

Western North Carolina Association
United Church of Christ
We Are... Growing Vital Churches!



WNCA Annual Meeting

October 5, 2013

Order for Worship with Attention to Business

We Gather With God and Each Other and Establish Our Intent

- Prelude "Let Them Praise his Name in the Dance" D. Wagner
Mr. Michael Leggett
- 9:30 a.m. *Call to the Gathering and Call to Worship Mr. Doug Sink,
President WNCA
- One: In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. We gather this day as the Western North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ.
- All: Remind us, O God, of our covenant with one another and with you.
- One: We gather this day for worship with attention to how we are organized, and what our purpose is, within that covenant.
- All: Remind us, O God, that our purpose is to engage in ministries of good news, both as individuals and as congregations.
- One: We gather to learn from each other and to be inspired by our gathering to be vital and lively congregations.
- All: Meet us here, O God, bringing healing and wholeness, filling us with your energetic and life-giving love. Amen.
- *Hymn of Praise "God Reigns o'er All the Earth" NCH No. 21
- *Passing the Peace of Christ
- Welcome and Greetings from Our Host - Abernethy Laurels Rev. Larry Bolick
- Welcome of Guests and Newcomers Mr. Doug Sink
Ms. Brenda James
- 9:50 Greetings from the Southern Conference - UCC Rev. Dr. Edward Davis,
Southern Conference Minister

10:00	Appointment of Parliamentarian Establishment of a Quorum Adoption of the Agenda Adoption of Standing Rules	Mr. Doug Sink
-------	---	---------------

We Listen for the Still-Speaking God

Reading of Holy Scripture	Luke 8:26-39	Rev. Kristin Gerner-Vaughn
Introduction of Speaker		Rev. Jerry Rhyne
Centering Reflection	"Largo" from Concerto in D minor	A. Vivaldi
Sermon	"Vitality and Stability"	Rev. Brenda Lewis
*Hymn of Vitality	"They Did Not Build in Vain"	NCH No. 373
Introduction of Workshop Leader		Rev. Colleen Samson
10:45 Break 15 minutes		
11:00	Workshop Part I	"Growing Vital Churches" Rev. David Schoen
Noon	Presentations from Partners Rev. Margot Pickett, Rev. Curly Stumb, Rev. Craig Schaub, Heather Burns	

We Offer Our Gifts and Give Thanks

Call to Generosity	Rev. Nathan King	
	One: God has richly provided all we need for our congregations' vitality. What are we doing with our wealth? How much of our churches' resources are we investing in inviting others into the place of God's life-giving presence? May our dedicated dollars reflect a growing, generous association of United Churches of Christ.	
Offertory	"Choral Dorian"	Jehan Alain
	<i>(Your offering today will help provide ministries of pastoral and educational excellence in the WNCA.)</i>	
*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 creatures here be-low! AHe - lu - ia! AHe - lu - ia!	
	Prai - se God, a - bove, you heav-en-ly hosts! Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Ho-ly Ghost!	
	AHe - lu - ia! AHe - lu - ia! AHe - lu - ia! AHe - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!	
*Blessing Over the Gifts and Meal		

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.

12:30 Lunch

We Learn Together and Attend to Business

1:15	Workshop Part II	Growing Vital Churches	Rev. David Schoen
2:15	Break		
2:20	Care of the Western NC Association (Business)		Mr. Doug Sink
	Approval of the 2012 Minutes		
	Consideration of 2014 Spending Plan for Ministry		Mr. David Samson, WNCA Treasurer
	Report of the Nominating Committee		Rev. David Crook
	Presentation of Nominees		
	Nominees from Floor		
	Elections		
	Report of the Church and Ministry Commission		Rev. Colleen Samson
	Unfinished Business		
	New Business: 2014 Spring Meeting		
	Next Annual WNCA Business Meeting October 7, 2014		
	Commissioning of Ministers		Rev. Jerry Rhyne

We Come to the Table

3:15 Celebration of Holy Communion

(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 about Christ's table, giving hope and energizing 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.

3

*invites all who are able to please stand.

Call to Confession

One: God calls us in our lives to be like the grain of wheat which dies, which lets 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

One: When we resist your call to change our congregations and make it easier for others to find us, we withhold your good news.

All: God have mercy.

One: When we make assumptions that newcomers know everything we know because "we've always done it that way,"

All: Christ have mercy.

One: When we show up too late on Sunday morning and are in a state of mind that can't even think about welcoming someone new, much less actually assisting them gracefully to be comfortable and at ease among us,

All: God have mercy.

One: When we let the comforts of our current structures and ways get in *the way* of those coming by your way,

All: Spirit, change us.

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 Father/Mother 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

Communion Hymn

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

NCH No. 347

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Let us give thanks.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully and vitally proclaim the good news of your love, that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world: through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Nathan King

One: Deep in our hearts, we know that we are children of God and that our good news is for sharing. Deep in our hearts, we know that we are called to be vital in our communities. Go forth, then, remembering who you are, walking in the assurance of God's presence and love, and extravagantly inviting and welcoming others into your life together. And may the God of the Universe, full of vigor and vitality, be with you always, strengthening you for the living of your days and for the welcoming of others into your ministries. Now, may the grace and peace of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you in all your days.

All: Amen.

Postlude

"Go Make a Difference"

T. Tomaszek

Worship Leaders

Musician: Mr. Michael Leggett, Trinity UCC, Concord, NC

Preacher: Rev. Brenda Lewis, Chaplain, Care Partners Hospice, Member First Congregational UCC, Asheville

Worship Leaders: Mr. Doug Sink, President, WNCA Board of Directors

Rev. Jerry Rhyne, Minister for Church Affairs

Rev. Colleen Samson, Acting Chair, Church and Ministry Commission, Pastor of Bethany UCC, Claremont

Rev. Nathan King, Vice-president, WNCA Board of Directors, Pastor of Trinity Reformed UCC, Concord

Workshop Presenter: Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader, UCC Evangelism Ministry Team

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

Rev. Kristin Gerner-Vaughn, Pastor of Brick UCC, Whitsett

Rev. Robin Keating, WNCA Board member, Pastor of First Reformed UCC, Lexington

Rev. Jerry Rhyne, WNCA Minister for Church Affairs

Rev. Colleen Samson, Church and Ministry Commission, Pastor of Bethany UCC, Claremont

David Samson, Treasurer, WNCA Board of Directors

Rev. William Sowers, Pastor of Hedrick's Grove UCC, Lexington

Elizabeth Schiemann, WNCA Board of Directors, Secretary

Rev. Lloyd Spencer, Pastor of Mt. Hope UCC, Whitsett

Rev. Bob Thompson, Pastor of Corinth Reformed Church, Hickory

Prayers and Liturgy were prepared by Rev. Nathan King. The Communion Prayer is adapted from the Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, copyright 1986, Office for Church Life and Leadership. The Call to Confession and Assurance of Grace is from O God of Our Hearts: Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, was written by the Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and the Rev. Susan A. Blain of the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team. Copyright 2009 Local Church Ministries, Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

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