

Council Meeting
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
January 21, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Paul Cullity, Margi Galabrun, Ruth Gallot, Don Goodnow, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Bill Hoysradt, Frank Irvine, Nora Larsen, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, David Richardson, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, Jeff Stevens, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

The Community Prepares Itself

Frank Irvine led us in opening worship.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the December 2009 meeting was accepted as written.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer's report is attached.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – David Richardson presented a revised 2010 budget.

A letter from the Media Center regarding proposed 2010 zero funding was read. MOTION by Doug Hatfield to adopt the revised budget. SECOND by Paul Cullity. Art Urie requested another month before officially adopting the budget so he could talk with Witness and Action.

Doug Hatfield withdrew his motion. Wayne Martin requested that at the next meeting a council member move adoption of the revised 2010 budget also stating that if there is any further input to the budget, amendments and recommendations that address both sides of the budget must accompany input.

Bill Hoysradt presented an overview of the 2009 budget. MOTION by David Richardson that a third name, that of the New Hampshire Conference President be added as a signature on checks. SECOND by Nora Larsen. MOTION APPROVED.

The Offering of the Conference Minister – Gary Schulte expressed gratitude to the OCWM committee for their hard work as well as the level of commitment from local churches. Noted that the designee of the offering received at Prepared to Serve will be United Campus Ministries in Durham. Provided an update of his ongoing activities with local churches. Received consensual approval from the gathered council to begin another group for pastors in transition/new call. Group would be funded by the Grace Scott Fund with participants also contributing.

The Offering of the Associate Conference Minister – Richard Slater offered an update on his activities. Noted that Prepared to Serve had 200+ registrations thus far. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee continues to focus on the agenda, theme, worship and role of the keynote speaker in lieu of shortened time period.

John Herbert, chair of Annual Planning Committee, provided update from the committee. Theme of Togetherness being considered. The committee's first draft of the meeting schedule represented a 12 hour day. Discussion was held concerning whether or not to include resolutions at the annual meeting. Noted that the structure of the day will also have to include a presentation

on the understanding of authorized ministry. The committee will be looking at the steps and process the national church addresses resolutions.

The Offering of the Director of Outdoor and Educational Ministries – Robert Vodra’s report is attached.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

The Horton Center Taskforce Report – Wayne Martin indicated that he hopes to have a report for the February meeting. The taskforce has met 5 times since September with discussion including the relevancy of camping programs today, marketing options and comparable camps in MA. The taskforce is in the process of writing their third draft.

The Nominating Committee requested clarification on terms: do they end in October as the date of annual meeting has changed. Answer: yes.

The issue of Ice Dams on the Conference Center Roofs – Don Goodnow reported that the first step is getting estimates on the cost of tests which must be conducted; he hopes to have the estimate for the next meeting. A preliminary issue centers on energy efficient assistance that may be available from National Grid.

Time of Returning to the World

The meeting adjourned following a closing prayer offered by Laura Sevigny.

Reminder from Wayne Martin that 2 items for next month’s meeting are:

- [1] ministries issues pronouncement to be presented at annual meeting – this is available on the national UCC website.
- [2] consolidation of restricted accounts

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Meeting
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
February 18, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Paul Cullity, Ruth Gallot, Michael Gfroerer, Don Goodnow, John Gregory-Davis, John Herbert, Bill Hoysradt, Frank Irvine, Allison Jacobs, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, David Richardson, Gary Schulte, Laura Seigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Jeffrey Stevens, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and asked members present to introduce themselves.

The Community Prepares Itself

Dawn Berry led us in opening worship. Wayne noted that Rebecca Larson is scheduled to lead us in worship next month.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the January meeting was accepted with the request that any reports noted as attached be attached.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Conference Minister – Gary Schulte reported the following:

The Merrimack Association Committee on Church and Ministry has acted to receive Robert Vodra's ministerial standing from the Eastern North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Merrimack Association of the New Hampshire Conference has requested that Robert Vodra be installed as our Minister of Outdoor and Educational Ministries. MOVED by Paul Cullity. SECOND by Cyndi Morse. MOTION APPROVED

A new contract for services from 4/1 – 8/31/2010 has been entered into with David Williams who will retire on 8/31. David has served the New Hampshire Conference in various stewardship capacities since 2000. Recognition of his ministry will occur at the Annual Meeting of the gathered conference.

Search and Call process procedures have been clarified and updated in the past month.

There will be a presentation to the Interim Ministry Group on March 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Gayle Whittemore has agreed to create a new support group for retired ministers which will meet once a month.

A new model for oversight regarding Fitness Review is in its 3rd draft and being circulated. Should Association Committees on Church and Ministry vote affirmatively then an oversight committee [a group of others] would do the adjudicating work. The draft has been reviewed by all 8 committees as well as Attorney Donald Clark at the national level.

A giving range of OCWM monies was presented. An extension of an additional column to reflect per capita giving was suggested.

Friends of the New Hampshire Conference Special Appeal netted \$19810.00 for 2009; this represented 162 donors with gifts ranging from \$10.00-\$2000.00

Requested prayers for Geoffrey Black who will be installed as our Minister and President at the national level.

Noted that a new UCC Media Message is set to 'spiral' on 4/16/2010.

The Investment Committee has met with the Associate Conference Minister of Endowment Ministries of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Further conversation will happen.

The Offering of the Associate Conference Minister – Richard Slater noted that it has been 2 years since he told his congregation that he would be moving on. Richard expressed deep appreciation for the work of his colleagues and is honored to be a part of the team. Shared the following learnings:

The staff at the conference level is highly committed

The recognition that the church is full of saints and sinners coexisting together has given him a new perspective on Jesus hanging out with sinners.

Affirmed that the work done at the conference level is crucial as they work with churches and Committees on Church and Ministry in crisis.

At any time 25 – 30 churches may be in transition.

Investment in opportunities/resources to provide leadership assistance is worthwhile.

The Offering of the Director of Outdoor and Educational Ministries – Robert Vodra noted that he and Deb Moore had attended a national event for Partners in Education in Nashville which pertained to the new UCC resource 'Faith Practices.' Robert noted upcoming events that he would be present/participating in.

The New England Regional Youth Event planning team is developing a commercial about the event.

Registrations are online for summer camping program. A 2 year brochure has been developed and will be mailed to churches in both the New Hampshire and Massachusetts conferences.

Noted upcoming educational and mission opportunities

Presented a slide show on the Horton Center

The Horton Center Task Force Report – Wayne Martin gave an overview of the report, stressed that it was a recommendation to council and asked that council members review the report and be prepared to discuss it next month. Wayne indicated that all was on the table for discussion including the relevancy of camping programs and the Horton Center today. No assumptions were made as to what the Council would consider appropriate. Noted that there are physical needs at the center that need to be addressed.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer indicated that he was hopeful the revised 2010 budget would be approved. Offered observations about the 2009 budget and stated that we need to be disciplined if we are going to stay within our budget in difficult times.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – Bill Hoysradt presented an overview of year end budget. Carolyn Keilig MOVED the New Hampshire Conference Council accept the revised 2010 budget as presented by Budget and Finance. Art Urie MOVED to amend the Ukama Fund [line 39] to \$9500.00 SECOND by Don Lyon. Proposed recommendation for revenue was the surplus noted on page 2. MOTION DEFEATED. MOTION by John Gregory-Davis to add \$600.00 to line 32

{Media Center} with the revenue coming from \$500.00 coming from Peace with Justice and \$100.00 coming from Economic Justice. SECOND by Allison Jacobs. MOTION APPROVED. MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET CARRIED.

The Offering of the Nominating Committee – Recommendation of Joseph Jacobs [Cheshire Association] to the Investment Committee was APPROVED.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

UCC issues – John Gregory-Davis noted that we do not have a task force working on health care. Spoke about the organization Faithful Reform in Health Care and a letter they have drafted to go to the President, Senators and Representatives. MOTION by John Gregory-Davis to endorse the letter. SECOND by Art Urie. Richard Slater suggested a resolution process to educate members. It was suggested the letter be put on next month's agenda. John will send out information to council members. Wayne Martin suggested that we come back next month prepared to either endorse or not endorse the letter and decide whether the matter should come before the gathered conference.

Visitation – David Smith reported that the visitation team has been meeting regularly and continue to look for additional people to do visitations. He shared the questions churches are asked with the gathered council.

Ministries Issues Pronouncement – Gary Schulte offered part 1 of his presentation regarding this issue. Part 2 will be offered next month.

Proposal to Consolidate Certain Restricted Funds- John Herbert MOVED that council accept the recommendation of the working group. SECOND by Cyndi Morse. MOTION APPROVED.

Issue of Ice Dams - Don Goodnow reported on a promising conversation with a representative from National Grid. He will contact 3 local contractors to bid on the project.

Following a Closing Prayer offered by Jeffrey Stevens, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Meeting
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
March 18, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Margie Galabrun, Michael Gfroerer, Don Goodnow, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Rebecca Larson, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The Community Prepares Itself

Rebecca Larson led us in opening worship. Wayne noted that Ruth Gallot is scheduled to lead us in worship next month.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the February meeting was accepted with one amendment: The second item of Gary Schulte's report should read "the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ has requested the Merrimack Association install Robert Vodra as our Minister of Outdoor and Educational Ministries.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry Around the Conference

Visitation Committee – David Smith reported that the committee meets the 1st Thursday of the month and would like 2 more members on the committee. As this will require a by-law change the consensus was the committee could recruit 2 more members. David also gave a brief overview of how a visitation is conducted.

Health Care Legislation – Information regarding pending legislation was emailed.

The April meeting of the New Hampshire Council will be held at Havenwood-Heritage Heights in the Barrows Center @ 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 5:30; our covenant with HHH will be renewed during our gathering.

Horton Center Task Force Report – MOTION by Laura Sevigny to accept the report of the Task Force. SECOND by Michael Gfroerer. Carolyn Keilig noted that, if the report is adopted, some changes will not happen until 2011 budget. 2 major impacts are noted on page 6: staff would be paid by OCWM dollars and the responsibility of property would be owned by the total conference – not just outdoor ministries. The report outlines a 3 year plan. Doug Hatfield will assist with paperwork to get a waiver on the deed so that conference could own Horton Center free and clear. Laura Sevigny will assist in locating members of the Horton family. The Outdoor Ministries board would like to broaden the appeal base by sending invitations to former campers now living out of state. Gary expressed appreciation to those who put the report together. MOTION APPROVED.

Ministries Issues Pronouncement – Gary presented part 2 of his presentation regarding the Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws Related to Ministry Issues approved at General Synod 27. The Pronouncement needs to be reviewed and then ratified by 2/3 of the conferences of the United Church of Christ prior to General Synod 28 in June 2011. Conference council will make its recommendation at our Annual Meeting in October. The Pronouncement covers 4 major issues: authorization of all UCC ministers – ordained, commissioned and licensed; association responsibility in determining fitness for ordination; discernment in the ordination process in all settings of the church; importance of covenants of mutual responsibility

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff:

Robert Vodra – Over 2000 camping program brochures have been sent out to churches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. All churches in New Hampshire will be contacted. To date 35 campers have registered and 21 have applied for staff positions. Last year at this time 44 campers had registered and 8 individuals had applied for staff positions.

Richard Slater – Gave a slide presentation of Prepared to Serve; noted that 310 persons representing 72 churches attended; there were 26 exhibits and 50 workshops. He that the event will break even or perhaps result in a surplus.

Gary Schulte – Noted that Geoffrey Black will be in New Hampshire 4/2 & 4/3 of 2011. He will attend a continuing education event in Nashville fro. 5/17 – 5/21. A deal has been agreed upon with the Connecticut Conference to share a staff member; Associate Conference Minister of Endowment Ministries will work with our investment committee to: clarify structure and process, prepare regular quarterly and annual reports, develop investment policy benchmarks adding return objectives risk tolerance and asset guidelines. This individual will work with Don Hill; Bill Hoysradt will assist with research.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer noted that we are looking for more OCWM dollars and have collected less so far this year than last year; per capita dues is slow coming in; all banking relationships have been changed over to Laconia Savings Bank; Outdoor Ministries needs to be a major focus for all ... recruitment of campers is essential.

The Offering of Budget & Finance – Carolyn Keilig reported the 2011 budget planning time line: budget requests will be required in May; June 5 is the Extravaganza Day; a draft of the budget will be presented to council in August; Budget & Finance will vote in September on the budget to be presented to council for the vote of the council. Immediate publication will occur on the conference website. Wayne noted that council will not meet in June and July; will meet in August.

The Offering of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee – John Herbert noted the committee is working on a budget; our conference ministers will be our keynote speakers; also working on revising the resolution process.

The Offering of Facilities and Grounds Committee on Energy Efficiency of Conference Center – Don Goodnow reported that an insulation contractor was in to do a visual inspection and has given a range of dollar amounts necessary to address the situation. The contractor will back at least once more.

Time of Returning to the World

Following a closing prayer offered by Bernie Burdett, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Doug Hatfield offered an update on the daughter of Peter Foss.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Meeting
New Hampshire Conference Council, United Church of Christ
April 15, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Heather Davis, Michael Gfroerer, Don Goodnow, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Frank Irvine, Alison Jacobs, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Rebecca Larson, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers at the Barrows Center at Heritage Heights

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions were extended.

The Community Prepares Itself

Nora Larsen led us in opening worship. At our May meeting, Richard Slater will lead us in opening worship and Don Lyon will offer the closing prayer.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the March 2010 meeting was approved.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff:

Robert Vodra noted that 4000 brochures about the summer camping program have been sent out; calls pertaining to the same have been made to churches; an additional mailing will go out. 106 registrations have been received thus far in comparison with 101 last year at this same time frame; the hope is for 400 campers. 80% of last year's staff would like to return; 14 staff persons have been hired. Robert was asked to alert Budget and Finance of any potential financial problems.

Richard Slater provided an overview of his continued ministry with the search and call process, work with Committees on Church and Ministry, attendance and participation at spring Association Meetings, installations, farewells, etc. Noted also that his youngest daughter will be getting married in May.

Gary Schulte noted a plethora of activity throughout the conference in what is a very busy season. Noted there will be 3 installations on Pentecost; asked for council members for assistance bringing/delivering his report to some of the 8 upcoming association meetings. Small Church Vitality project: much heart, soul and talent was given to 9 of our churches – 50% of Strengthen the Church offering retained by the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ supported the effort. CCL is discussing how to use funds presently in the account to help strengthen churches. Bill Hoysradt has advised that there is a six figure dollar amount in the revolving loan fund; a subcommittee which will include Art Urie, Don Lyon and Dawn Berry will investigate ways to make loans available. The Church Media Center will close on May 15; a meeting will be held on April 29 at the conference center with representatives of the Episcopal Diocese and the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ pertaining to the dissolution of assets. Suggestions about a possible relocation/ merger with another library/sale of the media center all on the table.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer noted that with 25% of the year reported, OCWM receipts were up in comparison to same period last year. Expressed appreciation to the OCWM committee for their efforts in writing and calling churches about pledging and expressing appreciation to our 5-5 churches. Noted that the two giving churches continue to increase their pledge. All OCWM giving amounts are listed on the Conference website.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig noted that on Saturday, June 5 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Rev. Dr. Carla Bailey will lead those gathered in reflections upon the ministries of the New Hampshire Conference and budget preparation for 2011. An invitational mailing will go out .

Report of the Nominating Committee – Alison Jacobs offered the following nominations for approval: Rev. Craig Cowing to the Personnel Committee; Nancy Talbott to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee; Joanne Millsaps to Church Witness and Action. APPROVED.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

After much discussion regarding the Ministries Issues Pronouncement, Wayne Martin tabled further discussion/vote until the May meeting.

Share a Meal with Management and Staff of Havenwood-Heritage Heights

At 5:30 we adjourned to the dining hall where we shared dinner with Havenwood-Heritage Heights staff and management, read together the covenant between the Council of New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Retirement Community and witnessed the signing of the same.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Meeting
New Hampshire Conference Council, United Church of Christ
May 20, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Heather Davis, Margie Galabrun, Michael Gfroerer, Don Goodnow, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Jean Hollis, Frank Irvine, Alison Jacobs, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Rebecca Larson, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, Gary Schulte, Richard Slater, Art Urie

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions were extended.

The Community Prepares Itself

Richard Slater led us in opening devotions.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the April 2010 meeting was accepted.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff:

Richard Slater noted that his report pertained to the Annual Meeting resolution process and would be covered by John Herbert in his report.

Gary Schulte provided an update on the dissolution process of the Media Center noting that some preliminary decisions had been made prior to May 14; most notably that the Episcopal Diocese would be receiving the checkbook as they had carried the bulk of the financial responsibility in the recent past.

Gary also noted that council minutes would be posted on the New Hampshire Conference website. Gary's study leave did not materialize; he is looking forward to continuing education opportunities in the future.

The status of the litigation issue is on hiatus.

Robert Vodra via Gary reported that 148 registrations have been received thus far in comparison to 168 for the same time last year. In 2009, 15 staff were hired; for 2010 that number has been reduced to 13. 2010 savings are anticipated through the reduction in staff; camp store, vehicle use and maintenance; food [with less campers] and one less camp offering at Geneva Point. Hard to predict final numbers. Robert is still hopeful that the number of campers will exceed 226 last year.

The Offering of the Treasurer:

Michael Gfroerer noted that 1/3 of the budget has been expended and received. Hi-lighted that OCWM money is slow coming in; per capita dues is coming in; Outdoor Ministries Revenue not coming in well.

The Offering of Budget and Finance:

Carolyn Keilig noted that a letter regarding the budget process had gone out.

Gary Schulte noted that a \$400.00 2009 expense for the Zimbabwe partnership was received in 2010 and asked if the Ukama line, which had been reduced could be increased by \$400.00 using funds that CWA had voted to the Media Center. John Gregory-Davis will follow up with CWA.

The Offering of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee:

John Herbert distributed and outlined 'Guidelines for Proposed Resolutions of the Gathered Conference.' Noted that the change to guideline # 3 was in line with what National does in the General Synod process.

MOTION by Bernard Burditt SECOND by Alison Jacobs that the New Hampshire Conference Council adopt the recommendation from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee with amendment to guideline # 3 to read 3 years. APPROVED.

The Offering of the Nominating Committee:

Alison Jacobs noted the appointment of Kerry Richardson to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.

Alison also offered the following nominations for approval:

Gordon Sherman to Commission for Witness and Action

Robert Moses to the Investment Committee

Gilman Healy to the Outdoor Ministries Board

Rev. Steve Silver to Stewardship Development

APPROVED

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

Ministries Issues Pronouncement:

Gary began the discussion by sharing information gleaned from a gathering at Andover Newton Theological School about this topic. He will email information to council members.

Discussion followed and will continue at the next meeting of the council.

Revision of Gift Acceptance Policy:

Gary provided background information to this proposed policy. MOVED by Michael Gfroerer, SECOND by John Herbert that the New Hampshire Conference Council move adaptation of the policy with additional language that the policy applies to gifts greater than \$2500.00. After discussion, it was the consensus of the gathered council to table the proposal for further refinement and vote at the next council meeting.

Summer meeting schedule: the next meeting of the New Hampshire Conference Council will be August 19, 2010.

Time of Returning to the World

AT 5:55 p.m. MOTION by John Herbert to adjourn, SECOND by Carolyn Keilig. APPROVED

Don Lyon offered the closing prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
August 19, 2010

Present: Bernard Burditt, Wendy Crowley, Heather Davis, Ruth Gallot, Michael Gfroerer, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Frank Irvine, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Rebecca Larson, Wayne Martin, Debra Moore, Cyndi Morse, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Art Urie

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions of all gathered were offered.

The Community Prepares Itself

Wayne Martin led us in opening devotions.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the May 2010 meeting was approved.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff – Written reports of Gary, Richard and Robert had been previously distributed via email. Additionally, Gary noted a letter posted by the UCC's Collegium on the national website and Richard reported that First Congregational Church of Manchester has called an authorized minister who will begin on October 3.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer offered an overview of the July financial statement.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig presented the 2011 Budget Proposal noting the difficult decisions that had to be made in light of a deficit. Following much discussion Doug Hatfield MOVED, Art Urie SECOND 'to amend and restore budget cut to the National Church of \$11,220 [page 1, line 2] MOTION APPROVED. The gathered council voted to present Budget and Finance Recommended 2011 budget, along with a narrative, to Annual Meeting as amended. Doug Hatfield MOVED, Nora Larsen SECOND 'appreciation for the work of Budget and Finance' MOTION APPROVED.

The Offering of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee – John Herbert noted that registration material has been sent out. Time of the meeting 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.; cost \$100.00 per person. A detailed agenda will be mailed out two weeks in advance of the meeting; exhibitors will be charged \$100.00. Due to time constraints one resolution will be presented, three others that had been submitted will be sent back to the appropriate committees.

The Offering of the Outdoor Ministries Board – Heather Davis and Wendy Crowley noted that the board members are working on the report of the Task Force. Questions regarding the publication of a wish list on the website and fundraising were addressed. MOTION by Art Urie, SECOND by Doug Hatfield 'that council affirm the existing policy which prohibits solicitation of members for funds to a specific program/board/commission. MOTION APPROVED. Further noted that grants from outside sources could be sought.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

Ministries Pronouncement Issue – Gary had previously sent via email a presentation of the same. MOTION by Carolyn Keilig 'to support the constitutional change as voted by General Synod and recommend the gathered New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ approve it.' SECOND by John Herbert. MOTION APPROVED. Following a voice vote, Wayne Martin asked for a show of hands: 11 Yes, 3 No.

Gift Allocation Policy – MOTION by Doug Hatfield, SECOND by Carolyn Keilig to allocate 20% to the 2010 budget MOTION APPROVED

Restricted Funds Guidelines – There presently are no numbers in the 2011 budget as churches/commissions are to request them. Gary will bring recommendations to the next council meeting.

Clergy Compensation Guidelines – Ruth Gallot presented an overview of the draft proposal recommendations from the Commission of Congregational Life. MOTION 'approve draft proposal prior to final editing on wording around equity allowance and less than full time pastor. SECOND by Carolyn Keilig and John Herbert MOTION APPROVED.

Time of Returning to the World

Following the closing prayer offered by Art Urie, the meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
September 16, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Heather Davis, Michael Gfroerer, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Allison Jacobs, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Cathy Miller, Cyndi Morse, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, Art Urie

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions of all gathered were offered.

The Community Prepares Itself

Art Urie led us in opening devotions.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the August 2010 meeting was approved with the clarification under "*Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference/Ministries Pronouncement Issue*". The motion to support the change and recommend that the gathered Conference approve it was made by Carolyn and seconded by John.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff – Written reports of Gary, Richard and Robert had been previously distributed via email. Gary invited prayers for Robert and his family as they deal with the death of Carrie's mom. Doug asked for clarification of the Conference role in reviewing candidate profiles. Richard clarified the process of profile distribution, confirming that they do not review profiles to remove a profile from being shared with churches but to note those who might fit a particular church's needs.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer offered an overview of the August financial statement looking at the year to date results against budget. He noted that at this time in the year, we should be at about 66% of income and expense. OCWM, while close to where we were last year at this time, is only 50% of the revised budget amount. The Hoyt bequest has been put into the general revenue making the overall income appear higher. Gary later clarified that the bequest has been distributed properly as of September 16. The investment income as expected is lower than we have collected historically. Revenue from Outdoor Ministries is \$10K more than last year and OM expenses are down from last year but still behind of where we hoped to be for 2010. Michael noted that the fact the Robert's salary will be moved out of the OM budget is only a shuffle of the numbers. The numbers reflect a \$31K deficit at this point which is better than where we were last year at this time though the redistribution of the Hoyt bequest which will be reflected in the September 30 report will cause this number to increase. There are a number of line items noted where minimal amounts have been spent and Michael encourages us to not spend what we don't have to as we near the end of the budget year. The line of credit has been drawn on once this year and was paid within a couple weeks. We will be drawing to cover a couple large checks on Monday (9/20/10) and that amount will only be used for a couple days. Gary commented on the Comparative Statements recap and noted the different line items that currently make up our net assets column.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The narrative budget will be finalized early the week of September 19 and will be included in the annual meeting booklet.

The Offering of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee – John Herbert

To date, 65 people have registered. There has been some decision in the wider church about the \$100 fee being charged this year. John encouraged us to help clarify what is covered and reminded us that this fee includes everything for the entire day, a totally accessible venue (which rules out our churches), business setting, etc. We discussed following up with churches to ensure that packets were received and are being acted on. There was discussion around how information makes its way from the conference to the churches/pastors and then to the congregations and the need for follow-up to ensure that the information is not sitting somewhere, forgotten.

The Offering of Nominating Committee - Allison Jacobs

Draft slate for 2011-2012 was handed out and reviewed for accuracy. Nominating will finalize at their October 6 meeting and the slate will be presented at annual meeting. Planning and Evaluation and Facilities and Grounds will not be included on the slate to be presented at annual meeting but will be brought before the Council since these are appointed committees.

Planning and Evaluation discussion: It was confirmed at this meeting that P & E is a by-law committee and that Nominating recommends members to Council who then appoints. Don Lyon, a past member of P & E, talked about how this committee has been used in the past and will look for the written description of this committee and send it to Allison and/or Deb Knowlton.

Delegates to Synod discussion: The policy states that those on Nominating cannot nominate themselves to General Synod. We have two alternates currently serving on Nominating. Doug made a motion that the policy does not apply for persons already nominated to General Synod either as delegate or alternate prior to their to serving on nominating. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

The Offering of the Outdoor Ministries Board – Heather Davis

OMB met earlier this week and there seemed to be good feedback from those who participated at Horton Center. They are reviewing the 2010 camping season and looking ahead at 2011.

Additional business:

Guidelines for use of the Pembroke Fund – Gary Schulte.

Guidelines were distributed. The intent is to put this guideline "online" so more people will be aware of its existence and request funds for qualifying events/programs. Changes include where requests are sent to, who reviews the requests and the *Report to Fund* requirement to inform how the money was distributed and used. Gary asked for approval of the document. After discussion, Cindy moved to adopt and John seconded. Motion passed.

We do not have a Council meeting in October. Allison agreed to do opening devotions at the November meeting.

Time of Returning to the World

Following the closing prayer offered by Carolyn Keilig, the meeting adjourned at 5:25.

Faithfully submitted,
Laura Seigny
Scribe pro-tem

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
November 18, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Heather Davis, Ruth Gallot, Michael Gfroerer, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Frank Irvine, Alison Jacobs, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Rebecca Larson, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, Gary Schulte, Laura Seigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the gathering to order at 4:05 p.m.

The Community Prepares Itself

Alison Jacobs led us in devotions.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the October 2010 meeting was approved.

The Community Makes Its Offering of Service

The Offering of the Ministerial Staff – Written reports of Gary and Robert had been previously distributed via email. Richard distributed his report. Addendum to Gary's offering: Kim McKerley reported the Rev. Christine Maposa Mdembera an ordained minister from Zimbabwe will arrive in the US after Easter for an 8 week visit, staying in homes and visiting local churches. MOTION by John Herbert SECOND by Cyndi Morse to approve an amount up to 50% of Gary' Schulte's cash salary for 2011 as housing allowance of for 2011. APPROVED. Richard highlighted the reflection on annual meeting by Bill Salt which will be a bulletin insert for churches to use. MOTION by John Herbert SECOND by Nora Larsen to approve an allowance of 50% of total compensation [36,435 or 1518.12 of each semimonthly paycheck] for Richard Slater's housing allowance for 2011. APPROVED. Addendum to Robert's report: exploring the possibility of the installation of wind turbines that could serve the needs of both Horton Center and the Conference Center. A lawyer will be consulted regarding any tax consequences. MOTION by John Herbert SECOND by Bernie Burditt to approve a housing allowance for Robert Vodra of \$19,200 annually or \$800.00 each semimonthly paycheck for 2011. APPROVED.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer offered an overview of the year to date financial statement noting that OCWM is still lagging behind, investments are on track, rental revenue is short, Outdoor Ministries has a \$23,000.00 deficit versus the \$8000.00 profit hoped for. There was good news – the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC generated a profit of \$4401.00. Michael hopes to report in spreadsheet format [which Bill Hoysradt is working on] a revenue and expense trend of the conference since 1995.

The Offering of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig presented an amended 2011 budget. MOTION by Carolyn SECOND by Doug Hatfield to accept the Budget and Finance recommendation to amend the 2011 budget for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, specifically lines 32, 33 and 34, passed at Annual Meeting. APPROVED. Carolyn also offered that in planning for 2012 huge increases in revenue are not anticipated, thus the need to actively pursue that which generates income without generating cost. Gary offered that the auditing reports are in and look good. Internal policies and new policies are being developed to address any deficiencies.

The Offering of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee – John Herbert indicated that while the committee had hoped for 350 attendees about 400 people attended. Of the approximately 200 evaluations received almost all were positive of the new format, the facility and the worship experiences. The offering netted \$4002.00 which was sent to One Great Hour of Sharing for flood relief in Pakistan. MOTION by John Herbert SECOND by Nora Larsen to hold the 2011 Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ on October 22, 2011 at

the Grappone Center. APPROVED In looking ahead to 2011, the committee is considering two time periods for hearings and lunch; the committee would also like suggestions for including youth in meaningful ways.

The Report of the Nominating Committee – Alison Jacobs noted that it is time to prepare and train General Synod delegates. Council APPROVED Martha Clement as an alternate delegate to Synod in 2011. Nominating is working on filling a vacancy on the Outdoor Ministries Board.

The Offering of the Outdoor Ministries Board – Heather Davis distributed a report about the Board's activities as they work with the 2009 Task Force Report. Heather requested that the two openings on the Outdoor Ministries Board be filled with youth. Heather also requested the council consider establishing a portal on the conference website that would help bring in revenue for Outdoor Ministries. MOTION by Alison Jacobs SECOND by Frank Irvine that "a portal be placed on the New Hampshire Conference website allowing access to Ebates for funds to benefit the Outdoor Ministries of the New Hampshire Conference. APPROVED. A youth event for different age levels is being considered and Outdoor Ministries would welcome assistance.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry around the Conference

Conference Assessment Task Force – Wayne Martin asked for authorization to form a task force of 8 volunteers to look at the organizational structure of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. Items members of the task force will explore include: determining what the core ministries of the New Hampshire Conference are, what should/shouldn't the conference be doing, what is broken, policy for recommendations of budget issues. This might lead to rewriting the existing bylaws which would be presented to council and then to the gathered conference at Annual Meeting. MOTION by Michael SECOND by Bernie Burditt. APPROVED.

Election of Havenwood-Heritage Heights Board Members – Doug Hatfield provided a history of the relationship between the New Hampshire Conference and Havenwood-Heritage Heights and indicated that our only responsibility is to elect board members. MOTION by Art Urie SECOND by Cyndi Morse that Charles LaFond, Oreste [Rusty] J. Mosca, and Casper Kranenburg be elected to the board of HHH. APPROVED

Appointment of the Associate Conference Minister's Relations Committee – MOTION by Don Lyon that Rebecca Maccini and Judith Gooch be appointed to this committee. SECOND by Alison Jacobs. APPROVED. MOTION by Don Lyon that Hal Harrison be appointed chair of the committee. SECOND by Frank Irvine. APPROVED.

Resignations from the Board of the Family Village – Doug Hatfield provided a brief history of the Family Village and our financial obligations. It was noted that the Conference should try and get unencumbered from the Family Village. The resignations of John Eller and Andy Jepson were stated.

Prayerful Addition to the Agenda – Gary Schulte offered a prayerful update on the ministerial standing of John Eller. Richard Slater then offered a prayer.

Time of Returning to the World – Nora Larsen offered a closing prayer after which the meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,
Deb Moore

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
December 16, 2010

Present: Dawn Berry, Bernard Burditt, Gordon Crouch, Ruth Gallot, Michael Gfroerer, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, John Herbert, Don Hill, Frank Irvine, Carolyn Keilig, Nora Larsen, Don Lyon, Wayne Martin, Deb Moore, Cyndi Morse, Jean O'Bresky, Kate Rogers, Gary Schulte, Laura Sevigny, Richard Slater, David Smith, Art Urie, Robert Vodra

The Community Gathers

Wayne Martin called the gathering to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions around the table were offered.

The Community Prepares Itself

Gary Schulte led us in opening worship at which Janet Ball served as our guest pianist.

The Community Reflects on its Mission

The record of the November 2010 was approved with the recommendation that dollar amounts of housing allowance for staff be stated in the minutes.

The Community Makes its Offering of Service

The Offerings of the Ministerial Staff were previously distributed by email.

Addendum-Gary Schulte asked for feedback on the tentative agenda for Geoffrey Black's visit to the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. As a result of 3 safety violations following a recent inspection, a safety committee is now in place and John Herbert offered to assist Bill Hoysradt with a pay schedule for normative labor.

Addendum – Robert Vodra noted an upcoming confirmation retreat and the next planning meeting for it.

Recent Developments in the Conference – Gary Schulte reported that the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ is currently facing 2 lawsuits. The previously existing one will be revisited in January with 2 possible actions – move to docket or dismiss. On December 1, 2010 the Conference was served with a lawsuit involving alleged allegations of sexual impurity with a female minor at the Horton Center from 1995 -1999. . Gary will check with Don Clark as to how soon to supply pastors with the information. Robert and Gary will work on further developing policies. Gary noted that this is the 3rd lawsuit in 4 years.

The Offering of the Treasurer – Michael Gfroerer noted that by mid-January we should know where we stand financially. Good news to report is that OCWM is \$6,000.00 ahead of last year. Further stated that those who have not spent their entire budget should not feel obligated to do so in order that we might balance the budget.

The Offering of the Visitation Committee – David Smith read a portion of a positive letter received from the North Barnstead church following a visit made there. A request has been made to the Nominating Committee in regards to filling 2 existing vacancies.

The Offering of the Investment Committee – Don Hill presented the following for the Investment Committee: Resolved: That the Investment Committee recommends that the Conference reduce the administrative expense associated with the Consolidated Investment Fund by eliminating the financial statement compilation performed by the Conference’s independent auditors.
APPROVED.

Sharing Our Thoughts on Ministry Around the Conference – Gordon Crouch chair of Peace with Justice presented a resolution proposed by the New Hampshire and Southwest Conferences calling upon the United Church of Christ and its congregations to petition the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to presented at General Synod. MOTION by Cyndi Morse, SECOND by Deb Moore, APPROVED by the “conference acting as the gathered conference ad interim.”

Time of Returning to the World – David Smith led us in a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore