

Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center  
Fall Business Conference – Lord, Lead Us  
November 8, 2014

The Fall Conference of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center met in Saginaw, Michigan at Saginaw Valley State University’s Curtis Hall, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, on November 8, 2014. The Conference was called to order by Mission Center President Deb Crowley at 9:15 a.m.

She introduced Jack Tigner as Conference Manager and he gave general announcements for our conference.

Introductions of conference officials were made.

Conference Managers	Jack Tigner and Dianna Vanderkarr
Conference Secretary	Joey Kernstock
Parliamentarian	Dan Nowiski
Head Deacon	Carl Nichols
Children/Youth Leader	Brenda Villeneuve
Special Guests	Presiding Bishop Steve Jones Apostle Stassi Cramm President of Seventy John Wight

Bishop Steve Jones brought greetings from Stassi Cramm and John Wight who will arrive later. He gave an overview of World Church regarding the \$7 million budget gap. A Moment of Blessing was given. We sang the hymn, “Listen”, Community of Christ Sings #153.

### **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Dianna Vanderkarr was recognized to provide the credentials committee report. As of 9:15 a.m., 351 delegates were properly registered to conduct conference business and there are 51 guests present. Dianna moved that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the convention. The Credentials Committee report was adopted entitling 351 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

### **STANDING RULES**

Dan Nowiski read the proposed standing rules and moved the adoption of the Standing Rules of the Conference as they were read. Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made an amendment to strike the last sentence of item three of the

standing rules, as follows “The income and expense totals are not subject to change.” The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. A vote was taken. The amendment had votes as follows - 154 yes and 150 no. The amendment passed.

The chair declared the 2014 Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Conference officially organized for conducting business.

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to change the order of the day to discuss the campground proposal in the morning instead of in the afternoon. Deb Crowley called the motion out of order. Kelly Christian moved to appeal the rule of the chair. The conference sustained Deb Crowley’s saying the motion was out of order by vote.

The chair referred the assembly to the printed minutes of the 2013 fall conference. The minutes were approved by a review committee. With no objection, the minutes were approved.

The chair appointed Dianna Vanderkarr, Dena DeVormer, and Robin LaBrecque to serve on the minutes review committee for approval of the 2014 conference minutes. The motion passed to have the minutes reviewed by the committee.

Deb Crowley relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Steve Jones for the sustaining of the mission center president and mission center financial officer. A motion to sustain Deb Crowley as mission center president and Dena DeVormer as mission center financial officer passed.

Presiding Bishop Steve Jones returned the chair to Mission Center President Deb Crowley. The chair referred the conference to the list of persons serving in mission center leadership roles. The chair asked for a vote to sustain the Mission Center Staff, Mission Center Council, Finance Committee members, and Congregation Support Group Leaders as printed in the conference materials with one addition to the Staff list to include David McCray as Urban Minister. The vote passed.

It was moved by Ed Heaviland to adopt the 2013 auditor’s report for the Michigan Mission Center. The motion was seconded. Dena gave additional information on the financial reports. She is willing to receive questions at any point in the future as questions arise (email works best for her). The motion was voted on, and passed.

The chair referred the conference to the reports of the Mission Center Officers, ministry area leaders, and campground boards that were printed in the conference booklet.

### Service Recognitions

- Recognition of Esther Volz, Mission Center Recorder
- Recognition of Mark Johnson, SPEC/IYF
- SALT Graduates
- Superannuated Priesthood, New Priesthood, 6 people were superannuated and 16 new priesthood ordained, 35 are in preordination at this time
- Congregation Anniversary Celebrations in 2014—Eleanor West
  - Coldwater—150 years
  - Twining—100 years

Since the meeting was ahead of schedule, Deb Crowley moved to consider the elections for the Community Outreach Service Corporation Board of Directors. (pg 53 in booklet) The nominating committee nominated Cynthia Omans and Tom Jeffers as mission center membership positions for three year terms, a vote was taken and their nominations were approved. The nominating committee nominated Richard Brownlee and Rick MacGregor as community representatives for three year terms, a vote was taken and it passed.

A motion was made to consider the campground budgets. It was seconded. Discussion followed. Rick Herr moved to adopt the 2015 proposed budget for Blue Water, a vote was taken and it passed. Gary Wiltse moved to adopt the 2015 proposed budget for Camp Manitou, a vote was taken and it passed. Roger Elkins moved to adopt the 2015 proposed budget for Park of the Pines, a vote was taken and it passed. Ken Dudley moved to adopt the 2015 proposed budget for Sanford Campground, a vote was taken and it passed. Deloris White moved to adopt the proposed budget for The Woodlands, a vote was taken and it passed. The conference took a 30 minute break and picked up voting devices to continue on. Conference resumed at 11:15 a.m.

A vote was taken for campground board members. Those elected are as follows:

#### Blue Water Campgrounds

Henry Knight, Troy Oaks

Janet Hoyt, Shabbona

Richard Parker, Lapeer

Vance Herbert, Crosswell  
Brandon Robertson, Eastside

Camp Manitou

Mark Baldwin, Northview  
Julia Bonhomme, Kalamazoo  
Leona Hollingsworth, Galien  
Linda Wiley, Allegan

Park of the Pines

Bill Dodds, Marion  
Roger Elkins, Marion  
Terry Ormsbee, Gaylord  
Ruth White, Traverse City  
Stephanie Marsh, Cheboygan

Sanford Campgrounds

Candace Govitz, Sanford  
Ray Persall, Vestaburg  
Dana Thering, Farwell  
Richard Hamilton, West Branch  
Everett Wiltse, Mt. Pleasant

The Woodlands

Robert Barr, Twining  
Mindy Jeffries, West Branch  
Bob Sheppard, Twining  
Mary Lou Sheppard, Twining  
Kevin White, West Branch

A Moment of Blessing occurred. The Conference then took a lunch break from 12:00 - 1:45 p.m.

The Conference reconvened at 1:45 p.m. The Prayer for Peace and an offering for the Mission Center Youth Camp Scholarship Camp Fund occurred.

Priesthood calls were presented to the conference (pages 49-52).

Murphy Matthews made the motion (and it was seconded) to consider Adam

Bouverette to the office of High Priest. Adam read his response. The motion passed.

Ken Dudley made the motion (and it was seconded) to consider Mary Jane Miller to the office of High Priest. Mary Jane indicated that her response can be read in the booklet. The motion passed.

The call of Mark Dalton to the office of High Priest/Evangelist was brought before the conference. He spoke to his call, a vote was taken, and it passed.

The call of Lynn Field to the office of Evangelist was brought before the conference. He spoke to his call, a vote was taken, and it passed.

Dean Robinson made the motion (and it was seconded) to consider Noelle Gaffka to the office of Seventy. Deb Crowley read the letter of recommendation from John Wight. Noelle spoke to her call, a vote was taken, and it passed.

Kevin Anderson was called to provide information on the process that would be used for the afternoon dialogue session regarding the Michigan campgrounds.

Rod Fullerton made a motion regarding Reclassification of Designated Ministry Funds (page 54). The motion did not need a second, discussed, voted on, and passed.

Amber Billman made a motion regarding Establishment of Disciple Development Funds (page 55). It was seconded. Mark Dalton, asked the amount to be placed in the fund. Discussion followed. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

A motion was made (and seconded) to consider the mission center budget by Robin LaBrecque. Dena DeVormer gave information pertaining to the proposed budget. Kelly Christian, made an amendment to the motion. Under the Income portion of the budget, increase the amount of Investment Support from Designated Ministry Funds from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The corresponding additional expense would provide \$5,000 to support the Special Needs Camp. John Bowman moved an amendment to the amendment to change "Special Needs Camp" to "special needs campers." Discussion followed. Julie Reinke moved the previous question on all matters. A vote was called on the previous question and it passed by the required majority. An evangelist moment of blessing was provided through prayer. The amendment to the amendment did not pass. The amendment did not pass.

The vote for accepting the budget passed as originally presented.

Bobbie Ann Robinson asked for volunteers to submit their names for establishing a camping philosophy committee. Dena DeVormer mentioned additional information regarding camping funds in the budget and the Special Needs Camp financial report in the notebooks indicating the generous support of congregations and individuals to the camp currently and encouraged continued responses.

Mindy Jeffries made the motion of the Campground Development Group (page 56), it was seconded and discussion followed. An amendment was made by April Sneathen to change the 4<sup>th</sup> resolved from 2015 spring conference to the 2015 fall conference. The amendment did not pass. The motion did not pass.

Kelly Christian moved to rescind Resolution B from the Michigan Mission Center organizing conference regarding initiation of legislation with a deadline for 30 days before conference. Discussion followed. Ben Crowley asked to suspend business to allow reading of the proposed motion. Deb Crowley indicated that Kelly Christian can read the motion that he would like to have considered. Julie Bock moved the previous question. A vote was called on the previous question and it passed by the required majority. Vote to rescind Resolution B legislation did not pass.

Announcements – Sunday morning classes tomorrow at 9 a.m. with Steve Jones and Adam Bouverette. If we want classes for our youth, we need volunteers. Worship time tomorrow is at 10:30 a.m. The Seventy will meet tonight for supper at 6 p.m. with John Wight. Campground dialogue session will begin in 15 minutes. Please turn in your voting device if you are leaving.

An Evangelist Blessing Moment was given by Carole Dudley. Adjournment occurred at 4:05 p.m.

Nan Anderson gave a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joey Kernstock, Conference Secretary

Minutes Approved by the Minutes Review Committee – Dena DeVormer, Robin LaBrecque, Dianna Vanderkarr