

142nd Annual Meeting – Part I Spring 2009
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational Christian Churches)

Body & Soul: The Church and Health Care

Asylum Hill Congregational Church
814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Saturday, May 9, 2009

Plenary--SESSION I

The Reverend Mark Abernethy of Wapping Community Church, South Windsor, Moderator, declared the 142nd Spring Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to order at 9:02 a.m. He gave greetings to the delegates, staff and visitors on this glorious day which God has made!

He introduced the Reverend Gary Miller, Senior Pastor of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church who welcomed everyone to the Asylum Hill Church on such a wonderful day by saying that what we do with this day will be our gift to the Creator.

The Moderator invited people to fill out their IMPACT! Sheets so that their comments on the impact of the economic downturn on their churches and congregations and what ministries they are doing to help folks during this time could be shared later in the day.

The Conference Minister, the Reverend Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree called upon the staff who danced their way to the front together as a team. Davida expressed appreciation for all their work during the past year while she was absent. She also introduced Ms. Patsy Bjorling, new Associate Conference Minister for Generosity Ministries, and expressed regret at the loss of the Reverend Lois Happe, Eastern Regional Minister, as she retires and the loss of the Reverend Susan Townsley, Fairfield County Regional Minister, as she joins her husband in Japan.

Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Joan Burgess, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, a member of the Congregational Church of Greens Farms, Westport, was called upon. Reminding delegates and clergy that any item could be removed from the Consent Agenda, she added an additional name to the Nomination Committee report. She moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure - It was

VOTED

2009-05C-01 that the Conference adopts the Rules of Procedure for the Annual Meeting as presented.

The goal of these rules is to allow for maximum participation by our members while keeping the meeting within reasonable time limits.

- The Spring Meeting is considered a portion of the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

- The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is the Business Committee for the meeting.
- Visitors are welcome and encouraged to participate in the non-business plenaries, forums and workshops. Those defined in Article I of the Conference Bylaws comprise the voting members for the purpose of the business session. (Bylaws may be found at www.ctucc.org in the section “About Us.”)

Only business announced in the Call to the Spring Meeting will be considered unless the voting members choose by a two-thirds vote to place an item on the agenda. In order to receive consideration for such a vote, such matters must be placed in the hands of the Registrar by a voting member before the meeting convenes, or up until 9:00 A.M. on the day of the meeting. Any item so voted at the beginning of the business plenary will be taken up at the end of the plenary session, following consideration of all previously announced matters, unless the Business Committee determines otherwise.

Adoption of the Annual Meeting Agenda – It was

VOTED

2009-05C-02 that the Conference adopts the Agenda as printed and distributed to the delegates in their packets.

Nominations from the Conference Nominating Committee – It was

VOTED

2009-05C-03 that the Conference Spring Annual Meeting of 2009 elects the following Officers of the Connecticut Conference:

Moderator: Mr. James Robertson, Watertown (Naugatuck Valley Association)
 Assistant Moderator: The Rev. Bridget Hughes, Granby (Farmington Valley Association)
 Chair of the Board of Directors: The Rev. Richard Koenig, Plantsville (Central Association)
 Treasurer: Ms. Lynn Cripe, Watertown (Naugatuck Valley Association)
 Scribe: The Rev. Suzanne Wagner, Trumbull, (Fairfield East Association)
 Assistant Scribe: The Rev. Maria Yocum, Coventry, (Tolland Association)
 Conference Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, New Haven (New Haven Assoc.)
 Alternate Conference Preacher: The Rev. John Nelson, Niantic (New London Association)

It was

VOTED

2009-05C-04 that the Conference Spring Annual Meeting of 2009 elects the following people to the Board of Directors:

Class of 2012: Ms. Erin Corcoran, Unionville (Farmington Valley Association)
 Class of 2012: Mr. Tom Harris, Weston, (Fairfield West Association)
 Class of 2012: The Rev. Richard Koenig, Plantsville (Central Association)
 Class of 2012: The Rev. Carolyn Young, Hamden (New Haven Association)
 Class of 2012: The Rev. Diane Monti-Catania, Roxbury, (Litchfield South Association)
 Class of 2012: The Rev. Ned Edwards, Farmington, (Farmington Valley Association)

It was

VOTED

2009-05C-05 that the Conference Spring Annual Meeting of 2009 elects the following people to be At-Large General Synod Delegates:

Class of 2011: Ms. Jacqueline Ramos, Watertown, Naugatuck Valley Association

Class of 2011: Ms. Joelle Hayes, Middletown, Hartford Association

Class of 2011: Mr. Keith Roberts, Southbury, Litchfield South Association

Class of 2011: Mr. Jim Robertson, Watertown, Naugatuck Valley Association

Class of 2011: Ms. Sara Anne Sneed, South Windsor, Hartford Association

Class of 2011: Mr. Mark Stevenson, Tariffville, Farmington Valley Association

Class of 2011: The Rev. Dr. David Young: Greenwich, Fairfield West Association

Nominations from the Nominating Committee of the Board – it was

VOTED

2009-05C-06 that the Spring Annual Meeting of 2009 elects the following people to the Resolutions Committee of the Conference:

Class of 2012: The Rev. John Van Epps, North Guilford (New Haven East Consociation)

Class of 2012: The Rev. Donna Manocchio, Rocky Hill (Hartford Association)

It was

VOTED

2009-05C-07 that the Spring Annual Meeting of 2009 elects the following people to the Nominating Committee of the Conference:

Class of 2011: The Rev. Paul Goodman, New Haven (New Haven Association)

Morning Worship – The Reverend Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, Pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, New Haven and Conference Preacher and Chaplain; together with Dan Campolieta, Organist AHCC; the Reverend Deborah Moyer, Ms. JoAnn Cog hill, Ms. Barb Hesse, Ms Natalie Phillips, Mr. Tom Caruso, Mr. Charlie Kuchenbrod, and the Reverend Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree and Conference Staff members, participated in leading the morning worship.

There was a Prayer Shawl Processional during the opening hymn where people from Prayer Shawl Ministry groups in our local churches brought forward prayer shawls to be used in various settings as gifts to comfort people in their time of need.

Keynote Speaker – The Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree introduced Mr. Juan A. Figueroa, President of Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, our keynote speaker.

Mr. Figueroa thanked the Connecticut Conference for the invitation to speak and noted the courage, commitment, compassion and interfaith work of the Conference. The UCC has a tradition of commitment to social justice and progressive social change and Connecticut has been on the front line of the Universal Health Care (UHC) issue.

Mr. Figueroa remarked that churches in Connecticut can be the beacon of hope in developing a UHC throughout the country where if people lose jobs they will not lose their health care, where if people cannot afford health care they will not be denied services, where if people cannot afford medication they will receive aid so that they will be able to continue the full prescribed amount.

Next Mr. Figueroa noted the essential need for UHC showing statistics: 750,000 Connecticut people live without care which is 20% of the population, 40,000 are children. Of Latinos, who are 10% of the population, 40% are uninsured; African Americans are not any better off. It is an issue for small businesses and middle class people all over the state. In the United States 50% of personal bankruptcy is driven by medical debt.

SustiNet (HB 6600) is now before the Senate to sustain a health care system which we can count on and afford. It can save \$1.6 billion over a six year time frame. Sustinet introduces another choice built around purchase power noting that you cannot improve health care without a delivery system. Access to health care and delivery of health care need to go hand in hand. The bill is likely to be amended before it gets to the House floor. Mr. Figueroa also stated that this is an opportune time for reform because President Obama has made UHC reform a top priority pledging \$630 Billion to address it.

Mr. Figueroa encouraged everyone to fill out the flyer in our packets and they will be given to the Senators. The next three weeks will be critical to position Connecticut in order to make the State a model. He invited everyone to attend the Sustinet Day at the Capitol on May 13 at 2:00 pm. More information can be obtained on the internet at healthcare4every1.org.

Mr. Figueroa finished his talk with a story about his grandfather in Puerto Rico who was a tenant farmer. He quoted his grandfather translated in English, "With good health you can achieve anything." A period of question and answer followed.

Mr. Abernethy expressed appreciation to the many people who contributed to make this day possible. The Rev. Bonnie Bardot, the Rev. Judith Cooke, the Rev. Deb Moyer, Don Funk, Marilyn Kendrix, the Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse and the Worship Team, Bob Inderbitzen, Susan Waldron, the Rev. John Selders, Suzanne Kinard and Denise Doran, Steve Mitchell, Staff and Volunteers of Asylum Hill Congregational Church and the Hartford Association. We are grateful for their energy and dedication to make this day possible.

The Moderator announced the morning workshops, the luncheon under the tents and other lunch options, and the afternoon workshops. The meeting was at recess.

Plenary--SESSION II

The Reverend Mark Abernethy, Moderator, called the business session to order at 2:47 p.m. He announced that the morning offering was \$3,307.93 to be contributed to the Friends of the Conference which will sustain and strengthen our shared work in Connecticut during difficult economic times.

Green Church Certificates – The Moderator called upon Mr. George Stone of the Environmental Ministry Team who presented Green Church Certificates to the following churches:

Level I

First Church of Christ in Mansfield Congregational
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford
First Congregational Church of South Windham
The UCC in Cornwall, Congregational

Level II

First Church of Christ in Mansfield Congregational
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford

Installation of Officers – The Moderator called upon Ms. Joan Burgess, Chairperson of the Board of Directors and the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister who installed the newly elected officers and Board of Directors members.

Davida announced that Mr. Jim Robertson our newly installed Moderator is the nominee to be Moderator of the General Synod.

Appreciation for Departing Board of Directors – Davida presented plaques and gifts of appreciation to Mark Abernethy ending his term as Conference Moderator, Martin Ewing for serving for six years as Conference Treasurer, and Joan Burgess ending her term as Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Davida introduced the Rev. Richard (Sandy) Koenig, pastor of the Plantsville church, as the new Board of Directors Chairperson, and Ms. Sara Sneed, member of Liberty Christian Center International of Hartford, as new Board of Directors Vice Chairperson.

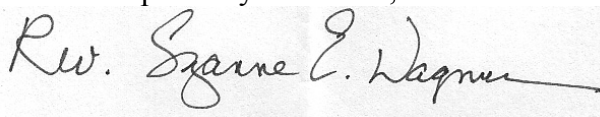
Now For The Future, Campaign for Silver Lake Update – The Rev. David Peters, Co-Chairperson, expressed appreciation to all the churches and reported that the first in a series of goals is being accomplished, commencing with the building of the medium-sized Retreat Lodge. He also noted that the Hillside Commons Building is nearing completion, thanks to the efforts of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford.

Conversation and Sharing - Offering prayer, Mr. Abernethy, expressed appreciation for the IMPACT! Forms which were collected. He called upon Davida to lead us in conversation about the financial health of our churches and what the impact of these economic times is having on the life of our churches and what ministries are being engaged in at this time of great challenge. Conversation and sharing was held for more than forty-five minutes.

Closing Worship – A Healing Service of Closing Worship including a Blessing of the Prayer Shawls was held. Worship participants were Rick Mealey, The Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, The Rev. John Selders, The Rev. Ellen Petersen, Luis Pagan, Esther Tierney, the Rev. Ho Jun Chang, Marilyn Kendrix, Ethan Minkema, the Rev. Charlotte White, Tom Caruso, Joe Bradley, the Rev. Carol-Ann Ceella, The Rev. Dr. David Foy Crabtree.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. until the 142nd Annual Meeting Part II Fall 2009, October 23-24, 2009 at Middletown High School in Middletown, CT.

Respectfully submitted,



The Reverend Suzanne E. Wagner
Scribe