

**54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference - United Church of Christ
June 12-14, 2015 | College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota**

PLENARY SESSION #1
GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Annual Meeting Planning Work Group (AMPWG) member Rev. Rebecca Voelkel described the arc of worship through the weekend “Diving Deeper”, inviting those present to take risks, encounter each other, recognize faith, and be the body of Christ. She led the body in gathering Open Worship. AMPWG co-chairs Leslie Amundson and Pam DeMarce welcomed delegates and visitors to the 54th Annual Meeting, and invited first-time attendees to stand and be recognized (about 10% of those who registered). Those who have attended previous Annual Meetings were asked to welcome first-time attendees, and join them at meals or break-out times. Amundson introduced last year’s Annual Meeting video project *What does it mean to ‘Be the Church’?* and invited all gathered to participate in this year’s project *How is God Calling You to Go Deeper?* with filmed interviews through Saturday evening. Conference Minister Shari Prestemon welcomed all gathered, and introduced the Conference staff.

Rev. Steve Boorsma, Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Rick Wagner, Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Garth Schumacher, Interim Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Lese Wright, Financial Development Officer

Eric Stoebner, Director of Finance and Operations

Sandy Kellen, Administrative Assistant to the Conference Minister

Marita Karlisch, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Conference Ministers

Zac Norenberg, Administrative Assistant to the ACM of Faith Formation & Registrar for PPC

Gigi Nauer, Pilgrim Point Camp Site Manager and Program Director

Noah Burke and Katy Corbin, Pilgrim Point Camp Assistant Co-Directors

CALL TO ORDER Vice-Moderator Janet Bartz called the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2016.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Secretary of the Conference, Maureen Engelhardt gave the credentials report: 131 delegates representing 57 churches. Bartz declared a quorum for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ORGANIZING MOTIONS

DeMarce and Amundson presenting organizing motions.

Amundson, on behalf of the AMPWG, **moved the approval of the Procedures and Rules Regarding Business Sessions as printed and distributed for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Amundson, on behalf of the AMPWG, **moved the adoption of the Agenda as printed and distributed for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

DeMarce, on behalf of the AMPWG, **moved the acceptance of the written reports as posted on the Minnesota Conference of the UCC website for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

Amundson introduced James Snoxell, member of the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, who will serve as Parliamentarian. Amundson, on behalf of the AMPWG, **moved the appointment of James Snoxell as the Parliamentarian of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

DeMarce, on behalf of the AMPWG, **moved the adoption of the Minutes of the June 2015 Annual Meeting as posted on the Minnesota Conference of the UCC website for the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Motion passed.**

WELCOME

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister, welcomed the delegates and visitors to this 54th Annual Meeting of the Conference.

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

Prestemon **moved that the following honored guests and presenters be approved for Voice without Vote at the 54th Annual Meeting:**

Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon, Acting Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries
Nancy Gibbons, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship
Howard Hawkins, United Church Funds
Josh Larson, Monson Insurance Agency/United Church of Christ Insurance Board
Randy Monson, Monson Insurance Agency/United Church of Christ Insurance Board
Rev. Elaine Kirkland
Lisa Lally

Motion Passed.

Prestemon **moved that Voice with Vote be approved for the following members of the AMPWG and Ministers currently serving member local churches of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ at the 54th Annual Meeting:**

Leslie Amundson, St. Anthony Park UCC
Pam DeMarce, First Congregational UCC, Mankato
Paul Martin, Union Congregational UCC, St Louis Park
Pat Thompson, First Congregational UCC, Mankato
Rev. Dennis McKee, Gaylord UCC
Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Macalester Plymouth United Church

Motion Passed.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Lese Wright gave thanks to the Friends of the Conference, those who have donated to the Minnesota Conference, Pilgrim Point Camp, or New Initiatives. She thanked members of the Development Committee for their work during the year: James Bock, Mary Caroline Henry, Lisa Lindesmith, Roberta Peterson, Mary Kay Sauter, and Kim Shaffer.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Désirée Gold, member of the Committee on Ministry, reported on the work of the Committee on Ministry, referring to the report in the Annual Reports booklet. She highlighted Committee work on specific elements of ministry: Covenant, Authorized Ministry

MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

Gold, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry, **moved that the Minnesota Conference Acting as an Association affirms the Member in Discernment Status Report recommended by the Committee on Ministry and presented as the Registrar's Report in the Annual Report.**

Motion passed.

Members in Discernment for Ordained Ministry in the Minnesota Conference

Name	Church Membership	Rec'd in Discernment	Seminary
Brien Aadland	St Paul's UCC, St Paul	8-13-2014	Bethel Seminary
Vanessa Bradby	Olivet Congregational UCC, St Paul	8-13-2014	Luther Seminary
Jacki Bremer	UCC New Brighton	9-14-2014	UTS
Bonnie Buckley	Linden Hills Congregational, Mpls	4-18-2015	Candler School of Theology
Laura Cannata	Robbinsdale UCC	4-16-2016	UTS
Colin Elliott	UCC New Brighton	3-21-16	UTS
Amber Espinosa	Olivet Congregational, Minneapolis	5-28-1014	UTS
Laura Gatzke	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul	4-19-2012	Luther Seminary
Sam Goodrich	Lyndale UCC, Minneapolis	2-27-2013	UTS
Kathy Hodges	First Congregational, Alexandria	5-28-2014	Chicago Theological
Ben Jaffe-Talberg	Robbinsdale UCC	11-30-2011	Chicago Theological
Keven Johnson-Glassel	Union Cong. UCC, St. Louis Park	1-16-2014	Bethel Seminary
Claire Klein	Lyndale UCC, Mpls	1-14-2016	UTS
Cathy Kolwey	Robbinsdale UCC	8-20-2014	UTS
Peggy Ludlow	St Paul's UCC, St Paul	5-16-2016	UTS
Mercy Monroe	Living Table UCC, Minneapolis	1-16-2014	UTS
Sheri Nelson	First Congregational, Wadena	9-9-2015	UTS
Okogyamon	Cherokee Park United Church, St Paul	12-7-2015	UTS
Matthew Orendorff	St Anthony Park UCC	10-17-2015	Luther Seminary
Kathryn Price	Cherokee Park United Church, St Paul	12-10-2014	UTS
Kelsy Renk	St. Paul's UCC, New Albin, IA	9-18-2013	UTS
Nathan Roberts	Lynnhurst Congregational, Mpls	10-15-2009	Luther Seminary
Anthony Romaine	Peace UCC, St Cloud	10-18-2014	UTS
Erika Sanborne	Living Table UCC, Minneapolis	5-16-2016	Andover Newton
Andrea Tatley	Wayzata Community Church	4-19-2013	UTS
JaNae Westrich	Cottage Grove UCC	3-11-2015	Bethel Seminary

MOVEMENT Elaine Kirkland led an exercise in breathing and gathering in song.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A short video on United Theological Seminary (UTS) entitled "Possibilities" was shown. Prestemon gave thanks for the gift of UTS in our own back yard. She invited those gathered to keep UTS staff and students in their prayers as they roll through waves of change, including the recent resignation of President Dr. Barbara Holmes.

RESOLUTIONS

Bartz introduced Paul Martin of the AMPWG, who described the Resolutions Process. On behalf of the Annual Meeting Business Resolutions Group, Martin **reported that there were two resolutions submitted prior to the March deadline, for action at this Annual Meeting.** He then described the Resolution Process consisting of a Reading with background and rationale on Friday afternoon, a Hearing for discussion and possible amendment on Saturday afternoon, and debate and vote on Saturday evening.

Bartz called for any Timely Resolutions – those dealing with issues, problems or concerns about which there was no possible knowledge or information before the resolution deadline in March, and where a delay would render the resolution moot – to be presented. There were no Timely Resolutions.

Martin invited the spokespersons for each resolution to come to the podium.

Resolution #1 – RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO STAND IN SUPPORT OF A BASIC GUARANTEED INCOME FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA, submitted by First Congregational United Church of Christ Wadena, Denise Ferguson, spokesperson

Resolution #2 – RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONFERENCE AND CALLING ON ITS CONGREGATIONS TO COVENANT AS IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS, submitted by the Immigration Team, Diane Haines, spokesperson

BREAK

PLENARY SESSION #2

STATE OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT

Rev. Shari Prestemon introduced a video presentation of the State of the Conference, with thanks to Erika Sanborn at Living Table for her production skills. Topics include support for the Liddles' mission to East Timor; expanded programming at Pilgrim Point Camp, a new faith connection in Buffalo – United Faith Community; authorizing ministers, Search & Call process, challenges of shifting needs and financial capacity in Greater Minnesota; connections between Conference staff and local churches; improved accessibility to boundary training with appropriate content; an evolving understanding of what constitutes call for leadership; vitality and discernment tools through the New Beginnings program; social justice and advocacy work, stepping beyond our walls to engage the world; the discernment of the Pilgrim Point Camp/Wayzata Church task force led to divergent paths with expanded programs at Pilgrim Point Camp; thanks to the Board of Directors for wisdom and leadership.

PILGRIM POINT CAMP

Gigi Nauer gave thanks to members of the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee for their work during the year. The Committee generated a list of 142 items on a Capital Needs list requiring attention between now and 2026 and has begun to address the most immediate needs with new roofs installed this past spring. New ideas for special camps are launched this year to appeal to specific groups, including a new Trans Camp over Labor Day weekend.

OAK MEADOWS

Rev. Danielle Bartz, member of the Board of Oak Meadows, spoke of this UCC Senior Living Ministry in Oakdale that is partnered with the Conference. The facility anticipates an imminent leadership change with the retirement of Executive Director Deb Veit on June 1. The facility will hold an Open House on August 11, all are invited to attend.

FAITH FORMATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Interim Associate Minister Garth Schumacher and Rev. Kevin Brown, chair of the Faith Formation for Children and Youth Team, described the Conference's support of Faith Formation work in the local church setting through training (Fourth Thursday and Certification Training), the National Youth Event, Justice Advocacy, and dissemination of Family Support Materials. They recognized the Faith Forming Five congregations, recognizing those that have implemented the five marks of faith formation through the program year: Children and Youth participate in Worship, At-Home Faith Practices, Intergenerational Ministry, Service and Mission Theological Reflection, and Lay and Clergy Leadership Development. **2016:** First UCC Northfield, St Paul's UCC St Paul, Community UCC St Paul Park, First Congregational UCC Austin; **2015 and 2016:** Peace UCC Duluth, Union Congregational UCC Elk River, Union Congregational UCC St Louis Park, Peace UCC Rochester; **2015:** Pilgrim Congregational UCC Benson, Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes, Hazel Park UCC St Paul

NOMINATING WORK GROUP

Rev. Howard Bell, Chair of the Nominating Work Group, introduced the members serving on the Nominating Work Group. He presented the slate of candidates to be voted upon by the Annual Meeting, highlighting an open slot on the Personnel Committee. He asked attendees to fill out and return the Skill Bank forms, the primary source for candidates for the Committee's work. Bell described the process for nominations from the floor: made with the express permission of the person nominated, a biography to be given to a member of the Nominating Work Group, all volunteers must complete a Self-Disclosure Form in fulfillment of the Conference Safe Conduct Policy.

Bell, on behalf of the Nominating Work Group, **presented the slate of nominees for Board of Directors, committees, work groups, and officers of the Conference as a business item for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

Motion passed.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the first Speak Out!

1. Cheri Daniel (St. Paul's UCC/Peace UCC, Minnesota Lake) thanks for financial support of CUE a covenantal relationship between 16 conferences and three seminaries
2. Pamela Cook (Lyndale UCC) embrace John Robinson's *God is Still Speaking* and help support the UTS scholarship fund
3. Tony Romaine (Staples) noted Mohammed Ali's death and his quote, "Service to others is the rent you pay here on earth."
4. Howard Bell (Edina Morningside UCC) invites all to the congregation's summer worship series on Wednesday evenings
5. Marc Blakesley (Robbinsdale UCC) the ONA coalition is available to come to local churches and talk with congregations and leaders about becoming ONA
6. Norma Rae Hunt (St Paul's UCC, St Paul) recommends Bob Griggs' book on depression
7. Oby Ballinger (Community UCC, St Paul Park) chairing the new Anti-Racism Team, invites all who are interested to sit together at Saturday lunch to talk through next steps
8. Jane Millikan (Glyndan) invites all to a public service of reconciliation at Hawley United Methodist next week
9. Amy Wick-Moore (New Brighton UCC) described a new exchange program for young adults in the Philippines, stop by the Global Partnership table for more information
10. Pamela Cook (Lyndale UCC) works with Springhouse Ministry Center, a youth group focused on current ventures, is doing a summer series on Black Lives Matter, Bible Study and the Arts

RECESS

Dinner break.

PLENARY SESSION #3

GATHERING MUSIC

GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

Janet Bartz summarized the activity of a Task Force formed as an outcome of discussion at the Conference Leadership Retreat in September 2015. Recognizing the increasing difficulty of recruiting the number of volunteers required to staff various Teams, Committees and Work Groups of the Conference and the high proportion of administrative and connective work required of Conference staff, a Task Force was charged to investigate options for a more nimble, strategic governance model. The Task Force is attracted by Policy Governance and how that model might be applied at the adjudicatory level, but no model investigated so far responds to all concerns. The Task Force will continue to discern as the Conference is challenged by change, knowing we will be able to meet those challenges.

CUE TEAM

Rev. Cherie Daniel introduced Deb Brown, a newly ordained UTS graduate who spoke of her journey to complete a Master of Divinity.

OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY AND STEWARDSHIP

Nancy Gibbons, from the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship at the National setting, gave thanks for financial support of the Chicago-United-Eden Seminaries. Gibbons also invited the Conference and local churches to avail themselves of seminars, training, and tools provided by her office to support stewardship work.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the second Speak Out!

1. Kathleen Remund (United Seminary) the Kahleo Center is offering a new Masters program for Leadership in Social Transformation
2. Bill Lindberg (First Congregational Minneapolis) recognizing the Israel-Palestine resolutions at the 2015 Annual Meeting and General Synod 30, invite to a screening of *Little Town of Bethlehem* this evening, attend workshop Saturday afternoon, visit the Global Partnerships table
3. Nathen Syverson (Robbinsdale) lifted his church's response to the deep pain witnessed during a witness trip to the US-Mexico border – becoming a Sanctuary church
4. Natasha Lehmann (New York Mills) thanks to the Minnesota Conference UCC for being family
5. John Tschudy (Rainy River) consider financial support of CUE
6. Jane McBride (First Congregational Minneapolis) hosting an intern, Ella Heffler, from Davidson College this summer, suggested internship as a possible model for those considering ministry – practical experience before entering seminary
7. Cindy Mueller (Union St Louis Park) First Congregational, Anoka is a strong and committed community seeking a new minister; the congregation's profile will be available soon

RECESS

Mueller called for recess for the evening.

EVENING WORSHIP

Story Telling by Pr. Jim Bear Jacobs

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rev. Lawrence T. Richardson

PLENARY #4

GATHERING MUSIC

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe Thom presented the Conference Treasurer's Report. With six months of activity into the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) revenue is tracking below budget primarily due to lagging OCWM contributions, while expenses are tracking below budget giving a net balance. Thom gave credit to the staff for their stewardship of financial resources.

2016-2017 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Thom highlighted the budget in its various formats and noted that this was a deficit budget. He highlighted several new initiatives: Young Adult Services Community, Leadership Development, and Church Renewal and Vitality.

Thom, on behalf of the Board of Directors, **presented the Recommended 2017 Budget of the Minnesota conference, amended by the Board of Directors, as printed and distributed to be received at this meeting as an item of business. Motion passed.**

2017 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

Mueller called on Rev. Rick Wagner to present the 2017 Compensation Guidelines, as recommended by the Professional Development of Authorized Ministers subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry. To arrive at the recommended figures the group researched current UCC guidelines in WI, IA, and NE (MN is in the middle) and current compensation guidelines for Presbyterian, Methodist, and ELCA churches in MN. The recommended guidelines reflect a 2% increase over 2016. The committee removed language comparing Associate Minister compensation to that of a Senior Minister as the number of variants is too great to address; a new recommendation provides a course of action should a minister not qualify for UCC disability coverage; added language about licensed and commissioned ministers.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the third Speak Out!

1. Paul Martin (Union St Louis Park) invite to join Celtic spirituality practice
2. John Fiscus (Peace St Cloud) in support of ONA, welcome people still on the margins; join the Pride Parade as one contingent of all MN Conference UCC churches
3. Rebecca Volkel (Lyndale) learn more about MARCH (Multi-Faith Anti-Racism Change and Healing) from the Center for Sustainable Justice by following on Facebook, joining mailing list; piloting a year-long anti-racism work drawing from ONA wisdom
4. Jean Ostrom (New Journey) several lightly used copies of Diana Butler Bass' *Christianity for the Rest of Us* are available for an interested congregation study group
5. Sarah and Nathan Holst (Peace Duluth) Holy Fools Arts, a theatrical production company, is coming to Redeemer Church in the Twin Cities September 13-27
6. John Tschudy (Rainy River) invite to attend his workshop on multi-site parishes
7. Howard Bell (Mayflower) Mizpah held choral festival on April 17 with singers from Mizpah, Parkway and Union, hoping to start a tradition of larger choral works; invitation to join next year
8. Alyssa Scott (First Congregational Anoka) invite clergy to look for profile soon, consider applying
9. Kathryn Morin (New Brighton) invite chaplains to join a new chaplain network, meet monthly over lunch at the Church Center in Minneapolis
10. Gigi Nauer (Pilgrim Point) thanks to quilters for creating beautiful and comforting pieces for campers

BREAK

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prestemon introduced Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon, Acting Executive Minister Justice and Witness Ministry and Pastor of Christ the King UCC in Florissant, Missouri, who gave the keynote address. Blackmon spoke from Isaiah 58:9b-12, responsibility for repairing breaches rests with us.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Led by facilitators from the Minnesota Council of Churches' *Respectful Conversations Project*, attendees gathered in groups of 7 or 8 to continue delving into anti-racism work. Discussions continued after a lunch break.

RECESS

Mueller called for recess for work sessions, workshops and dinner.

PLENARY #5

BAR OF THE HOUSE

DeMarce explained that attendees could sit wherever they wished, that a formal Bar of the House would be set up if the Moderator saw a need to physically separate voting delegates from non-voting visitors. Anyone wishing to address the floor was asked to step to the

microphone designated “FOR,” the microphone designated “AGAINST,” or the microphone designated “QUESTIONS” and begin by identifying themselves and their local church.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Howard, on behalf of the Nominating Work Group, **presented the slate of nominees for Officers, Board of Directors, Committees and Work Groups of the Annual Meeting for election and moved that we accept the slate by acclamation. Motion passed.**

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1

Rev. Howard Bell, hearing moderator, gave a brief summary of discussion regarding the resolution entitled “RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO STAND IN SUPPORT OF A BASIC GUARANTEED INCOME FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.” 38 people participated in a discussion of Basic Guaranteed Income, and generally agree in concept with the moral position of the resolution. There were many questions: How much? Who pays? What are the tax implications? What are potential impacts on welfare payments?

Denise Ferguson, resolution spokesperson, **presented an amended motion representing a consensus of those who attended the Saturday afternoon hearing. She moved the adoption of the resolution amended as follows:**

Line 69: the original “citizens” becomes “residents”.

Motion to approve the Resolution passed.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2

Rev. Steve Boorsma, hearing moderator, gave a brief summary of discussion regarding the resolution entitled “RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONFERENCE AND CALLING ON ITS CONGREGATIONS TO COVENANT AS IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS”. 40 participants participated in discussion with an emphasis on UCC polity – a position taken by the Conference does not bind local churches to that same position, but invites them to consider it. The Resolution would help congregations understand how US policies have resulted in the immigrant movement. A new coalition within the UCC is assisting with education and leadership in developing a resolution for the next General Synod, using biblical foundation and modeled on work of marriage initiative groups (hearing stories softens hearts), continuing dialog within different communities using the Immigration Team as resource.

Diane Haines, resolution spokesperson, **presented an amended motion representing a consensus of those who attended the Saturday afternoon hearing. She moved the adoption of the resolution amended as follows:**

Line 1: replace “Conference” with “Annual Meeting”

Line 43: replace “Conference” with “Meeting”

Line 47: replace “Conference” with “Meeting”

Line 53: insert “Be it further resolved that upon adoption by the Minnesota Conference at its Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting that other Conferences and settings of the United Church of Christ be invited to join as co-sponsors and that this resolution be forwarded to the Committee on Disposition of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-First General Synod Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017.”

Amendment motion from the floor called for the following:
Line 45: insert after “policies dedicated to facilitating” the clause “the development of policies to eliminate all immigration quotas into the United States” and delete the rest of the sentence.

Motion moved, seconded, failed.

Motion to approve the Resolution passed.

FINAL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET, VOTE

Joe Thom brought a clarification to the proposed budget, stating that the deficit budget reflects a realistic estimate of income rather than inflating income to balance the budget. On behalf of the Minnesota Conference UCC Board of Directors, Thom **moved adoption of the budget for the fiscal year 2017, for the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.**
Motion passed.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

Rev. Rick Wagner, representing the Professional Development of Authorized Ministers subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry, corrected the Compensation Grid by providing the number “\$70,527” to Step E, representing a 2% increase over the 2016 Guidelines. Recommendations for consideration in the next Guidelines document are to be brought to the Professional Development subcommittee. Wagner **moved that the 2017 Compensation Guidelines be accepted.**
Motion passed as amended.

SPEAK OUT!

The following items were noted during the fourth Speak Out!

1. Kim Shaffer (First Congregational Mankato) invite to July Family Camp “Fruits of the Spirit”
2. Bob Peterson (New Brighton) invite to join work trip to Back Bay Mission in January
3. Marc Blakesly (Robbinsdale) congregation learned much in their exploration of communion supported by a recent Calvin Worship Renewal Grant, willing to share with others
4. Jon Tufte (Peace St Cloud) invite to an upcoming Twin City Gay Men’s Chorus performance includes a new commission, a powerful performance
5. Amy Wick Moore (New Brighton) participate in or support an upcoming young adult exchange program with the UCCP in the Philippines
6. Roberta Peterson (New Brighton) invite to be a Friend of the Conference, or better yet a sustaining donor
7. Todd Lippert (Northfield) encourage, invite to participate in ISAI AH
8. Gigi Nauer (Pilgrim Point) invite those you know to new camper programs for special populations: Family, Autism, Deaf, Congregation-specific
9. Alan O’Malley-Laursen (Associated Church Owatonna) thanks for witness, testimony of truth during today’s small group discussion; encourage to make this energy a movement more than a moment

RECESS

Mueller called for recess for the evening.

EVENING PRAYERS AND MUSIC

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rev. Dr. J. Samuel Subramanian

PLENARY #7
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mary Kay Sauter, chair of the Development Committee, gave thanks to the many churches who have given to the Conference in the past year.

The following 58 churches were recognized as 5 for 5 congregations:

First Congregational Church of Aldrich UCC	Living Table UCC, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC, Anoka	Lyndale Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC, Baudette	Lynnhurst UCC, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC of Brainerd	First Congregational UCC, Moorhead
United Congregational, Birchdale	St. John's UCC, New Albin
St. Paul's UCC, Delano	UCC, New Brighton
Peace UCC, Duluth	First Congregational UCC, New York Mills
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Duluth	First UCC, Northfield
Peace UCC, Eden Valley	Friedens UCC, Norwood Young America
Chapel Hills UCC, Edina	St. Paul's UCC, Plato
Union UCC, Elk River	First Congregational UCC, Princeton
Congregational Church of Excelsior	Robbinsdale UCC
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont	Peace UCC, Rochester
St. John's UCC, Fairmont	Congregational UCC, Rochester
Falcon Heights UCC	Peace UCC, St. Cloud
St. John's UCC, Faribault	Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park
Congregational Church of Faribault	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
St. Matthew's UCC, Forest City	St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
First Congregational UCC, Glencoe	Community UCC, St. Paul Park
Union Congregational UCC, Hackensack	St Peter's UCC, Stillwater
Mizpah UCC, Hopkins	Wabasha UCC, Wabasha
New Journey UCC, Hutchinson	First Congregational UCC, Wadena
First Congregational UCC, Mankato	Circles of Faith UCC, Waubun
Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake	St Paul's UCC, Welcome
United Church of Mapleton	Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake
Grace UCC, Millville	First Congregational Church, Zumbrota

Sauter gave also thanked the six Top Contributing churches to OCWM (First UCC Northfield, Mayflower, New Brighton, Robbinsdale, Union St Louis Park, Peach Duluth); the five Top Contributing churches on a per-member basis (Chapel Hills Edina, Granite Falls, First UCC Northfield, Union St Louis Park, First Congregational Brainerd, New Brighton). She thanked the Friends of the Conference – individuals who gave to Friends of Pilgrim Point Camp, the New Initiatives Fund, or the General Fund.

CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. Steve Boorsma recognized St John's UCC in Norwood Young America on their 150th Anniversary.

Rev. Steve Boorsma recognized those celebrating the anniversaries of their ordination.

50th Year of Ordination

Rev. J. Marcus Cox
Rev. C. George Holt
Rev. Gary Kasten
Rev. Lyle Norris
Rev. Richard Sheerer

55th Year of Ordination

Rev. Delano Spitzer
Rev. Raymond Whitton

60th Year of Ordination

Rev. Curtis Johnson
Rev. L. James Koch

65th Year of Ordination

Rev. Madison Sheely

WELCOME TO NEW MINISTERS

Rev. Steve Boorsma welcomed those Authorized Ministers with standing in the Minnesota Conference who are new to the Minnesota Conference since the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Standing Transferred into Conference

Kelly Stone, Mary Koon, Jill Warner, Daniel Maiden, Cynthia Riggin, Carla Bailey, Mirjam Berger

Received Standing by Ordination

Ava Adams-Morris, Michael Fritz, Anna Larson, David Tillman, Aaron Lauer, Deb Braun

Granted Privilege of Call

Timothy Usset

Standing Affirmed

Jody Ondich

LEYSATH AWARD

Rev. Rick Wagner recognized Rev. Dr. Susan Allers-Hatlie as the 2016 recipient of the Murdale Leysath Award. Murdale Leysath served in Minnesota as the first female Conference Minister in the United Church of Christ. Upon her retirement Murdale created this award of encouragement for women in ministry. As a supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at United Theological Seminary, she invited current and former students to speak of their work and internship placements.

ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER SEARCH

Sheri Nelson, a member of the ACM Search Committee, said that the Position Profile will be available on June 15; all qualified candidates are invited to apply.

ANTI-RACISM TEAM

Boorsma and Rev. Oby Ballinger said the team has a Charge and Mission, members are being identified. Kim Graff, Steve Pavich, Gary Kwong, and Oby Ballinger have agreed to serve. Planned work includes encounter experiences, development of learning resources, partnership with active anti-racism work across the state. Boorsma encouraged active participation in the work, not just passive observation. Ballinger referred to a handout identifying anti-racism work that local churches are already pursuing along with contacts, encouraged local churches to work together on common projects.

RECOGNITIONS

Shari Prestemon gave thanks to the following:

Outgoing Board of Directors members: Rev. Frank Bennet, Chelle Lyons Hanson, Nancy Johnson-Maloney, Joe Thom, Rev. Cindy Mueller

Outgoing Committee Chairs: Lisa Lindesmith (Development), Leslie Amundson (Annual Meeting Planning Work Group)

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Secretary Maureen Engelhardt read the final credentials of 233 delegates and 67 visitors – a total of 300 attendees – representing 67 churches.

GIVING THANKS

Pam DeMarce and Leslie Amundson, co-chairs of the AMPWG, gave thanks to the many individuals who contributed to the success of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ:

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon

Preachers: Pr. Jim Bear Jacobs and Rev. Shari Prestemon

Musicians: Elaine Kirkland, Sloughgrass Band, and Marty Haugen

Creator of the Altar: Stacy Gassman

Bible Study Leaders: Rev. Lawrence T. Richardson and Rev. Dr. J. Samuel Subramanian

Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors: Rev. Cindy Mueller

Parliamentarian: James Snoxell

Conference Secretary: Maureen Engelhardt

Conference Minister: Rev. Shari Prestemon

Associate Conference Ministers: Rev. Rick Wagner, Rev. Steve Boorsma, and Rev. Garth Schumacher

Technology and AV Crew: Rev. Jeff Palmer, Shelley Lindenfelser, and Ash Bull

Childcare Workers: Pat Thompson and assistants from St. Ben's

College of St. Benedict: staff led by Jessica Reiter, student workers (especially Jordan and Padra), videographers and photographer

ADJOURNMENT **Call for adjournment following worship moved and seconded. Motion passed.**

CLOSING WORSHIP

Sermon by Rev. Shari Prestemon

COMMISSIONING NEW OFFICERS FOR THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UCC

Moderator Janet Bartz and Vice Moderator Rev. Todd Smith Lippert led the service of Commissioning.

COMMISSIONING REV. TOM AND DR. MONICA LIDDLE

Conference Minister Rev. Shari Prestemon led the service of Commissioning for the Liddles as they prepare for a four-year term of service through Global Ministries in East Timor. The service included a laying on of hands by all present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Engelhardt,
Secretary