

MINUTES  
64th ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES  
San Diego Marriott Mission Valley  
JUNE 23 – June 26, 2018

The 64th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches convened on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 1:30 PM in the Rio Vista Ballroom of the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel, San Diego, CA.

- Business Session 1 Moderator, Laura Hamby, gave opening remarks and called to order the 64th annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.
- Constituting Prayer The Constituting Prayer was offered by Juana Santos and Laura Ramirez of the Pan American Institute, Tijuana, Mexico. Moderator Laura Hamby thanked them for their blessing on the conference.
- Moderator Laura Hamby then expressed joy that we will once again be sharing time together this year with the NAPF and HOPERS in a mission activity for the “Soul Hope Shoe Project” on Sunday afternoon.
- Intro and Welcome by Host Committee and others Laura Hamby introduced Shirley Linden the chair of this year’s Host Committee, David Hill of First CC, Anaheim, and Rev. Alicia Riedy, of CC of Menifee who brought greetings and welcome which included greetings from the Mayor of San Diego.
- Introductions Moderator Laura Hamby then introduced the individuals on the platform: Vice Moderator Jim Waechter; Secretary Judy Campbell; and Parliamentarian Sherry Glab.
- Quorum and Call to Order The Credentials Committee reported that 79 delegates are present, which represents approximately 24 % of active 319 member churches. With more than 20% of our member churches represented, Moderator Laura Hamby declared a quorum present so we would proceed with the business at hand.
- Approval of Agenda  
**2018 AM 01**  
**Adopted** The Moderator referenced the published agenda beginning on page 6 of the Program Booklet. She then entertained a motion to approve.  
**Motion by Andrew McHenry to approve the agenda.**
- Review of Standing Rules  
**2018 AM 02**  
**Adopted** Moderator Laura Hamby reviewed and explained the standing rules on page 22 of the booklet pointing out that new business must be submitted to the secretary by 7:00 PM.  
**Motion by Sharon Higgins to adopt the standing rules.**
- Approval of Minutes  
**2018 AM 03**  
**Adopted** Minutes of the 63rd Annual Meeting held in Piedmont, GA, June 2017, were previously read and approved by the 2017 Minutes Certification Committee: Doug Loux, Miriam Bryant and Rev. Bobbie Chapman and were posted on the NACCC website.  
**Motion by Dawn Carlson to accept the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting.**
- Minutes Certification Committee  
**2018 AM 04**  
**Adopted** The Moderator announced three people she has asked to review this year’s minutes and asked for other suggestions from the floor. There were no additional nominations.  
**Motion by Carol Taylor to accept the appointment of three volunteers, Kevin Roach, Joyce Acree and Cynthia Hardy, selected by the Moderator as the 2018 Minutes Certification Committee to review the Annual Meeting minutes before they are distributed.**

Introduction, Vote and Welcome to New Churches accepted into Membership  
**2018 AM 05**  
**Adopted**

Pastor Carol Taylor, of the Membership Task Team of the Leadership Council, and Executive Director, the Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum reported that the Leadership Council recommends that three (3) churches be accepted into membership.  
**Motion by Carol Taylor for the Membership Task Team that the following Churches be accepted into full membership in the NACCC as recommended by the Leadership Council: Gate of Heaven International Worship Center, Westfield, NJ; Cheney CC, Cheney, WA; and St. Paul's Liberty Ridge Church, Lancaster, WI.**

Installation of New Churches

A member or a representative for each church came forward. The Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum performed the installation ceremony.

Speakers:

Moderator Laura Hamby then introduced the speakers.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum summarized activities over the past year including his move to Wisconsin. He recognized staff from the Oak Creek and spoke on the status of the Center for Congregational Leadership locations. Much of the clerical work performed by Marie Steele, who is retiring, has been assigned to a part-time person in the Oak Creek office. A new position is being developed to cover the rest of the duties of that position.

Editor's Report

Editor of *The Congregationalist* magazine, Marianne King, thanked everyone who contributed to the magazine with articles, information and money. Content is intended to be thought provoking and not offensive. There is a reader's survey on line. She encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.

MMB representative

Rev. Dr. Sara Day, a representative from MMBB Financial Services spoke to the delegates regarding services available to our churches.

Break (3:00 pm)

Vice Moderator Jim Waechter gave announcements.

**Meeting reconvened at 3:20 PM.**

Reports

Moderator Laura Hamby pointed out that the written reports for the Leadership Council, Board of Directors and Congregational Foundation were in the packets. The three entities work closely and will give an integrated report of work they have done on your behalf.

- **Leadership Council** Chair, Moderator Laura Hamby, spoke of the work of the LC highlighting their new intern program; establishment of a standing committee for the Center for Cong. Leadership; and Ambassador task team.
- **Board of Directors** Chair, Vice-Moderator Jim Waechter explained the Board's fiduciary responsibilities including the budget process, new guidelines for Building and Loan, upgrades to the Oak Creek building and developing employee position descriptions.
- **Congregational Foundation** Chair, Varn Philbrook, reviewed the activities and goals of the Foundation and recent activities which include developing a Gift Acceptance Policy, Memorandum of Understanding and Case for Support. They are also working with the Board of Directors on Fund Consolidation.

The three then presented the **Mission and Vision statements** that were the focus of the combined teams this year. A Town Hall meeting will be held Monday evening for informal discussion and answers.

Moderator Laura Hamby then introduced the Ministry Council Chairpersons.

Ministry Council reports:

- **Growth Ministry Council** – Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt reviewed the accomplishments of the GMC and its task teams which included welcoming 2 interns. Projects and tasks this year included establishment of a new scholarship program for NAPF/HOPE; developing the Hurting Churches Fund; supporting a church plant - New Day Church in Boston; providing worship resources and managing the Providence Fund.
- **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council** – Chair Joelle Sommers reported that they provided relief funds to 4 major disasters this year. Members of the Council are presenting a mission trip workshop. She thanked everyone for their support of missions.
- **Vitality Ministry Council** – Chair Rev. Doug Gray reported on activities and accomplishments this past year including a new Regional Minister’s Convocation program which included a gathering in the East in addition to the traditional Midwest program. Work continues on the Lay Ministry program and other programs through Task Teams and CFTS.

**Dean of CFTS Report:** Rev. Dr. Charles Packer – written report in AM&C report packet. The Rev. Dr. Charles Packer spoke about the Boston Seminar to be offered this July 29 through August 3 and the “Awakenings” symposium to be held at the First CC of Marshalltown, IA, October 11-13, 2018.

New Business

Moderator Laura Hamby 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 7:00 Saturday evening to be considered on Tuesday.

Andrew McHenry, Paradise, CA presented a proposal regarding a special collection for retired pastors. The proposal will be brought before the assembly for discussion on Tuesday.

Congregational Lecture

The Congregational Lecture was presented by the Rev. Dr. Lowell Linden. He spoke on the Congregationalists in the “old west” and displayed a picture slide show.

**Business Meeting in Recess until Monday morning.**

5:00 PM

Dinner.

7:30 PM

Presentation of “Samoa – A Journey of Culture and Faith”.

9:00 PM

Healing prayer service.

**Sunday, June 24, 2017**

11:00 AM

Bible Lecture Part 1 – Terry Lindvall

Afternoon/evening

Worship Services, Sole Hope Mission project with NAPF/HOPE, Workshops and receptions.

**Monday, June 25, 2017**

Business Session 2

Laura Hamby called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM following the opening prayer by Rev. Kevin Roach, Porterville, CA.

Nominating  
Committee Report  
**All nominees elected  
(except for the AM&C  
Member at large)**

Rev. Linda Anderson gave the report of the Nominating Committee, reading the list of nominees for each position. The Committee had no nominee for the Member at Large, to the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee. **She then moved that the entire slate of candidates, with the exception of the AM&C member at large be elected as nominated.**

**Moderator** – Jim Waechter, Brooklyn, NY – 2 yr. term

**Vice Moderator** – Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer, WI – 2 yr. term

**Secretary** – Judy Campbell, Farmington Hills, MI - 1 yr term

**Treasurer** – Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, WI - 1 yr term

**Historian** – Rev. William C. Lange, Detroit, MI - 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: Mary Brooks Prendergast, Pastor Carol Taylor

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council: Joelle Sommers, Barbara Dabul

Vitality Ministry Council: Rev. Sarah Gladstone, Rev. Dr. Irvan A Gammon

**Annual Meeting and Conference Committee – Member-at-large**

Open – 3 yr. term

**Corp Board of Directors**

Jodee Lord, Staten Island, NY – 4 yr. term

**Congregational Foundation Representative on the Board of Directors**

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Demorest, GA – 1 yr term

**Growth Ministry Council**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Hund, Berea, OH – 3 yr. term

**Mission & Outreach Ministry Council**

Rev. Greg Carmer, Beverly, Mass. – 3 yr. term

**Vitality Ministry Council**

Rev. Ian MacDonald, Sherman Oaks, CA – 3 yr. term

Moderator, Laura Hamby, asked for any additional nominations for these positions. Three nominations we made from the floor for the open position of member-at-large to the AM&C Committee. Nominees for this position need to submit short bios to the Secretary for preparation of ballots for vote on Tuesday.

**Hearing no other nominations, she declared the nominations closed and nominees elected to all uncontested positions.**

Election of Nominating  
Committee  
**Nominees Elected**

Moderator, Laura Hamby, then requested nominations for two open 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee. The following names were placed in nomination from the floor for the **Nominating Committee**:

Patti Haaheim, CC of Soquel, Soquel, CA

Andrew McHenry. Craig CC, Paradise, CA

Moderator, Laura Hamby, asked for any additional nominations for the Nominating Committee. **Hearing no other nominations, she declared the nominations closed and both nominees elected to these uncontested positions.**

Ratification Board of  
Directors' Actions  
**2018 AM 06**  
**Adopted**

Jim Waechter presented the list of Actions of the Board of Directors from June 2017 through June 2018 that require ratification which appear on pages 1 thru 3 of the "Actions of the Board of Directors" in the delegate packets. Other pages (4-6) in the packet list procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type, and those motions being presented for consideration separately in Italics.

**Motion by Jim Waechter that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Board of Directors from June 2017 through June 2018 (motions 2016/17 C 051b, C 052a, C 052b, C 053, C 054; and 2017/18 C 019, C 021, C 023 – 024, C 026 - 029, C 033, C 035, C 038 - 043, C 045, C 048 - 051) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.**

Ratify Leadership  
Council Actions  
**2018 AM 07**  
**Adopted**

Laura Hamby presented the list of Actions of the Leadership Council requiring ratification. Those actions appear on page 1&2 of the Leadership Council Report in the delegate packets. The following pages (3 &4) list procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type and those motions being presented for consideration separately are in Italics.

**Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Leadership Council from June 2017 through June 2018, (motions 2017/18 LC 002, LC 005 - 008, LC 010 – 011, LC 013, LC 015 - 016, LC 023) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.**

Introduction of Resolutions

The Moderator and Vice Moderator then read three proposed resolutions, placing them on the floor for discussion and vote during business session #3 on Tuesday. The resolutions were the subject of the town hall meeting.

- Case for Support
- Proposed Mission Statement
- Proposed Vision Statement

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere and Debby Fulton, DOD spoke in support of the "Case for Support" offering clarification.

Moderator Laura Hamby, Vice Moderator Jim Waechter and Executive Director Michael Chittum spoke on behalf of the Mission and Vision Statements.

Speakers

The following speakers addressed the assembly bringing greetings and giving updates about their organizations.

- Olivet College President Dr. Stephen Corey
- Piedmont College President Dr. James F. Mellichamp
- Church Mutual Representative Joe Francour

10:15 AM

Prayer by Rev. Dr. James Schibsted

Bible Lecture Part 2 - Rev. Dr. Terry Lindvall.

11:30 AM

Missionary presentation

4:30 pm

Healthy Church Workshop with Dr. Bill Wilson of the Center for Healthy Churches.

**Business Meeting in recess until Tuesday, June 26, 8:30 AM.**

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

Business Session 3	Business Meeting reconvened at 8:30 AM following prayer by Rev. Andrew McHenry, Paradise, CA.
Credentials Report	Jodee Lord reported for the Credentials Committee that there were 85 delegates and 64 alternate delegates in attendance, representing 96 churches from 23 states. In addition, there were 15 missionaries, 48 attendees, 6 Observers, 8 others (speakers and staff) and 22 host workers. She submitted a written report.
Vote on Nominations <b>AM&amp;C Member-at-Large elected</b>	Three nominations were made on Monday for the position of Member at Large on the AM&C planning committee: Liz Philbrook, Art Ritter, Terry Wing. Nominating bios and ballots were distributed to the delegates. Marshalls collected and counted the ballots. The nominee with the most votes is <b>Art Ritter</b> .
Vote on Resolutions	Moderator Laura Hamby called on speakers to present motions on the resolutions.
Motion to adopt proposed <b>Case for Support 2018 AM 08 Adopted</b>	Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, presented the Case for Support which was previously adopted by the Board of Directors motion 2017/18 C 052 for discussion and moved its adoption. Document provides history and perspective on the NACCC organization to assist in fundraising activities.
Proposed Mission Statement <b>2018 AM 09 Adopted</b>	Jim Waechter, Vice Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors presented the proposed Mission Statement and moved its adoption. The statement was previously adopted by the Board of Directors (2017/18 C 053) and was the focus of the recent Town Hall meeting which provided great discussion. Statement reads:  <i><b>“To nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ.</b></i>
Proposed Vision Statement <b>2018 AM 10 Adopted</b>	Jim Waechter presented the proposed Vision Statement and moved its adoption. The statement was previously adopted by the Board of Directors (2017/18 C 054) and was also the focus of the recent Town Hall meeting. Statement reads:  <i><b>“Vital and healthy Congregational churches, sharing the love of Jesus the Christ”.</b></i>
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.
Introduction of Budget Proposal	The proposed 2018 - 2019 Operating Budget of the Shared Ministries Fund, the Center for Congregational Leadership and Ministry Council budgets were presented as recommended by Board of Directors action 2017/18 C 036.
New Business Proposed special collection <b>2018 AM 11 Adopted</b>	Laura Hamby read the following motion that was submitted on Saturday as new business by Rev. Andrew McHenry.  <b>Motion by Rev. Andrew McHenry that we take a special collection at this 64<sup>th</sup> NACCC Annual Meeting on either Monday or Tuesday (June 25 or 26) at a time to be determined by the Moderator, the proceeds of which will be given to the established retired clergy fund that provides Christmas distributions to the retired Congregational pastors each year. Motion seconded and discussed.</b>  Moderator Laura Hamby then asked the Marshalls to take up the collection.

10:30AM	Bible Lecture Part 3 - Rev. Dr. Terry Lindvall.
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Business Meeting in recess until 2:00 PM, following Missionary presentation, lunch and other presentations.</b>
Presentations 1:30 PM	Rev. Michael Fales presented information on the 2020 ICF Meeting which will be held July 22-28, 2020 in Massachusetts. They changed the date to coordinate with the celebration of the 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in 1620. The theme is <b>"The Voyage Continues"</b> .  Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt presented information on the 2019 AM&C in Cleveland, OH. June 22-25, 2019. The theme is <b>"Jesus is the Heart of it all"</b> .
Announcement	<b>There were 213 shoe packets assembled during the Sole Hope mission project.</b>
Business Session 4	Business Meeting reconvened at 2:00 PM following prayer by Rev. Alicia Riedy, Congregational Church of Menifee, CA.
Voting on Budget <b>2017 AM 12</b>	<b>Motion by Jeff Dillon, to approve the Shared Ministries budget, CCL and the Ministry Council budgets as recommended by the Board of Directors and Directors and presented by the Treasurer in Business Session 3. (\$48,800) deficit Budget.</b>
Recognition and Awards	Vitality Council representative Rev. Justin Nierer presenting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harry R. Butman Award – <b>Rev. Dr. Phil Jackson, Yarmouth Port, MA</b></li> </ul> Mission and Outreach Council representative Barbara Dabul presenting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Rush Award – <b>Rev. Joy Montos, New Day Quincy, Boston, MA</b></li> <li>• Certificate of appreciation to <b>Linda Miller, Oak Creek office.</b></li> </ul> Board of Directors Citation for Outstanding Meritorious Service: <b>Sherry Glab, Pomona, CA.</b>  Host committee recognition: <b>Shirley Linden, Redlands, CA</b>  Moderators award to <b>Laura Hamby, Soquel, CA</b>
Necrology	Historian Rev. Will Lange presented the necrology listing the many members and friends who have died since the last meeting.
Installation of Officers	All elected officers and Board and Committee members were sworn into their positions.
Passing of Gavel	Laura Hamby "passed the gavel" to incoming Moderator Jim Waechter and offered words of encouragement.
Prayer	Incoming Moderator Jim Waechter offered prayer.
Adjournment	Laura Hamby then thanked all for their assistance in preparing and conducting the meeting. She then 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 activities this evening.
Judy Campbell Secretary	
Read and approved by the Minutes Certification Committee: Joyce Acree; Cynthia Hardy and Kevin Roach	