report of the annual meeting task force. The members of the task force are Eberbach, Moderator Mann, Vice Moderator Guffey-Lewis, Laura Lof, Rev. Robert Miller and Karryn Oliver, with Phil King and Bryan Serchio acting as music leaders.
2. Sharon Strohmaier, Executive Director of Iowa Religious Media Services, presented a report concerning the August 16, 2008 program entitled "Tools and

Techniques for Tomorrow's Church, to be held at Plymouth Congregational UCC beginning at 8:30 a.m.

3. Rev. Michael Dack presented the nominating committee report, which included the following slate of candidates:

**Moderator:** Rev. Sharon Guffey-Lewis (Atlantic UCC) (Clergy retired)

**Assistant Moderator:** Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul (Davenport Faith UCC) (Clergy)

**Treasurer (appointed):** Larry Hanon (Tipton First UCC) (Lay)

**Board of Directors at large member, Class of 2011** (3-year term): To Be Named

**Board of Directors Association Representatives, Class of 2011** (3-year term):

Central: Laura Lof (Grinnell UCC Congregational) (Lay)

Eastern Iowa: To be named by Association

Northeast: James Altenbaumer (Cedar Falls The UCC) (Clergy)

Northwestern: John Noer (Onawa First Congregational UCC) (Clergy retired)

Southwestern: Merlyn Boege (Anita Congregational UCC) (Lay)

**Iowa Conference Nominating Committee, Class of 2010** (2-year term):

Central: To Be Named

Northwestern: James Cunningham (Eagle Grove UCC) (Licensed)

Southeastern: Michael Bennett (Donnellson St. Paul's UCC) (Lay)

**Mayflower Home Board of Trustees, Class of 2011** (3-year term):

Elected: Joanne Anderson (Urbandale UCC) (Lay)

Elected: To Be Named

Appointed: To Be Named

**General Synod Delegates:**

To fill vacancies in the class of 2007-2009

Northeast: Patti Aurand (Mason City First Cong. UCC) (Female Clergy)

Eastern Iowa: Edward Moreano (Monticello United Church) (Male Clergy)

Northeast: John Attaway (Hubbard Zion UCC) (Male Clergy)

Eastern Iowa: Robert Hamilton (Davenport Edwards UCC) (Male Clergy)

Class of 2009-2011

Northeast: Pamela Cook (Decorah Congregational UCC) (Female Lay)

Marilyn Sargent (Tripoli Faith UCC) (Female Clergy)

Southeastern: JudyAnn Morse (Burlington First UCC) (Female Licensed)

Vacant

Northwestern: Hannah Filkins (Hartley Trinity UCC) (Female Lay Youth)

Jess Thomason (Lake View First Cong. UCC) (Male Licensed)

Southwestern: Elizabeth Dilley (Red Oak First Cong. UCC) (Female Clergy)

Ben Ewert (Harlan Cong. UCC) (Male Lay Youth)

Alternates

Northwestern: Kaitlyn Leemkuil (Humboldt Cong. UCC) (Female Lay Youth)

Northeast: Philip Corr (Charles City First Cong. UCC) (Male Clergy)

Eastern Iowa: Peter Wenzel (Monticello Peace UCC) (Male Clergy)

Continuing from the Class of 2007-2009

Central: Barbara Brandt (Reinbeck Union Cong. UCC) (Female Lay)

Michael Dack (Newton Cong. UCC) (Male Clergy)

Leslie Sheridan (Urbandale UCC) (Female Lay)  
Northwestern: Ally Lloyd (Rodney UCC) (Female Lay Youth)  
Eastern Iowa: Mackenzie Lorenzen (Tipton First UCC) (Female Lay Youth)  
Southwestern: Charles Pleak (Oakland First Cong. UCC) (Male Lay)

**2008 AM-5.** It was moved and approved by acclamation to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

4. Karen Handke, out-going Chair of the Board of Directors presented the report of the Board of Directors.

Edith A Guffey, the Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, was introduced by ACM Ron Eslinger. She brought the greetings of the national setting of the United Church of Christ to the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference.

CM Pleva presented the budget for the 2009 fiscal year. New this year was a Power Point presentation that was prepared by Kenneth Wells, one of the licensed pastors at Onawa First Congregational UCC and Blencoe UCC.

Rev. Dr. Pleva and Associate Conference Ministers Ron Eslinger and Tony Stoik presented a ceremony of recognition for ministers new to the Iowa Conference, ministerial changes within the Iowa Conference and ministers closing their service in the Iowa Conference.

Rev. Gayle Strickler, Jr. read the names of the students-in-care of the various associations and presented the Disaster Response report.

Julie Eberbach presented a report on the operations of Our Sacred Space, Inc. During the report, the representatives of Our Sacred Space, Inc. presented the Conference with a check for \$237,433.14 to pay off the balance on the Pilgrim Heights mortgage.

Moderator Mann declared the meeting in recess at 3:35 p.m.

### **June 14, 2008**

Moderator Mann reconvened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. following a meditation led by ACM Stoik and the necrology service presented by CM Pleva and ACM's Eslinger and Stoik.

Richard L. Guentert, Regional Minister of the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) presented the greetings of our denominational partner to the Iowa Conference.

CM Pleva presented the Conference Minister's report. During the presentation of the report, he recognized the 2007 Covenant Keeper congregations in the Conference. These congregations include the following:

**Gold** (Congregations which gave Basic OCWM in an amount greater than 15% of their annual operating budget)

Dubuque – First Congregational UCC	25.96%
Burlington – Zion UCC	25.89%
Muscatine – Faith UCC	21.22%
Belmond – UCC	20.90%
Rowan – United Church	16.11%
Grinnell – UCC Congregational	15.95%
Kingsley – Congregational UCC	15.07%

Lacking current operating budget information, the following are estimates:

Ottumwa – Phoenix UCC	>25%
Urbandale – United Church of Christ	~20%
Sioux City – First Congregational UCC	~19%

**Silver** (Congregations which gave Basic OCWM in an amount greater than 10% of their annual operating budget, but less than 15%)

Hartley – Trinity UCC	13.98%
Webster City – First Congregational UCC	13.20%
Griswold (Lyman) – St John UCC	12.69%
Hubbard – Zion UCC	12.54%
Whiting – First Congregational UCC	12.41%
Geneva – St Peter’s UCC	12.24%
Waterloo – First Congregational UCC	12.18%
Madrid – Garden Prairie UCC	11.76%
Tipton – First UCC	11.53%
Davenport – Edwards Congregational UCC	11.01%
Ryan – Golden Congregational Church	10.84%
Indianola – Crossroads UCC	10.35%
Fredericksburg – Peace UCC	10.21%

Lacking current operating budget information, the following are estimates:

Ankeny – Ankeny UCC	~11%
Alden – Immanuel Memorial UCC	~10%

Thanks to God for these generous supporters of our common mission!

Moderator Mann reviewed the report of the Nominating Committee and opened the nominations for nominations from the floor. Gayle Strickler, Jr. (Marshalltown First UCC) nominated Donald Schild and Steve Langerud to serve as elected representatives to the Mayflower Home Board of Trustees Class of 2011 (3-year term). There were no other

nominations from the floor for any position.

**2008 AM-6.** James Altenbaumer (Cedar Falls The UCC)/Paul Johnson (Ames UCC Congregational) to close the nominations and declare those nominated to be elected. Approved unanimously.

**2008 AM-7.** Richard Pleva (Ankeny UCC)/David Nelson (Des Moines Plymouth Congregational UCC) to approve the 2009 budget. Approved unanimously.

**2008 AM-8.** Karen Handke (on behalf of the Board of Directors)/Elizabeth Dilley (Red Oak First Congregational UCC) to amend Article 1, Section 3(a) of the Bylaws of the Iowa Conference to read as follows:

Section 3. Voting Delegates, Numbers, Terms:

- (a) Every member church in the associations recognized by this Conference shall be entitled to two voting delegates (not including ministers as provided for in Section 2). Churches with membership over five hundred (500) shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 500 members or fraction thereof. The delegates shall be elected or appointed as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the church they represent, and they shall hold office for one (1) year, or until their successors are elected.

Approved unanimously

**2008 AM-9.** Karen Handke (on behalf of the Board of Directors)/Jess Thomason (Lake View First Congregational UCC) to adopt the changes recommended by the Commission on Ministry and approved by the Board of Directors to the 2008 Compensation Minimums for the Iowa Conference and to adopt the Compensation Minimums as amended as the 2009 Compensation Minimums. Approved unanimously.

Moderator Mann declared the meeting in recess at 9:45 a.m. for the installation of newly elected persons.

Moderator Mann reconvened the meeting at 9:55.

**2008 AM-10.** Moderator-elect Sharon Guffey-Lewis offered the following resolution of thanks for the 2008 Annual Meeting:

A Resolution of Thanks offered by Sharon Guffey-Lewis for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference.

**WHEREAS** we have gathered here as the family of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ, it is fitting that we recognize the many people who have labored faithfully over the last several months to make our gathering possible and

**WHEREAS** through the power of the Holy Spirit and the presence of God we have come together to live out our covenant with each other and with God;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we offer our sincere thanks to the following:

We thank the members of the Annual Meeting Task Force, who, under the capable leadership of Julie Eberbach spent hours planning this event. Julie Eberbach, Rev. Michael Dack, Laura Lof, Kerryn Oliver, Rev. Bob Miller, John Mathias, Rev. Sharon Guffey-Lewis, Kim Grimaldi, and Bob Mann – we thank you for your good work.

Especially to Kim Grimaldi, Bob Miller, and Kerryn Oliver, for your creative gifts in art and music we are grateful, and to Bryan Serchio, who always calls us to be accountable and responsible through his music. You made our environment and our worship times very meaningful.

We thank our ever vigilant Conference Support Staff, Beverly Morgan and Lee Hood. Your wise counsel and dedication to details made our task much easier. You are appreciated.

We thank our Board of Directors, under the able leadership of Karen Handke, for the faithful and wise decisions you have made this past year, even when you knew some in the Conference would not agree.

We thank our Conference Minister, Rev. Rich Pleva for his willingness to stand firm, yet with grace and love, as he guided this Conference into a “new day” and our Associate Conference Ministers, Rev. Ron Eslinger and Tony Stoik for your fine leadership and counsel to the Associations you staff. And to Ruby Pleva, Rich’s patient partner in life.

We thank our inspiring preachers and workshop leaders, Rev. Arlene Nehring, Rev. Da Vita McCallister and from our National Staff Associate General Minister Edith Guffey. Your willingness to come and be with us during these 2 days is much appreciated.

We thank the other workshop leaders for your willingness to say yes when asked to share your expertise and for broadening our understanding in many areas.

We thank our youth and their leaders. You call us all to be ever vigilant about being inclusive of all ages and we thank you for making us accountable and we wish we had your energy.

We thank you, the delegates and pastors of our large and small churches across this conference. You are the people who are the REAL Iowa Conference and were it not for you none of the previously mentioned people would need to meet, plan or be here. As Rich tells us so often “it is all about the church”.

We thank you, our visitors for coming and being a part of our gathering. We hope you

found your time here to be inspiring, educational and enjoyable. Please join us again.

We thank the many volunteers who came forward to help in any way and all the folks who displayed in the Market Place.

Finally to our witty, detailed oriented and faithful Moderator Bob Mann we say thank you.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we are ALL called to live out our witness to Jesus Christ in our various places where we minister and so when we leave later today may we go with renewed energy for the New Day that is surely dawning in our Conference, our wider church and our world.

After presenting the Resolution of thanks, Rev. Guffey-Lewis led the assembly in singing the Doxology. At the close of the Doxology, Moderator Mann passed the gavel to Moderator-elect Rev. Guffey-Lewis, who, at 10:02 a.m., declared the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference adjourned.

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Mary Stonebraker, Secretary