

**Western North Carolina Association
United Church of Christ**

We Are...Acting on Gratitude

WNCA Annual Gathering
Saturday, October 4, 2014

Order for Worship with Attention to Business

We Gather with God and Each Other & Establish Our Intent

9:00 Prelude "Meditation" Alexandre Guilmant
Mr. Michael Leggett

***Call to the Gathering and Call to Worship** Rev. Nathan King
One Voice: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

Many Voices: *With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity – with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.*

One: And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

Many: *O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.*

One: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

Many: *Out of gratefulness for these blessings, lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.*

All: *Praise be to God.*

***Hymn of Praise** This Is My Song NCH No. 591

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Welcome and Greetings from Our Host - Abernethy Laurels

Welcome of Guests and Newcomers Rev. Nathan King

9:20 Greetings from the Southern Conference – UCC Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

9:30 Introduction of Business Rev. Nathan King

Appointment of Parliamentarian – Mr. David Abernethy
Establishment of a Quorum
Adoption of the Agenda
Adoption of Standing Rules

Gathering with Gratitude for God's Presence

Reading of Holy Scripture

Genesis 15:1-15

Introduction of Speaker

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

Message

A Covenant is a Covenant

Rev. Eddie Weathers

*Hymn of Joy

Joys are Flowing Like a River

NCH No. 284

10:00 Break (15 minutes)

10:15 Presentations from Partners

We Offer Our Gifts and Give Thanks

Call to Generosity

Elizabeth Schiemann

One: God gives generously and without wavering to our families, our communities, our churches, and us. Reflecting on the richness of God's gifts, we must ask ourselves, do we give out of the fullness of our lives or do we hold back in fear? Friends, today we ask that you share out of your fullness, so that together we can share in work that can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Offertory

"Andante"

W. Warder Harvey

(Your offering today will help support the joint ministries of the three Associations we are in covenant with through the Southern Conference. The WNCA Board also asks all members to consider a pledge to the Southern Conference in gratitude for the staff support, services, and ministry we are acting on together.)

*Doxology (tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN - To You, O God, All Creatures Sing)

Prai - se God, from whom all bless-ings flow! Prai - se God, all creat-ures here be-low!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Prai - se God, a - bove, you heaven-ly hosts! Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Ho-ly Ghost!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

10:45 Introduction of Small Discussions

Board Member

Purpose: To learn, listen, and engage with each other through small group discussions about topics important to our mission and ministry in the Western North Carolina Association.

Delegates should choose to participate in one of the eight discussion groups:

- Legal Update: General Synod of the UCC v. Cooper
Rev. Dr. Davis
- Preparing Your Congregation for Disaster: "Being An Advocate in Community Recovery"
Mr. Jon R. Wallace, MSW, M.Div.
- Financial Workshop
Nancy Beard
- UCC Retirement Communities & PACE
Lee Syria
- Unified Budget (Southern Conference and three Associations)
Rev. Nathan King
- UCC Social Justice Opportunities (SOC Resolutions)
Rev. Julie Peebles
- Work Camps/ Johns River Valley Camp
Ronnie Holste & Rev. Curly Stumb

***12:00 Blessing Over the Gifts and Meal**

Rev. William Vanderburg

Lunch

One: Generous God, who has given all that we may eat and live: We give thanks for what has been given to make our food available for our eating together. For those who have worked early and late, for those who have transported and prepared, for Earth which has nurtured and fed us, we give great thanks. Take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring a brighter day of justice and love, not just in our community, but in the world beyond these walls. Through these gifts and our eating together, strengthen our church, and the whole United Church of Christ, that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace.

All: Amen.

We Learn Together and Attend to Business

12:45 Reconvene and Share Discussion Highlights

1:00 Care of the Western NC Association (Business)

Rev. Nathan King
Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson

Approval of the 2014 Minutes

Consideration of 2014 Spending Plan for Ministry
(*Note:* includes dues increase)

Mr. Doug Sink

Report of the Nominating Committee
Presentation of Nominees
Nominees from Floor
Elections

Mrs. June Grubb

Report of the Church and Ministry Commission

Rev. Mark Burns

Unfinished Business

Rev. Nathan King

New Business

Spring Meeting - March 7, 2015 (tentative)
Next Annual Meeting October 3, 2015

Commissioning of Ministers

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

We Come to the Table

2:00 Celebration of Holy Communion

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

(Holy Communion will be offered at each of the four corners of the room. By row, please follow the direction of the ushers from the center aisle and return to your seats by the outer aisles).

Invitation to the Meal

One: This is the joyful feast of the people of God! We've gathered from Tryon to Asheboro, from Eden and Browns Summit to Boone and Charlotte to gather around Christ's table, giving hope and meeting with gratitude for our life together. This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Call to Confession

One: God calls us in our lives to be like the grain of wheat, which dies, letting go of one form in order to be transformed into new, and fuller life. And we often fear the risk and change which new growth involves. Let us ponder for a moment the places of our lives where we may be resisting God moving in our lives. (silence)

Prayer of Confession

All: *Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family blessed with great diversity. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray to be transformed.*

Time of Reflection

Loving God, you restore us to each other and to you, mending our hearts and repairing the world. Through the power of your Spirit, you shape us to be for others what Christ is for us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing. We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and constant presence. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks for the mercy of God.

***Communion Prayer and Prayer of our Savior** (using “debts” and “debtors”)

One: God be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: *We lift them to God!*

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

All: *It is right to God thanks and praise!*

One: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

Because you have done the completely unexpected deed, because you have raised Jesus to eternal life, because you grant us the presence of the risen Christ among us, because you offer eternal life to those who trust in you, we praise and magnify your name.

We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy:

*Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty,
the whole Universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the Highest!*

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ comes again.
Glory be to you, O God!*

We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore Earth with your grace that is able to make all things new. Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. We pray now as Jesus taught us...

Our God who art in heaven...

***Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup**

One: The bread which we break is the brokenness of the body of Christ.
The cup that we pour is the new life Christ gives.
The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

***Sharing the Elements**

*Hymn of Communion As We Gather At the Table NCH No. 332

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: Let us give thanks.
All: *Almighty God, our gratitude for your Son's presence is like water flowing over the brim of a cup. Help us to walk forward together in gratefulness for this shared meal with a shared vision of the work You call us to, understanding that our shared faith and the sustenance of this table will enable us to achieve that work you call us to do. Let us truly be your hands and feet in a world that searches for your presence. Amen.*

***2:30 Benediction and Sending Forth**

Rev. Nathan King

***Postlude**

"Finale"

Louis Vierne

September 27, 2014

Worship Leaders

Musician: Mr. Michael Leggett

Preacher: Rev. Eddie Weathers

Parliamentarian: David Abernethy

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jerry Rhyne, Minister for Church Affairs

Rev. Nathan King, President, WNCA Board of Directors

Rev. Mark Burns, Co-Chair, Church and Ministry Commission

Rev. William Vanderburg, Pastor

Elizabeth Schiemann, Vice-president, WNCA Board of Directors

Communion Servers and Ushers are Board Members of the Western NC Association

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession adapted from UCC Web Resources for Labor Sunday

http://www.ucc.org/justice/worker-justice/labor-sunday/worship-resources.html#Calls_to_Worship.

Parts of the Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Nathan King.

Hymns are from The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995 The Pilgrim Press.