

Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center
Fall Business Conference – Saginaw, MI – November 7, 2015

The Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Fall Conference Business Meeting was called to order by Interim Mission Center President Team Member Dan Nowiski at 10:35 a.m.

The chair introduced conference managers, Jack Tigner and Dianna Vanderkarr; secretary Joey Kernstock; parliamentarian John Wight; head deacon Carl Nichols; children/youth leader Ruth Eaton; and special guests Apostle Stassi Cramm, Senior President of Seventy John Wight, and 2016 Mission Support Leader David Waring. Apostle Stassi Cramm was recognized and brought greetings from World Church.

Sherry MacGregor, Ann Arbor congregation was recognized to provide the credentials committee report. As of 10:30 a.m., 401 delegates were properly registered to conduct conference business and there were 65 guests and 17 non-delegate youth, for a total attendance of 483 people. Sherry moved that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the conference and it was seconded. The Credentials Committee report was adopted entitling 401 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

Parliamentarian, John Wight read the proposed Standing Rules. Dean Robinson, Bristolwood congregation, moved the adoption of the Standing Rules of the Conference as read. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

The chair brought attention to the tentative agenda for the day and noted that the order for considering items of business had been carefully shaped to ensure that questions which rely on previous decisions were considered in an appropriate order. Dan declared the 2015 Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Conference officially organized for conducting business. He made comments on the procedure to be followed for the conference.

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to move Resolutions 3 and 11 forward in the agenda as special orders to be taken up immediately. It was seconded and discussed. The vote was taken (Yes 187; No 174). The required 2/3 was not obtained and the motion failed.

The report of the Mission Center President Team and Mission Center Financial Officer was noted to be found in the printed materials along with specialized ministry and committee reports. Attention was drawn to the Blue Water Emerging Congregation report and it was shared that this will be an exciting effort to create a new expression of Community of Christ aimed at connecting with those who are not currently participating in congregational life.

The chair pointed out the Campground Sales Team quarterly update printed in the conference materials and indicated that updates from May and August can be found on the mission center website. Delegates were asked to take time to read campground board reports submitted in the printed materials and indicated where other documents in the conference folder could be found.

The minutes from the April 11, 2015 special conference were previously reviewed by the minutes review committee and the conference approved the minutes as printed. Dan proposed appointment of a committee of three persons to review and approve the minutes of today's conference. Without objection Jim Danielson, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker were appointed to serve on the minutes approval committee.

The chair recognized Ed Clapham, Plymouth congregation, who moved to adopt Resolution 1 (Use of Eastland Net Proceeds). The motion was seconded and discussion followed. An amendment was moved by Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, as follows: "Strike out the 7th Whereas that reads, 'Decreased funding...' and strike out the 1st Resolved that reads, 'That all...' and insert the following keeping the last Resolved. Whereas, youth camping is experiencing increasing administrative cost, such as but not limited to the rules and regulations of Department of Health and Human Services, which when a camp is compliant the Department is issued a yearly license allowing the Mission Center to operate the program(s) of camping ministry at a specific campground; therefore, Be it resolved, that the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Conference submit this amended resolution for approval by the Presiding Bishopric; and, Resolved, that all current and future proceeds received from the sale of the Eastland church facility, whether it be the full land contract final payment or installment payments from a future refinanced land contract, be held in Youth Camping Administrative Fund for the support of the administration ministries that are part of youth camping in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center; and Resolved, that a committee of youth camp directors or their designee, youth camp coordinators, and the Mission Center President or their designee meet at least yearly to identify administrative youth camping expenses, and to determine the amount of the Youth Camping Administrative Fund to be used for the upcoming year; and Resolved, that the committee have an initial meeting prior to March 1, 2016 to identify expenses for the 2016 youth camping season." The proposed amendment was seconded, discussed, and a vote was taken. The amendment failed. The original resolution was then voted on by the conference and was approved.

The chair recognized Rod Fullerton, Onaway congregation, who moved to adopt the 2016 Mission Center budget as proposed by the Finance Committee and the motion was seconded. The chair recognized Mission Center Financial Officer (MCFO), Dena DeVormer, for information pertaining to the proposed budget. Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, proposed an amendment to line 26 increasing licenses and fees by \$5000 and adding an income line item, "Transfer from General Reserves Fund" for \$5,000 under Investment Support." A second was received and discussion followed. Ben Bauman, Mt. Pleasant congregation, moved the previous question on the amendment and a second was received. The conference agreed that they were ready to take the vote on the amendment and the amendment failed. After some additional discussion on the budget, Debra Bruch, Detroit Hope emerging congregation, moved the previous question on the proposed budget. A second was received and the conference agreed that they were ready to take the vote on the budget as originally proposed. The vote was taken and the Mission Center budget for 2016 was approved.

The chair referred the conference to the mission center audit report. The chair recognized Cathy Hopkins, Traverse City congregation, who moved to adopt the 2014 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center and the motion was seconded. Dan recognized MCFO Dena DeVormer to provide information on the auditor's report. Dena noted that the campground

audit reports had previously been adopted at the applicable campground boards and did not need to be approved at this conference but are available for the conference's review. The 2014 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center was adopted.

Dan Nowiski relinquished the chair to David Waring, who will serve in 2016 as the Mission Support leader for the area of the USA Field including the Michigan Mission Center, for the sustaining of mission center officers.

The First Presidency recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Dan Nowiski as Mission Center President and Dan Nowiski, Adam Bouverette, and Dianna Vanderkarr as the Mission Center President Team. Jim Danielson, Eastside congregation, asked for clarification as to who would be the president of record. It was explained that Dan Nowiski would be the president of record and that Adam Bouverette and Dianna Vanderkarr serve as members of the Mission Center President Team. The appointment of Dan Nowiski, Adam Bouverette, and Dianna Vanderkarr to serve as the Mission Center President Team was carried and sustained by conference vote.

The First Presidency recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Jack Tigner as Mission Center Financial Officer. The appointment of Jack Tigner as Mission Center Financial Officer was carried and sustained by conference vote. David Waring returned the chair to Dan Nowiski.

The chair indicated that Community of Christ bylaws call for "each mission center to establish a mission center council, a standing body whose primary purpose is to advise mission center officers and staff on matters affecting the core functions of the mission center."

The chair reported that as the MCP Team worked to discern a vision for the future of the mission center it became clear that a model for combining the current staff team, congregation support group (CSG) leaders, and mission center council could provide for increased efficiencies and streamlined communications. The feedback of current leaders in each of these groups helped the MCP Team develop a plan for a larger mission center council consisting of members who will carry on the support and communication roles of the current CSG Leaders with no administrative involvement. The MCP Team is excited about the opportunity for these local leaders to be focused on mission and building relationships.

Before consideration of sustaining the council members for 2016, recognition was given to the leaders who had faithfully served for the past year. The MCP Team expressed appreciation for the support and guidance they had provided during a time of transition and uncertainty. Sarah Allen, Betty Beauchamp, Amber Billman, Terry Brown, Hap Frizzell, Murphy Mathews, Tanya Moore, Dennis Ormsbee, Robert Smith, Jim Sweet, Linda Wiley, Darwin Wismer, Eleanor West, Roger Elkins, Jack Tigner, Gil Burgeson, Ron Kuenzli, Dick Shotwell, Mary Jane Miller, Carl Nichols, Nan Anderson, Henry Knight, and Cynthia Omans were thanked with applause for their time, energy, and service as Mission Center Council Members and Congregation Support Group Leaders.

The chair indicated that a list of persons who have agreed to serve on the Mission Center Council for 2016 could be found on page 12 of the conference booklet. Gary Gordier was added to the list of MC Council members for the Bay City, Burt, Clio, Otter Lake, and

Saginaw congregations. Gary Wesch was added to the list of MC Council members for the Blue Water, Croswell, Marlette, Sixth Street, Valley Center, and Wadhams Grove congregations. The chair indicated that there may be adjustments made to the congregations each member will maintain relationship with during the year as ministry opportunities are identified. The Mission Center President Team recommended sustaining the individuals listed and named to serve on the mission center council for 2016. Those persons listed and named as Mission Center Council Members for 2016 were sustained.

The chair indicated that on pages 12 and 13 of the conference booklet there was a list of individuals who have volunteered to serve in various leadership roles for mission center ministries and committees. The leaders for Friday Knights is to be determined. Anyone interested in helping with Friday Knights activities may contact Sue Beavers or Drika Grutter for more information. Notice that anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should contact Jack Tigner and those interested in serving on the Environmental Stewardship Committee should contact Dan Nowiski.

On the Campground Operating Principles Team the final at-large team member will be Jim Sweet. This is a new team that is being formed by the Mission Center Officers to work between now and May 2016 to examine and recommend options for how operations and management would best be structured for campground properties. The team members will work with church leaders and staff to explore possible options that fit best within the new USA Field model. Any changes recommended by the team will be announced and implemented at the next conference for 2017 operations. All of these individuals were thanked for their willingness to serve and their commitment of time and energy during the coming year.

The chair announced that additional nominations for World Conference should be provided to the conference secretary.

The conference was directed to the list of nominees to serve on the Journey House Campus Ministry Center Board of Directors. The Journey House Board of Directors has been operating for over 16 years, however due to recent bylaw changes approved by the Board and church leaders this is the first time the mission center conference will be electing directors for the Journey House Board. The conference will elect all nine board members at this conference. The nine elected board members will determine three people who will serve a one year term, three who will serve a two year term, and three who will serve a three year term during the first meeting after they take office on July 1, 2016. The three year terms will then be staggered so future conferences will only need to elect for three positions each year. The nominees are Jack Benac, Terry Brown (nominated from the conference floor), David Caceres, Ben Crowley, Carole Dudley, Richard Hawks, Joanne Horton, and Rick MacGregor. All eight nominees were elected by acclamation.

The Community Outreach Services Corporation (COSC) Board of Directors nominating committee nominated Tammera Bollman and G. Jerry van Rossum as mission center representatives. Tammera Bollman and G. Jerry van Rossum were elected to a three year term as mission center representatives on the COSC Board. The COSC Board of Directors nominating committee nominated Julie Bock and L. Clinton Moore as community representatives. Julie Bock and L. Clinton Moore were elected to a three year term as community representatives to the COSC Board.

Additional nominations were received from the conference floor for the Blue Water Board: Dick Pennington (Troy Oaks), Jim Robertson (Lapeer), and Patti Piper (Wadhams Grove). Additional nominations were received from the conference floor for the Park of the Pines Board: Amy Bridson (Cadillac) and Robert Bonhomme (Kalamazoo). There were no additional nominations from the floor for the Sanford Board. Campground Board elections will occur after the recess for lunch.

Conference manager, Jack Tigner, gave announcements regarding lunch availability at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), the Bob Evans fundraiser, reminders to pick up youth at their rooms, keep track of your voting devices, visit the display tables, and silent auction ends at 6:30 p.m. The conference was excused for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and will be in recess until 2 p.m. A “Moment of Blessing” was given by Evangelist Gary Piper.

At 2 p.m., Noelle Gaffka shared with the conference a Prayer for Peace and an offering for the Youth Camp Scholarship Fund was received.

Nan Anderson called the meeting to order after the recess. The chair then recognized SALT graduates, superannuated World Church ministers (Duane Salswedel and Casper Winkler, Evangelists) and new priesthood. The Kalamazoo congregation was honored for one hundred years of ministry. Camp and reunion directors, pastors and CFOs were recognized for their service.

The chair was returned to Dan Nowiski who announced that the Credentials Report had been amended and the number of registered delegates was 397.

The election of World Conference Delegates was brought before the Mission Center Conference. A list of 107 nominees who were interested in serving as a delegate at the 2016 World Conference was presented. An additional list of 32 nominees was gathered from those in attendance and read by the chair (attached), which brings the total to 139 names. The Michigan Mission Center has been allocated 200 delegate seats for the conference. If there are less than 200 nominees, one vote to elect all nominees would be in order. Since there are fewer than 200 nominees it appears that all nominees would be elected by acclamation. Hearing no objections, all nominees were elected to serve as World Conference Delegates. Delegates were thanked for their willingness to serve. Don Harvey, Union Avenue congregation, moved to grant the Mission Center President the power to approve additional delegates and alternates to fill the remaining seats and serve on behalf of the Michigan Mission Center at the 2016 World Conference. It was seconded and approved.

The conference then proceeded to the election of the campground boards. There were five positions open for election to a three year term on the Blue Water Campground Board of Directors. Those elected were Dick Pennington, Patti Piper, Tim Ross, Greg Varner, and Dale Volz.

There were five positions open for election to a three year term on the Park of the Pines Board of Directors. Those elected were Kevin Anderson, Dennis Christopher, Dennis Ormsbee, Eleanor West, and Mike Mead. Deb Buehner was elected to a two year term.

There were five positions open for election to a three year term on the Sanford Campground Board of Directors. Those elected were Kristine Beckman, Kenneth Dudley, Patti Leis, Mary Jane Miller, and Lewis Mogg.

A “Moment of Blessing” was given by Evangelist Bobbi Mier.

The chair was relinquished to Adam Bouverette who then directed the Conference’s attention to the World Church minister priesthood calls on pages 34-38 in the Conference bulletin.

Senior President of Seventy John Wight then spoke to the calls for Mark Johnson, John Jones, and Kevin White to the office of Seventy.

Rick MacGregor, Ann Arbor congregation, moved to approve the call of Mark Johnson to the office of Seventy, it was seconded and Mark spoke to his call. The call of Mark Johnson was approved.

Rick MacGregor, Ann Arbor congregation, moved to approve the call of John Jones to the office of Seventy, it was seconded and John spoke to his call. The call of John Jones was approved.

Rick MacGregor, Ann Arbor congregation, moved to approve the call of Kevin White to the office of Seventy, it was seconded and Kevin spoke to his call. The call of Kevin White was approved.

Apostle Stassi Cramm spoke to the calls for Mel Crowley, Hap Frizzell, and Bobbie Ann Robinson to the office of Evangelist.

Carol Walden, South Bend congregation, moved to approve the call of Mel Crowley to the office of Evangelist, it was seconded and Mel spoke to his call. The call of Mel Crowley was approved.

Carol Walden, South Bend congregation, moved to approve the call of Hap Frizzell to the office of Evangelist, it was seconded and Hap spoke to his call. The call of Hap Frizzell was approved.

Carol Walden, South Bend congregation, moved to approve the call of Bobbie Ann Robinson to the office of Evangelist, it was seconded and Bobbie Ann spoke to her call. The call of Bobbie Ann Robinson was approved.

Apostle Stassi Cramm spoke to the calls for Wendy Brooks and Steve Qualman to the office of High Priest.

Talitha Pennington, Troy Oaks congregation, moved to approve the call of Wendy Brooks to the office of High Priest, it was seconded and Wendy spoke to her call. The call of Wendy Brooks was approved.

Talitha Pennington, Troy Oaks congregation, moved to approve the call of Steve Qualman to the office of High Priest, it was seconded and Steve spoke to his call. The call of Steve Qualman was approved.

Congratulations and thanks were given to all who accepted these calls of servanthood. Ordinations of these individuals will occur this evening during the worship experience following the break for dinner. All were encouraged to attend and support the ordinations. A "Moment of Blessing" by Evangelist Carole Dudley was observed.

The chair was returned to Dan Nowiski who announced that the Youth Camp Scholarship offering that was collected during the Prayer for Pease worship received \$2,467.60.

Proposed campground budgets for 2016 (page 3 of the white financial packet handout) were then considered.

Rick Herr, Board President, made a motion to adopt the Blue Water Campground Budget for 2016, the motion was seconded, and the Blue Water Campground Budget was adopted.

Robert Bonhomme, Board Treasurer, made a motion to adopt the Camp Manitou Budget for 2016, the motion was seconded, and the Camp Manitou Budget was adopted.

Roger Elkins, Board President, made a motion to adopt the Park of the Pines Budget for 2016, the motion was seconded, and the Park of the Pines Budget was adopted.

Ken Dudley, Board President, made a motion to adopt the Sanford Campground Budget for 2016, the motion was seconded, and the Sanford Campground Budget for 2016 was adopted.

Deloris White, Board President, made a motion to adopt the Woodlands Budget for 2016, the motion was seconded, and the Woodlands Budget for 2016 was adopted.

The chair then asked the conference to refer to Resolution 2 in the conference bulletin.

Gary Wesch, Sixth Street congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 2 (Amend "Establishment of Disciple Development Fund" Resolution). The motion was seconded, discussed, voted on and Resolution 2 was approved.

Kathy Erwin, Clio congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 3 (Rescind "Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds" Resolution). The motion was seconded and discussed. Ginny Tigner, Coleman congregation, moved the previous question on the resolution and there was a second. The conference agreed they were ready to vote. The vote was taken and Resolution 3 failed. (Yes 85; No 291)

Mindy Jeffries, West Branch congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 4 (Amend "Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds" Resolution to Also Sell Sanford, Blue Water, and Park of Pines and Purchase Two New Properties). A second was received on the motion and the motion was discussed. Ginny Tigner, Coleman congregation, moved the

previous question on the resolution and there was a second. The conference agreed they were ready to vote. The vote was taken and Resolution 3 failed. (Yes 59; No 320)

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 5A (Amend "Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds" Resolution to Continue Operating Campgrounds Until Sold). The motion was seconded and discussed. Ken Colburn, Hastings congregation, proposed an amendment to change the first Resolved to add "at The Woodlands" behind the word "fashion" and in the last Resolved strike "Manitou." There was a second on the amendment followed by discussion. Megan Welke, Coleman congregation, moved the previous question on the amendment and there was a second. The conference agreed they were ready to vote on the amendment. The vote was taken on the amendment and it passed. (Yes 194; No 171) The conference then was directed to the resolution as amended. Debra Bruch, Detroit Hope emerging congregation, moved the previous question on the main motion as amended and there was a second. The conference agreed they were ready to vote. The vote was taken and Resolution 5A as amended was approved. (Yes 214; No 154)

Resolutions 5B, 5C, and 5D were not considered as they presented substantially the same question as proposed in Resolution 5A. Therefore, the resolutions were not in order because "the same or substantially the same question cannot be brought up a second time during the same session except by means of the parliamentary motions that bring a question again before the assembly" per Roberts' Rules of Order (RONR 11th ed., p. 88, ll. 15-18).

Kathy Erwin, Clio congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 6 (Amend "Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds" Resolution to Establish Procedure for Management of Equipment from Sale of Woodlands and Manitou). The motion was seconded, discussed, and voted on. Resolution 6 failed. (Yes 96; No 262)

Mindy Jeffries, West Branch congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 7A (Resolution to Recommend a Minimum Price Range for Manitou and Woodlands) as modified in the first Resolved as follows: "Resolved, That it be recommended to the Presiding Bishopric that the lowest acceptable sale price for The Woodlands and Camp Manitou be for no less than 80% of their suggested and recommended asking price, as found in the updated Campground Study Report, Attachment G, which was presented to the Body during the April 2015 conference; and." The motion was seconded and discussed. Kathy Erwin moved to amend the motion by substitution to consider Resolution 7B as modified to indicate that the lowest acceptable price is a recommendation to the Presiding Bishopric. A second was received for the proposed substitution. Kathy Erwin made an amendment to Resolution 7B to strike "fair market value" and substitute it for "appraised value." A second was received for the amendment. A vote was taken and the proposed amendment to Resolution 7B as modified was approved. Deloris White, West Branch congregation, moved the previous question on the motion to amend 7A by substitution with amended 7B. There was a second and the conference agreed they were ready to vote on the amendment to substitute 7B as amended for 7A. The amendment to substitute passed. (Yes 201; No 137) The conference then considered the amended resolution which now read "Resolved, That it be recommended to the Presiding Bishopric that neither Manitou nor The Woodlands should be sold for less than 90 percent of the appraised value at the time of the sale." The vote was taken and the resolution failed. (Yes 158; No 186)

Roger Elkins, Park of the Pines Board President, made a motion to adopt Resolution 8A (Create Park of the Pines Endowment Fund). The motion was seconded and discussed. Ben Bauman, Mt. Pleasant congregation, moved to amend the final Resolved to strike "Park of the Pines" and change it to "the Michigan campgrounds" and to change the first Resolved from "Park of the Pines Endowment Fund" to "Michigan Campgrounds Endowment Fund" and remove the reference to sixteen thousand dollars. The proposed amendment was seconded and discussion followed. Gene Beach, Cheboygan congregation, moved the previous question on the amendment and there was a second. The conference agreed they were ready to vote on the amendment. The vote was taken and the amendment failed. The original motion for Resolution 8A was then voted on and it was approved.

Roger Elkins, Park of the Pines Board President, made a motion to adopt Resolution 8B (Adopt Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Bylaws). The motion was seconded, discussed, voted on and Resolution 8B was approved.

The chair then asked for nominations for the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board. Per the Bylaws that were approved in Resolution 8B, the Board shall consist of five directors elected by the jurisdictional conference. Nominations received from the floor included Roger Elkins, Carla Parkes, Bill Dodds, Eleanor West, Jim Sweet, Nadine Volz, Cathy Hopkins, and Kevin Anderson. Nominations were closed and the election proceeded. Board members elected were Kevin Anderson, Bill Dodds, Roger Elkins, Cathy Hopkins, and Eleanor West.

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 9 (Limit Mission Center Reserve Fund) as modified to amend the first resolved paragraph by inserting, "That it be recommended to the Mission Center Officers..." The motion was seconded and discussed. The vote was taken and Resolution 9 failed. (Yes 113; No 166)

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, moved to postpone Resolution 10 to the next spring or fall Mission Center Conference. The chair ruled the motion to postpone out of order.

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 10 (Distribute Thank You Gift Cards to Volunteers at Youth Camps and Reunions) as modified to change the word "will" to "may" in the first Resolved paragraph. The motion was seconded and discussed. The rules were suspended to allow a guest to speak to Resolution 10. Deloris White, West Branch congregation, moved the previous question and it was seconded. The conference agreed it was ready to vote. The vote was taken and Resolution 10 failed.

Kelly Christian, Eastside congregation, made a motion to adopt Resolution 11 (Study and Fund Mission Center Reunions) as modified to the first resolved as follows: "Resolved, That it be recommended to the mission center officers that the reunion/family camp schedule of 2015 be continued at all campgrounds operating in 2016 and 2017 to facilitate a study of reunions, providing the director(s) of a reunion in 2015 are willing to serve in that capacity for 2016 and 2017 and if new directors are needed that the vacancy be announced throughout the Mission Center using several media methods;" The motion was seconded. Bill Dodds, Marion congregation, made a motion to refer to this matter to the Mission Center Officers and Council. A second was received to the motion to refer and discussion followed. The motion to refer Resolution 11 to the Mission Center Officers and Council was approved.

Resolution 12 (Limits for Camp and Reunion Attendance Fees and Programming Fees) was not moved by the sponsoring congregation and thus it was not considered.

The chair announced that the Setting Apart service for the Mission Center officers would occur on Sunday morning prior to the class time. Jack Tigner made announcements regarding the calendar handout, voting devices must be turned in before leaving, Sunday morning classes, bring your spiritual journals, youth pick up, Bob Evans fundraiser, and the vendor rooms are still open. All worship participants were asked to meet at 7:15 p.m. and the ordination worship service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The chair asked if there was any additional business to come before the conference. Seeing no one seeking the floor, the 2015 Fall Mission Center Conference was adjourned. Following adjournment there was a final moment of blessing provided by Evangelist Carol Campbell.

Respectfully submitted,
Joey Kernstock, Conference Secretary

Minutes reviewed by Jim Danielson, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker.