

Western North Carolina Association United Church of Christ

What does it mean to belong?

WNCA Annual Gathering
Saturday, October 3, 2015

Agenda and Order of Worship

** Indicates a time to stand for all who are able*

We Gather with God and Each Other & Establish Our Intent

9:20 Prelude

Musician – Ms. Judy Conrad

***9:30 Call to the Gathering and Call to Worship**

Elizabeth Schiemann

One Voice: Here in God's presence we are called-

Many Voices: *Called to affirm that we belong together.*

One: Here in God's presence we are called-

Many: *Called to add our voices to those speaking God's truth and love to the World.*

One: Here in the presence of our God we are called-

Many: *Called to use our hands and gifts to care for each other.*

All: *Praise be to God!*

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Welcome and Greetings from Our Host - Abernethy Laurels

Welcome of Guests and Newcomers

Elizabeth Schiemann

9:45 Greetings from the Southern Conference – UCC

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

We Reaffirm our Belonging

10:00 Introduction of Speaker

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

Reading of Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:14-26

Engaging Together

Rev. Tamara Franks

What does it mean to belong?

***Hymn of Belonging**

I Need You to Survive

Sing! Prayer and Praise 184

I need you, you need me. We're all a part of God's body.

Stand with me, come be with me. We're all a part of God's body.

It is God's will, that every need be supplied.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me. I love you, I need you to survive.

I won't harm you with words from my mouth. I love you, I need you to survive.

It is God's will, that every need be supplied.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

11:00 Break (15 minutes)

(We'll resume our time together at 11:15 for the remainder of our discussion about belonging)

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

Lunch

We Attend to the Business of the Association

12:45 Introduction of Business

Elizabeth Schiemann

Appointment of Parliamentarian – Rev. Warren Casiday

Establishment of a Quorum

Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of Standing Rules

1:00 Presentations from Partners

1:15 Care of the Western NC Association

Elizabeth Schiemann

Report of the WNCA Minister for Church Affairs

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

Approval of the 2014 Minutes

Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson

Consideration of 2016 Spending Plan for Ministry

Mr. Doug Sink

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mrs. June Grubb

Presentation of Nominees

Nominees from Floor

Elections

Report of the Church and Ministry Commission

Rev. Mark Burns

Unfinished Business

Elizabeth Schiemann

New Business

Constitution and Bylaws

Spring Meeting - March 5, 2016 (tentative)

Next Annual Meeting October 1, 2016

2:30 Commissioning New Officers and Elected Positions

Rev. Jerry Rhyne and

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

We Offer Our Gifts and Give Thanks

2:45 Stories of Generosity

Ms. Betty Steward

Shinnsville UCC

Offertory

(The offering today will to support two Southern Conference mission priorities (designated by the planning committee): Youth/Young Adults and Supporting Relationships with Institutional Partners, so one-half will help support youth attending National Youth Event and one-half to Abernathy Laurels for the capital campaign.)

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God, above, you heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

A-men.

We Come to the Table

2:55 Celebration of Holy Communion

Rev. Tamara Franks and

Rev. Jerry Rhyne

(Communion will be offered at each corner. Follow your row to the center aisle and return by the outer aisles).

Invitation to the Meal

One: This is the joyful feast of the people of God! We've gathered from across western North Carolina around Christ's table, 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 mustard seed and the leavening of Jesus' parables. We must use our hands to be incorporated into the world and grow. Let us ponder for a moment opportunities that we ignore, keeping God's seeds of justice from germinating or bread for the hungry from rising. (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

All: *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**

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 give 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 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, with our current communities of faith 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 broken 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!*

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... (debts and debtors)

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.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

One: Come for all things are ready.

***Sharing the Elements**

*Hymn of Communion

One Bread, One Body

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: Let us give thanks.

All: *God of welcome, we are so thankful to be called into relationship with each other. Using this meal to sustain us, guide us into Your service. Let us truly be your hands and feet in a world that searches for your presence. Amen.*

***3:30 Benediction and Sending Forth**

Elizabeth Schiemann

***Postlude**

Worship Leaders

Musician: Ms. Judy Conrad

Speaker: Rev. Tamara Franks, High Country UCC

Parliamentarian: Rev. H. Warren Casiday

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jerry Rhyne, WNCA Minister for Church Affairs

Elizabeth Schiemann, President, WNCA Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, SOC Conference Minister

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

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