

Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center
Spring Business Conference – Mt. Pleasant, MI
April 11, 2015

The Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Spring Conference Business Meeting was called to order by President Deb Crowley on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 3:12 p.m.

Deb introduced conference managers, Jack Tigner and Dianna Vanderkarr, secretary Joey Kernstock, parliamentarian Dan Nowiski, head usher Carl Nichols, youth activity coordinator Brenda Villeneuve, registration chairperson Sherry MacGregor and Apostle Stassi Cramm and thanked them for their assistance at this conference. She also thanked our Evangelists for their prayerful consideration during our gathering.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Sherry McGregor was recognized to provide a credentials committee report. She stated 417 delegates were properly registered to conduct conference business and there were 41 guests, with a total of 458 in attendance. Sherry moved that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the conference. The Credentials Committee report was adopted entitling 417 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

STANDING RULES

Dan Nowiski read the proposed standing rules. The adoption of the standing rules was moved, seconded, voted on and passed. Clarification was given that delegates vote according to the spirit as it moves during the meeting.

President Crowley declared the conference officially organized and ready to conduct business.

The minutes from the November 8, 2014 conference were previously reviewed by the minutes review committee and the conference approved the minutes as printed. They will do so for the minutes today to be presented at the November conference. (Dena DeVormer, Robin LaBrecque, Dianna Vanderkarr.)

The resolution to maintain and operate two campgrounds on page 24 in the conference bulletin (and reprinted below) was moved by Kevin Anderson and a second was received.

Resolution to Maintain and Operate Two (2) Campgrounds

Whereas, the Michigan Campground Team (MCT) is keenly aware of the ministry of Jesus Christ and the dedicated stewardship of so many disciples that has occurred and is occurring at each one of the Michigan Mission Center Campgrounds; and,

Whereas, it is also becoming apparent that camping ministry in the Community of Christ and in other denominations is changing and it has become increasingly difficult to properly maintain these campgrounds; and,

Whereas, upon prayerful and discerning deliberation in meetings over the past two (2) years and upon evaluation of surveys of the membership, reports from the consulting firm SmithGroupJJR, a market analysis from Real Estate Professional Services, Mission Center Conference dialogs, letters, emails, and testimonies; and

Whereas, the Community of Christ Use of New Proceeds Policy states “when a mission center disposes of a capital asset, the mission center officers, in consultation with the Apostle and mission center council, will submit to a mission center conference a resolution for the use of the net proceeds,” therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Michigan USA/Canada Mission center operate and maintain two campgrounds, Blue Water and Park of the Pines, and sell three campgrounds, Manitou, Sanford and The Woodlands; and be it further

Resolved, that communication be provided through quarterly updates to the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center congregations regarding progress towards selling campground properties; and be it further

Resolved, that the mission center officers appoint a committee(s) with members from the mission center to handle aspects of the sale and future planning, with oversight exercised by the appropriate mission center and world church officers; and be it further

Resolved, that the net proceeds from the sale of campgrounds shall be utilized for pursuing mission through the development of campground properties and mission center camping and gathering activities, and net proceeds will initially be held in a Michigan Mission Center affiliate investment pool account(s) until mission center officers, with input from the above referenced committee(s), are able to consult with the Apostle and mission center council to propose a resolution for the use of funds for mission center conference approval in accordance with the Use of Net Proceeds Policy.

Brian Hice moved to amend the first Resolved to change the campgrounds being operated and maintained to Blue Water and Manitou and to sell Park of the Pines, Sanford and The Woodlands. A second was received. After discussion, the vote on the amendment failed (yes 37, no 369).

Lori White moved to amend the first Resolved to change the campgrounds being operated and maintained to Manitou and The Woodlands and to sell Park of the Pines, Sanford, and Blue Water. A second was received. After discussion, the vote on the amendment failed (yes 92, no 314).

Gary Wesch moved to amend the first Resolved to “operate and maintain three campgrounds, Blue Water, Park of the Pines, and Sanford and sell two campgrounds, Manitou and The Woodlands.” A second was received. Discussion followed.

Julie Reinke moved the previous question on all matters and the conference agreed that it was ready to vote. A vote on the amendment occurred and it was approved (yes 246, no 163). A vote on the resolution as amended occurred and it was approved (yes 283, 70.4%; no 119).

It was announced there would be a short break and then a closing worship after the business meeting which adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Kernstock, Conference Secretary

As reviewed and approved by the Minutes Review Committee (Dena DeVormer and Dianna Vanderkarr).

Not part of the official minutes. Additional information shared during the day:

Announcement – turn in clickers or pay a \$50 fine.

Prayer for Peace – Singapore – Carol Walden

Retirement Recognition of Deb Crowley and Bobbie Ann Robinson

Shared leadership team as Mission Center President - Nan Anderson, Adam Bouverette, Diana Vanderkarr, Dan Nowiski, and Noelle Gaffka starting May 1 and going through December 31, 2015. Fall Conference will announce the new changes as of January 1, 2016.

Announcement from Brenda Villeneuve acknowledging a youth leader for three years of service – Laura Tew. Ventures Leader.

Topics brought up for discussion during the non-legislative dialogue session:

Should the MMC sell all 5 campgrounds? Yes 50, No 337

Should the MMC operate and maintain 3 campgrounds?

Keep Blue Water, Park of the Pines, and Sanford -- Yes 133, No 247

Keep Blue Water, Park of the Pines, and The Woodlands -- Yes 94, No 267

Should the MMC operate and maintain 2 campgrounds?

Keep Blue Water and The Woodlands -- Yes 90, No 312

Keep Sanford and The Woodlands -- Yes 70, No 318

Should the MMC operate and maintain 1 campground?

Keep The Woodlands only -- Yes 118, No 280

Should the MMC operate and maintain 1 campground?

Keep Manitou only -- Yes 34, No 371

Should the campground decision be postponed/tabled/not acted upon?

Yes 90, No 302

Should the MMC sell 4 campgrounds (Blue Water, Park of the Pines, Sanford, and Manitou) and 200 acres of Woodlands and develop the remaining acres of The Woodlands for use? -- Yes 78, No 314

Should we keep all campgrounds and hold sacrificial offerings in order to keep all five of them? -- Yes 82, No 311

Two polls:

Which resolution does the conference wish to consider first?

Maintain & Operate Two Campgrounds – 270

Maintain & Operate One Campground – 115

Should there be a special rule of order indicating how the decision should be made and by which percentage of people who vote would be required for approval of a resolution?

Majority vote (more than one-half)? – 231

Two-thirds vote (66.67%)? - 170