

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches  
Conference Call  
April 17, 2019

1. Call to order: The Leadership Council of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was called to order by Moderator, Jim Waechter, at 7:30 EST by conference call.
  - Roll Call: Secretary, Judy Campbell took roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

LC Voting Members present: Moderator, Jim Waechter; Patrick Stewart; Barb Dabul; Rev. Justin Nierer Vice Moderator, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer; Mary Prendergast; Janet Wilson;

NonVoting Members present: Secretary, Judy Campbell; Treasurer, Jeff Dillon; Historian, Rev. William Lange; Foundation Board of Governor's Rep, Bob Smith; Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

LC Members absent: Carol Taylor; Rev. Dr. Irv Gammon;

Others present: DODC, Debra Fulton; Dean of CFTS, Rev. Dr. Charles Packer; Congregationalist Editor, Marianne King
2. Welcome and personal check-ins:
3. Opening Devotion: Jeff Dillon offered the opening devotion and prayer.  
Comments and concerns – participants related activities over the past weeks.
4. Approval of minutes:

**2018/19 LC 017 Motion by Judy Campbell to approve Minutes of the March 21, 2019 conference call as corrected. Motion seconded and adopted.**

5. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved.
6. Staff Reports:
  - Executive Director: Michael Chittum referred to his report of activities on Trello. Two new churches have been recommended for membership by the Membership Committee.

**2018/19 LC 018 Motion by Mary Prendergast to accept the Membership Committee recommendation to receive the Congregational Church of Ravena, NY and the Crystal Congregational Church of Crystal, MI as provisional members, and recommend them for full membership at the 2019 AM&C. Motion seconded and adopted.**

- CFTS: Charles Packer reported on the Boston Seminar scheduled for the end of July. So far 13 people are schedule to attend and others inquired. There are 2 CFTS students scheduled to graduate at the AM&C. Rev. Tom VanTassel is doing better and next CFTS meeting will be April 24.
- Development: Debra Fulton reported that the E-news has been redesigned. They are still receiving gifts to the Congregationalist appeal. She is serving on the Website Task team.
- Congregationalist: Marianne King reported that the June issue is at the designer. She is leaving space for some promised articles.

7. Financial: Treasurer Jeff Dillon reminded that the fiscal year ended on March 31. The books were kept open through April 12 to accommodate posting of donations made in March but not received until April. Church donations are down. However individual donations are up. One church has not given in the past 3 years and will be dropped from the rolls. The auditors will begin the first week of May. Their report will be made on June 17 at 1:30 pm. All are invited to attend.
8. Growth Ministry Report: Mary Prendergast reported the big thing they have been working on is restructuring youth programs. Their 2 interns have had to resign due to scheduling conflicts with school classes. They would like to add a discussion of the intern program to the pre-meeting plenary session. The MC is still reaching out to churches who have recently joined the NA. All new churches receive a Christmas card. Newer churches receive more frequent communication.
9. Mission and Outreach Ministry Report: Janet Wilson and Barbara Dabul reported on work with one African missionary to assist them in setting up a farm to support the mission possibly with a loan. Discussion about IRS rules for reporting by missions. Barbara reported on Cook Ministries in Arizona whose church burned down a couple of weeks ago. They are also working with another Arizona mission to qualify as a supported mission. Concern that no one has visited most missions since the assistant executive position was vacated. Volunteers have visited some at their own expense and sent reports to the MOMC.
10. Vitality Ministry Report: Justin Nierer reported he will talk with Mary regarding the Intern program. The VMC has candidates for the Harry Butman and the Russel Award to be presented at the AM&C. They are celebrating that over 60 participants have registered for the Convocations April 29 – May 2nd. 29 for the Midwest, 25 Northeast, 10 West Coast. Plans are to celebrate communion together via a live stream. Doug Gray is working on materials about Lay Ministry training to be used at the AM&C. Michael Chittum reminded that the office needs council minutes for the auditors.
11. NACCC Reports:
  - a. Youth: Patrick Stewart reported on the NAPF/HOPE meeting. Group will meet at a summer camp – Mohican Outdoor School camp near Mansfield, OH. The registration deadline has been extended. Team is finalizing speakers. There will be lots of outdoor activities including rafting which will require additional permission slips.
  - b. Board of Directors: Vice Moderator Cindy Bacon Hammer reviewed the results of the April BoD conference call. The board has chosen a recipient for the BoD citation that will be awarded at the AM&C. They are establishing a new task team to focus on sexual abuse in churches. Two new job descriptions were approved that redistributed tasks previously done by Linda Miller who retired. Discussion begun on Financial Sustainability which will be continued during the pre-meetings.
  - c. Board of Governors: Bob Smith reported that the Endowment Consolidation Task Team has completed work on the Foundation endowments and are beginning on the NA funds. Board would like to see Leadership donation come in earlier in year so not such a struggle to reach 100% by year end. Have received applications for the Providence and Richard funds and have turned them over to appropriate MC. Task team working on workshop materials.
  - d. Historian: Will Lange reported he had personally received an inquiry about materials. Was told office had no knowledge. Everything will be rolled out at the Cleveland meeting. There will be a presentation during the business meetings, a workshop and an information table.

- e. AM&C: Jim Waechter said this is going to be a remarkable meeting. Everything coming together smoothly. Many great workshops.

12. Task Team Reports:

- a. Team for Center for Cong. Leadership: Jim Waechter reported that work under Laura Hamby is moving along. Video to describe what is happening with the Center.
  - b. YRD Team: Jim Waechter and Cindy Bacon Hammer said work is going well. Several members of team are YRD's. Creating job descriptions to help diffuse confusion about the role of the Year-Round Delegate.
  - c. Website: Debra Fulton reported team has developed a survey which has recently been sent out to leadership and 40 churches. Link is on Trello if you did not receive an e-mail.
  - d. AM&C Accessibility: Cindy Bacon Hammer reported they have received 160 or more responses to the survey. A second set of questions have been developed and will be asked on calls and e-mails to those who indicated they would be willing to discuss.
13. For the good of the order: Will Lange reiterated that Plymouth 400 materials will be rolled out in Cleveland and that information can be found on the NA website under "resources". Cindy Bacon Hammer had questions concerning what information was given to churches inquiring about membership in the NA.
14. Next call: Next call will be Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:30 EDT, 6:30 CDT, 4:30 AZ
15. Closing prayer: Marianne King offered the closing prayer.
16. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm EDT.

Judy Campbell

Secretary