

**Western North Carolina Association
46th Annual Gathering
Abernethy Laurels - Newton, NC
October 5, 2013
MINUTES**

Worship Service began at 9:40 a.m. with a call to the Gathering and worship from president, Doug Sink.

Theme: We are... Growing Vital Churches

Welcome from our Host, Abernethy Laurels, by Rev. Larry Bolick.

Doug Sink, president, welcomed of guests and newcomers as listed in the meeting packet (p. 9). Ms. Brenda James offered a special presentation to recognize the WNCA woman of the year, and asked Faye Humphry, Margie Weavil (previous Southern Conference women of the year) to join her in recognizing Mrs. Eugenia Holste.

Greetings from the Southern Conference offered by Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister. Staff is working to build relationships within our conference, to build unity through presence. Together they have visited over 100 of the churches in the conference this year. This year the Conference board is working on a strategic effort to strengthen the conference, along with support from the national setting, and the Associations.

We have work to do as the Church, in becoming a mission-minded, justice-hearted conference. We must proclaim a prophetic faith and discern God's prophetic agenda and realize that we must be doers of the Word.

Appointment of the Parliamentarian - Rev. Warren Cassiday was appointed.

Establishment of a Quorum -

Registrar: Mrs. Heather Burns

WNCA ministers - 56

Delegates - 51

Quorum met - 107 total

Adoption of the Agenda - Motion: to adopt the agenda by Jim Staunton and seconded by Tom Hamilton. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Adoption of the Standing Rules - Motion: to adopt the standing rules by Rev. William Sowers and seconded by Rev. William Vanderbrug. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Listen to the Still Speaking God

Scripture brought by Rev. Kristin Gerner-Vaughn (Luke 8:26-39).

Rev. Jerry Rhyne introduced our speaker, Rev. Brenda Lewis. Rev. Lewis offered a sermon titled "Vitality and Stability".

Workshop began at 11:00 a.m., with speaker Rev. David Schoen. The first part of his presentation focused on being missional in purpose, where he shared the tool www.missioninsite.com.

Presentation from Partners

Rev. Margot Pickett shared information from the PLD program and the new Communities of Practice discussion groups for pastors.

Rev. Curly Stumb shared information regarding his communication role in the conference and as director of Johns River Valley Camp, and its new "CAMPAign".

Rev. Craig Schaub and Rev. Rene Griffin (Wentz Memorial) shared information about their churches intentional work together, and challenged other congregations to pursue intentional social justice work in their communities.

Rev. Vivian Lucas brought greetings from Franklinton Center at Bricks, and shared information about their new visioning process.

Heather Burns, WNCA Administrative Assistant, shared that the Conference will be hosting the national administrative support staff conference this spring, and encouraged churches to make sure their support staff can attend.

Offering was collected to support the spring discipleship/informational workshop that WNCA will host this spring.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and the session resumed at 1:40 p.m. with the second part of Rev. Schoen's presentation. The business portion of the meeting resumed at 2:53 p.m.

Approval of 2012 Minutes- Elizabeth Schiemann, secretary

Motion: to approve minutes as presented by Richard Weidler and seconded by Carol Williams Swoope. There was no discussion and the motion carries.

Budget - David Samson, treasurer

Reviewed financial documents (pp 20-24). Financial situation is sound, at this time. About 2/3 of expected per capita giving has been received to-date. The proposed ministry plan is reflected in the Budget column titled

Motion: to approve the Treasurer's report and proposed ministry plan for 2014 by David Samson and seconded by Barbara Rathbun. There was no discussion and the motion carries.

Report of the Nominating Committee- David Crook, chair of the Nominating Committee (page 14)

Rev. Crook presented the nominees.

Motion: to adopt the officers nominated by the committee by Rev. Crook and seconded by Barbara Rathbun. There were no nominations from the floor. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

There is a remaining lay person vacancy in the Catawba District as well as in the Rowan District. The report omitted Rev. Craig Schaub, nominee for the Church and Ministry Commission.

Motion: to accept nominations for Board of Directors and Church and Ministry Commission, with the addition of Rev. Craig Schaub to those nominated to the Church and Ministry Commission by Rev. Crook and seconded by Barbara Rathbun.

No discussion, motion carries.

Report of Church and Ministry Commission - Rev. Colleen Samson, acting chairperson

*Motion- to accept recommended candidates for ordination pending a call by Rev. Samson (no second required). There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Rev. Samson also welcomed the ministers who have joined our association from other associations and recognized ministers who passed away this year. She also presented Wedgewood Church, in Charlotte, NC and the discernment path it has walked with the Association in the past year.

Motion: that WNCA, with recommendation from the Church and Ministry Commission and the WNCA Board of Directors grant standing in the WNCA for Wedgewood Church by Rev. Samson and seconded by Barbara Rathbun.

No discussion, motion carries.

Rev. Samson concluded by recognizing minister's who celebrate ordination anniversaries of 50, 55 or 60 years.

Unfinished business

Larry Bolick, spoke on behalf of the E&R Historical Society noting a fundraising effort by the ERHS to archive the reformed church's records at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

New Business

Spring Meeting to be held in early March and amended the next Annual Gathering date to October 4, 2013.

Ms. James spoke to the delegates asking that we be sensitive to all members of the UCC, and charged that the planning committee be more representative, especially regarding WNCA's African American churches' participation in the meeting for next year.

Rev. Rhyne and the Board took a moment of privilege to thank Doug Sink for his service as president over the past few years.

Elections/Commissioning

Those elected to the Board and Church and Ministry Commission came forward and Rev. Jerry Rhyne conducted the service of commissioning for these members along with Rev. Davis. He offered prayer for these new officers and representatives and their work in our Association, and welcomed them to their positions.

Celebration of Communion

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth A. Schiemann, Secretary