

MINUTES
61st ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
Sheraton Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, UT
JUNE 20 – June 23, 2015

The 61st Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches convened on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 1:30 pm in Canyons Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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| Business Session 1 | Moderator, Jim DeLine, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to this 61 st meeting of the NACCC. |
| Constituting Prayer | The Constituting Prayer was offered by the Rev. Karl Schimpf. |
| Host Committee Welcome | Jim acknowledged members of the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee and his co-chair Rev. Wendy Van Tassell and then introduced the co-chairs of the Host Committee. Carol Price and the Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum welcomed everyone to Salt Lake City and acknowledged all the work of the local church, First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City, which has just celebrated their 150 th anniversary. |
| Worship Service | The Moderator then called upon the Host Committee for the opening worship. Worship included an anthem by the First CC of Salt Lake City choir and Annual Meeting and Conference attendees and a sermon by Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum. |
| Introductions | Moderator, Jim DeLine then introduced the individuals on the platform: Vice Moderator, Laura Hamby; Secretary, Judy Campbell; and Parliamentarian, Sherry Glab. |
| Quorum and Call to Order | The Credentials Committee reported that 83 delegates are present, which represents approximately 26% of active member churches. With more than 20% of our member churches represented, Moderator, Jim DeLine, declared a quorum existed and called the 61 st Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to order. |
| Approval of Agenda
2015 AM 01
Adopted | The Moderator referenced the published agenda on page 4 through 7 of the Program Booklet. He asked if there were any changes or corrections. He then entertained a motion to approve.
Motion made and seconded to adopt the agenda. |
| Review of Standing Rules
2015 AM 02
Adopted | Moderator, Jim DeLine reviewed and explained the standing rules on page 18.
Motion made and seconded to adopt standing rules as listed in the program booklet. |
| Approval of Minutes
2015 AM 03
Adopted | Minutes of the 60 th Annual Meeting held in Omaha, NE, June 2014, were previously read and approved by the 2014 Minutes Certification Committee: Rev. Mary E. Biedron, Dr. Helen Gierke and Cathy Trump.
Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. |
| Minutes Certification
Committee

2015 AM 04
Adopted | The Moderator announced three people he has asked to review this year's minutes and asked for other suggestions from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Motion made and seconded to appoint three readers, Terry Bobzien, Garry Fisher and Marilyn Danielson, selected by the Moderator to review the Annual Meeting minutes before they are distributed. |

Moderator’s Message	Jim’s Report: Whew!!! What a busy year. He briefly reviewed the activities of the past year including anticipated organizational changes. He invited everyone to an information Town Hall meeting to be held Sunday evening.
Introduction, Vote and Welcome to New Churches	Rev. Patti Haaheim, chair of the Membership Task Team, reported that the Executive Committee had voted to welcome back the Thomas A. Edison Congregational Church of Fort Myers, FL upon their completion of the new requirements for reinstatement. The Membership Task Team had one new church to present.
Churches accepted into Membership 2015 AM 05 Adopted	Motion by Rev. Patti Haaheim that the Thomas A Edison Congregational Church of Fort Myers, FL be reinstated and that the following church be accepted into full membership in the NACCC as recommended by the Leadership Council: Chapel of Improvement Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas, Nevada.
Installation of New Churches	As a representative from the new church was not able to attend, the installation will be conducted at a later time.
Center for Congregational Leadership Report	Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Center for Congregational Leadership, noted her written report in the packet and presented a PowerPoint slide show about the accomplishments of the “Center” over the past 9 years. She confirmed her plans to leave her position at the end of June. She then introduced Charles Packer, the new part time Director of CFTS.
Executive Director Search Committee report and Confirmation of Executive Director 2015 AM 06 Adopted	The Moderator then called Claudia Kniefel to the podium for the report from the Executive Director Search Committee. Claudia reported on the activities of the committee and their final selection which has been approved by the Board of Directors. She then presented the candidate for Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, for confirmation by the assembly. Motion to confirm Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum as Executive Director of the NACCC.
Break	Vice Moderator, Laura Hamby gave announcements. Meeting reconvened at 3:15 pm.
Reports	<u>Leadership/Ministry Councils:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Council - Moderator, Jim DeLine, gave a brief report about the progress of the Leadership Council. Focus in the coming year is to develop the Year Round Delegate program, commit attention to membership and support for the new Executive Director. He then introduced the members of the Leadership Council and asked the chairpersons of the Ministry Councils to present their reports. • Growth Ministry Council – Chairman Chris Meirose, referred to his written report and highlighted areas of worship resources, church planting, technology and the establishment of the “Hurting Churches Fund”. • Mission and Outreach Ministry Council – Chairman, Gregg Jurewicz, thanked all who donated generously to the appeals for disaster aid this year which is distributed through One Great Hour of Sharing, as well as continued support to our established missions. The Council continues to evaluate missions and have withdrawn their recommendation for support for the “Honduran Congregational Mission” in Honduras. They did however receive application

from another Honduran mission and have granted recommendation support to Ministerio Vida Hospital in Rivera Hernandez, Honduras.

- Vitality Ministry Council – Chairperson, Barbara Erlendson, reported on activities and accomplishments this past year including the Minister’s Convocation and On-line Polity Class. CFTS has 4 students. Three NACCC ministers have received their DMin: Mary E. Biedron, Cindy Bacon Hammer and Cindy Rice. She thanked everyone on the council for their hard work.
- Board of Directors – Vice Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors, Laura Hamby reported on the work of the Board over the past year.

Congregational Foundation: Carolyn Sundquist, President of the Congregational Foundation Board of Governors, explained that the Foundation was responsible for raising funds for the NACCC and that most funds were held in accounts to be distributed to the NACCC Shared Ministries Fund. Only two funds were set up to be distributed directly to churches. Those are the Providence Fund and the John Richard Fund. The Foundation has two new members: Rev. Ashley Cleere and Rick Bauzenberger. The Foundation has an open position for a Director of Development and Communication which they hope to fill now that the new Executive Director of the Association is on board.

“The Congregationalist”: Editor, Larry Sommers, reported on the past year and thanked everyone who has helped. He had previously announced his plans to retire from the magazine and expressed his hopes for the future of the magazine and for the new editor.

Editor’s Search Committee: Edith Bartley reported that the committee was reviewing applications for a new editor.

New Business

Moderator Jim DeLine asked if there was any new business to come before the assembly. Per standing rules, new business must be introduced from the floor today and submitted in writing by 5:00 Sunday to be considered on Tuesday.

Rev. Will Lange proposed that the governing boards of the NACCC make plans for the upcoming celebration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.

Rev. Tom Richard proposed that the NACCC send a letter of sympathy and support to the AME church in Charleston, SC in the wake of the tragic shooting there this past week.

Announcement made that cards are on tables in the hall to send greetings to individuals we wish to keep in our thoughts and prayers.

Congregational Lecturer

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer delivered the Congregational Lecture.

Business Meeting in Recess until Monday morning.

Sunday, June 21, 2015

Morning Worship	Communion and Worship Service was held in the hotel meeting room with sermon by Rev. Michael Chittum and the reading of the Necrology by Historian, Arlin Larson.
Presentation	Missionaries presentation
Bible Lecture 1:45 PM	Bible Lecture 1 – Amy Erickson, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado, presented part one of the Bible Lecture.
Afternoon/evening	Workshops at hotel. Town Hall Q&A and discussion of Leadership Resolution 1&2 regarding the continued organizational transition.

Monday Session, June 22, 2015

Business Session 2	Jim DeLine called the meeting to order at 8:30AM following the opening prayer by Rev. Richard Miller Todd.
Nominating Committee Report	Richard Miller Todd gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Richard read the list of nominees for each position and moved that the entire slate of candidates be accepted.
All nominees elected	Moderator – Jim DeLine, Lansing, MI (not elected this year – serving balance of 2yr term) Vice Moderator – Laura Hamby, Soquel, CA (not elected this year – serving balance of 2 yr term) Secretary – Judy Campbell, Farmington Hills, MI 1 yr term Treasurer – Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, WI 1 yr term Historian – Norm Erlendson, Middletown, CT, 1 yr term Youth Representative to the Leadership Council Patrick Stewart, Marshalltown, IA – 1 yr term Ministry Council Representatives to the Leadership Council – 1 yr terms Growth Ministry Council: Dawn Carlson, Chris Meirose Mission and Outreach Ministry Council: Patti Haaheim, Greg Jurewicz Vitality Ministry Council: Mike Fales, Lois Rosebrooks Annual Meeting and Conference Committee – Member-at-large Jodee Lord, Staten Island, NY – 1 yr term Corp Board of Directors Miriam Bryant, Marshalltown, IA – 4 yr term Don Olsen, Wichita, KS – 2 yr term (filling vacated position) Growth Ministry Council Patrick Hunt, Berea, OH – 3 yr term Mary Brooks, Pomona, CA – 2 yr term (filling vacated position) Carol P. Taylor, Beloit, WI – 1 yr term (filling vacated position) Mission & Outreach Ministry Council Margery Sinclair, Fox Point, WI – 3 yr term Doug Gray, Squantum, MA – 1 yr term (filling vacated position) Vitality Ministry Council Marisol Ferrer Malloy, Bound Brook, NJ – 3 yr term

Moderator, Jim DeLine, asked for any additional nominations for these positions. Hearing no other nominations, Moderator Jim DeLine **declared the nominations closed and all nominees elected to these uncontested positions.**

Election of Nominating Committee

Moderator, Jim DeLine, requested nominations for 2 open 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee. The following names were placed in nomination for the Nominating Committee:

William H Arhens, Royal Oak, MI
Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Harwinton, CT
James A. Larson, Greenville, Iowa
Blaine H. Simons, Salt Lake City, UT

As there were more nominations than open positions, ballots will be prepared for vote on Tuesday.

Ratify Executive Committee/
Board of Directors Actions
2015 AM 07
Adopted

Becci Dawson Cox presented the list of Actions of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors requiring ratification. The EC actions appear on pages 1&2 of the delegate packet and the actions of the Board of Directors for the year on the following pages. Other pages in the packet list procedural motions by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors that do not require ratification in regular type, and those motions being presented for consideration separately are in Italics.

Motion by Becci Dawson Cox that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Executive Committee from June 2014 to September 29,2014, (motions 2014 EC 003 thru 009, 011 – 013) which require ratification but are not being presented separately, and actions of the Board of directors from June 2014 through June 2015 (motions 2014 C 003 – 007, 009-012, 014, 015, 017, 019-028, 030-034, 036, 037, 039-046, 048, 051, 054-056, 064-066, 069, 071, 072) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.

Ratify Leadership Council Actions
2015 AM 08
Adopted as amended

Rev. Dawn Carlson presented the list of Actions of the Leadership Council requiring ratification. Those actions appear on pages 1&2 of the Leadership report in the delegate packet. The following pages list procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type, and those motions being presented for consideration separately are in Italics.

Motion by Dawn Carlson that the Association ratifies the actions of the Leadership Council from October 1, 2014 through,2015, (motions 2014 EC 003 thru 011, 014 – 015, 017, 020a, 022-024, 029 & 038 excluding 2015 LC 034) which require ratification but are not being presented separately.

2015 AM 09
Motion to amend adopted

Motion by Doug Loux to amend previous motion by excluding 2015 LC 034 from the list and considering the action for ratification separately.

Intro of LC resolutions #1 and #2

Jim DeLine, Moderator, read into record Resolutions #1 and #2 as adopted by both the Corporation Board of Directors and the Leadership Council. The Board and Council presented an overview of the proposals during a town hall meeting last evening. Continued discussion and vote will be on Tuesday.

Break for Lunch

Business meeting broke for lunch.

Speakers MMBB – Rev. Dr. Perry J. Hopper addressed the conference and expressed his pleasure in meeting with participants and assisting our churches with our insurance needs. Olivet College - Dr. Steven M Corey, President, thanked the membership for ongoing support of Olivet College and how much they benefit from having the Center for Congregational Leadership there. Piedmont College - Dr. James F. Mellichamp, President, addressed the conference, bringing greetings from the college and expressing joy in preparing for our conference there in 2017.

Bible Lecture 2:30PM Part 2 of the Bible Lecture by Dr. Ami Erickson.

Business Meeting in recess until Tuesday AM.

Tuesday Session, June 23, 2015

Business Session 3 Business Meeting reconvened at 8:30 AM following prayer by Rev. Wendy Van Tassell.

Credentials Report Wendy Van Tassell reported that there were 222 people in attendance representing 93 churches from 26 states and 14 missionaries. There were 27 members of the host committee, 89 delegates, 63 alternate delegates and 37 attendees. She submitted a written report.

Vote on Nominating Committee: Moderator Jim DeLine announced that paper ballots had been distributed delegates and collected by the Marshalls for tally.
2 members elected Results: Elected to the Nominating Committee – Rev. Bobbie Chapman, Founders CC, Harwinton, CT and James A Larson, Grace CC, Greenville, IA.

Financial Report Association Treasurer, Jeff Dillon, presented a slide show of the Financial Reports, explained details and assumptions, and answered questions. Financial challenges remain great. The Financials for the year ending March 31, 2015 received a good report from an audit by Reilly, Penner and Benton, LLP.

Budget Proposal The proposed 2015 - 2016 Operating Budget of the Shared Ministries Fund and Ministry Council budgets were presented as recommended by Board of Directors action 2014/15 C 038. Budget shortfall is (\$97,500).

New Business Two items of new business had been proposed on Saturday.

400th Anniversary Motion by Rev. William Lange, that the Board of Directors/Leadership Council appoints an ad hoc committee to organize and focus the NACCC recognition of the 2020, 400th Anniversary of the Plymouth Pilgrim’s landing on these shores. Two major tasks of the committee will be to:
2015 AM 10
Adopted 1) Plan or propose the NACCC recognition and
2) to be a clearing house on the planned events of the Congregational Library and other organizations. Motion seconded and adopted.

Sympathy to AME Church Motion by Rev. Tom Richard that the Mission and Outreach Council draft In Charleston, SC a statement of sympathy to the AME Church in Charleston, SC from our
2015 AM 11
Adopted Annual Conference. Motion seconded and adopted.

Resolutions by the
Leadership Council
Transfer of assets
2015 AM 12
Motion Adopted

Motion from the Leadership Council to adopt the following resolution #1

Resolution #1

Whereas the delegates to the last three Annual Meeting and Conference gatherings overwhelmingly endorsed a new organizational structure and approved governing documents that gave program authority to the Leadership Council and financial/personnel authority to the Board of Directors, and

Whereas our legal counsel has issued an opinion clearly indicating that the Board of Directors cannot exercise the control assigned to it in that restructuring while the NACCC's assets and staff remain assigned to and under the control of the Association,

Therefore, the Leadership Council of the Association and the Board of Directors of the Corporation unanimously recommend the transfer of all the assets, liabilities, and personnel of the Association to the Corporation, effective July 1, 2015.

Move to single entity
2015 AM 13
Motion adopted

Motion from the Leadership Council to adopt resolution #2

Resolution #2

Whereas the current bicameral nature of the NACCC, with separate Association and Corporation legal entities, has led to complications in the effective implementation of the organizational restructuring and

Whereas the existing bicameral structure is not clear to our member churches and does not provide the legal protections originally envisioned, and

Whereas, opinion from NACCC legal counsel makes it clear that there is no current legal merit for the continuation of the dual entity but, in fact, may represent some degree of uncertainty in regard to Association law and member liability,

Therefore, the Leadership Council of the Association and the Board of Directors of the Corporation unanimously recommend the move to a single legal entity, in the form of the Corporation, and that the two bodies be authorized to move ahead with a plan for consolidation that will be presented for approval at next year's Annual Meeting and Conference.

Ratify Leadership Council
Action pulled from
Ratification list
Motion Lost

Motion to ratify Leadership Council motion 2014/2015 LC 034 previously presented.

Discussion against and in support of ratification of Leadership Council motion 2014/15 LC 034. Vote to ratify the motion lost. Action of the Leadership Council taken would now be void.

Proposed Amendment to
The Articles of Association

Dawn Carlson on behalf of the Leadership Council, presented the following proposed amendment to the Articles of Association to comply with current regulations. Motion to adopt will be presented for vote at the 2016 AM&C.

Add ARTICLE X. OTHER PROVISIONS Upon dissolution, any assets remaining may be distributed to the Corporation of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States or another organization recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code identified in a plan of dissolution approved by the Members.

Bible Lecture 10:30AM

Part 3 of the Bible Lecture by Dr. Ami Erickson.

Meeting in recess for Missionary presentation, lunch and workshops.

2016 Annual Meeting and Conference Presentation	The 2016 Annual Meeting & Conference will be held in Detroit/Dearborn area, hosted by the Southeast Michigan Association of Congregational Churches. The theme is “ Who is my Neighbor? .”
Business Session 4	Business Meeting reconvened at 4:00pm.
Special presentations	<p data-bbox="472 369 1536 436">Arlin Larson was presented with a page from a Geneva Bible in thanks for his years of service as Historian.</p> <p data-bbox="472 457 1536 590">Former Interim Executive Secretary, Casey VanderBent joined the assembly on the big screen via the internet. He expressed regret that he could not be with us today and acknowledged receipt of the gift of a set of St. Johns Bibles sent to him with thanks for his hard work and dedication in his service to the NACCC.</p>
Voting on Budget 2015 AM 14 Adopted	Motion by Jeff Dillon, to approve the Shared Ministries budget and the Ministry Council budgets as recommended by the Board of Directors and presented by the Treasurer in Business Session 3.
Installation of Officers	All elected officers and Board members and Committee members were sworn into their positions.
Recognition and Awards	<p data-bbox="472 863 1084 890">The following honors and awards were announced:</p> <p data-bbox="472 911 1430 978">Host committee recognition: Carol Price and the Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City.</p> <p data-bbox="472 999 756 1026">Vitality Council awards:</p> <ul data-bbox="521 1037 1349 1167" style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph J. Russell Sermon Award: Douglas Kelchner Jeanette Butman Award: Dottie Schimpf Marion Bradshaw Award: Marisol Malloy Harry R. Butman Award: Rev. Les Wicker and Cynthia Bacon Hammer <p data-bbox="472 1188 1536 1293">Barbara Erlendson presented gifts and a moving tribute to Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro as she completes her service with the NACCC and moves on to other things. She will be missed.</p> <p data-bbox="472 1314 1317 1341">Missions and Outreach Ministry Council presented Awards to Missions</p> <p data-bbox="472 1362 1024 1390">Board of Directors Citation: Rev. Tom Richard</p>
Adjournment	The Moderator declared that the business meeting was ended and that the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is adjourned following dinner and receptions this evening.
Judy Campbell Secretary	
Read by the Minutes Certification Committee:	
Terry Bobzien Marilyn Danielson Garry Fisher	