

Michigan USA Mission Center
Fall Business Conference – Bring Fresh Vision
November 3, 2018

The Fall Conference of the Michigan USA Mission Center met in Saginaw, Michigan at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, on November 3, 2018. Following a presentation by Apostle Lachlan Mackay, Senior President of Seventy John Wight, and Field Support Minister Dena DeVormer, the Conference was called to order by Mission Center President Team Member Dan Nowiski at 10:50 a.m.

Introductions of conference officials were made as follows: Conference Manager, Ellie Easley; Conference Secretary, Joey Kernstock; Parliamentarian, John Wight; Head Deacon, Dick Parker; and Guests Apostle Lachlan Mackay, Senior President of Seventy John Wight, Field Support Minister Dena DeVormer; and Graceland University Community of Christ Outreach & Marketing Specialist, Emily Munter.

Carol Husted (Mt. Pleasant Congregation) was recognized to provide the credentials committee report. As of 9:25 a.m. there were 307 delegates properly registered to conduct conference business. Carol moved that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the conference. The credentials committee report was adopted entitling 307 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

The chair directed the delegates to the proposed standing rules as printed and distributed in advance of the conference. The standing rules were adopted. The chair declared the 2018 Michigan USA Mission Center Conference officially organized for conducting business.

The chair stated that the tentative agenda for the day was found on page two of the conference handouts and might be adjusted by the chair as needed. The chair made comments on the rules to be followed using the Community of Christ Bylaws and Procedures, the standing rules just adopted and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition. The chair indicated that the minutes from the fall 2017 mission center conference have been approved by the review committee. The minutes are posted on the fall conference webpage and available for review. Delegates were asked to submit any corrections to the secretary.

Without objection, the chair appointed Terry Brown, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker to serve on a minutes review committee to review and approve the minutes of this conference.

The chair indicated that written reports of officers, boards, teams, and committees could be found in the printed materials. The chair asked delegates to take time to read the reports submitted and share the information with their congregations.

The chair shared highlights of the Mission Center President Team's written report.

Jack Tigner, MCFO, shared highlights of his report. Jack recommended the adoption of the 2017 auditor's report. The chair referred the conference to the printed 2017 auditor's report. A second was received to adopt the 2017 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center. The motion carried and the 2017 auditor's report was adopted.

Jack Tigner recommended adoption of the proposed 2019 Mission Center Operating Budget. A second was received. The motion carried and the budget was adopted.

Rick Herr, Board President, shared highlights of the Blue Water Campground Board report. Roger Elkins, Board President, shared highlights of the Park of the Pines Board Report. Dana Thering, Board President, shared highlights of the Sanford Campground Board report. Kevin White, Board President, shared highlights of the Woodlands Board report. Dave Caceres, Board Present, shared highlights of the Journey House Campus Ministries Center Board report.

John Jones and Laura Tew shared a report from the International Youth Forum and Spectacular delegations. The chair stated that the report on youth camp ministries would be given in the afternoon in connection with the prayer for peace. The chair directed delegates to the written reports of Youth Ventures, the Disciple Development Fund Committee, Earth Stewardship Team, and Campground Sales Team.

Dan Nowiski relinquished the chair to Lachlan Mackay, Apostle for the Northeast USA Mission 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, Adam Bouverette, and Erica Nye as the Mission Center President Team. The appointment of Dan Nowiski, Adam Bouverette, and Erica Nye to serve as the Mission Center President Team was sustained.

The First Presidency recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Jessica Montague as Mission Center Financial Officer. The appointment of Jessica Montague as Mission Center Financial Officer was sustained.

The Field Apostle and President of Seventy recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Greg Varner as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. The appointment of Greg Varner as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister was sustained. Lachlan Mackay returned the chair to Dan Nowiski. The chair reported that the Mission Center President Team and Mission Center Financial Officer would be set apart for service in their new roles at the 7:00 p.m. worship service.

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 recognized council members serving in 2018 and indicated that a list of persons who have agreed to serve on the Mission Center Council for 2019 could be found in the printed materials. The Mission Center President Team recommended sustaining the individuals listed to serve on the Mission Center Council for 2019. Those persons listed and named as Mission Center Council members for 2019 were sustained.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Journey House Campus Ministry Center Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were three positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Jack Benac, Terry Brown, and Dorothy Sommer were nominated and elected to three year terms on the Journey House Board.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Blue Water Campground Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Darrell Bechtel, Richard Pennington, Patricia (Patti) Piper, Tim Ross, and Dale Volz were nominated and elected to three year terms on the Blue Water Campground Board.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Park of the Pines Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Bob Pagels, Carla Parkes, Lee Ecker, Deb Koenig, and Ruth White were nominated and elected to three year terms on the Park of the Pines Board.

The chair informed the conference that there were two positions open for election to three year terms on the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board of Directors. Linda Schindler was nominated and elected to a three year term on the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board.

The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the Sanford Campground Board of Directors. Kati Fry, Mary Jane Miller, Dale Leyder, Sue Leyder and Lewis Mogg were nominated and elected to three year terms on the Sanford Campground Board.

The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on The Woodlands Board of Directors. James Barr, Sam Bellinger, Tim Ross, Lori White, and Dale Volz were nominated and elected to three year terms on The Woodlands Board.

The chair informed the conference that 192 seats were allocated to the Michigan Mission Center for the 2019 World Conference to take place April 6-13, 2019. A list of seventy-nine people expressed a desire to be nominated prior to the conference. Forty-three additional individuals submitted their names to be nominated during the conference. Since there were fewer than 192 nominations received and election is by plurality, a single vote was taken to elect all nominees. The motion carried and all 122 nominees were elected to serve as delegates to the 2019 World Conference (see attached list).

Ellie Easley shared announcements with the conference. The conference recessed at 12:15 p.m. The conference was encouraged to return by 1:30 p.m.

Following a question and answer session on the resolutions submitted to the conference, songs from conference kids participants, a prayer for peace, recognition of youth camp directors and staff, a presentation on a generosity model for funding youth camps in 2019, and receiving of disciples' generous response for the youth camp scholarship fund, recognitions were given.

Seventy Tony Saraiva (Rose Lake), High Priest Rogers Claussen (Waterford), and deceased Evangelist Gary Piper (Richmond) were recognized for emeritus status. Dianna Vanderkarr and Cathy Hopkins were recognized for their retirement from church employment. The Tawas City Congregation was recognized for 100 years of ministry. The Grand Rapids area congregations were recognized for 150 years of ministry. John Wight provided information about the 25th anniversary celebration of the dedication of the Independence Temple planned for April 6-7, 2019.

The conference was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Dan Nowiski.

The chair referred the conference to the printed statements of the candidates being called to serve in world church minister priesthood offices. The chair recognized Apostle Lachlan Mackay to speak to the calls.

Talitha Pennington (Troy Oaks) moved to approve the call of Cindy Dewar to the office of high priest. The chair stated that all calls being considered have been approved by the MCP Team and World Church leaders eliminating the need for a second. Cindy was recognized to speak to her call. The call was approved.

Talitha Pennington (Troy Oaks) moved to approve the call of Ron Rouse to the office of high priest. Ron was recognized to speak to his call. The call was approved.

Talitha Pennington (Troy Oaks) moved to approve the call of Don Spencer to the office of high priest. Don was recognized to speak to his call. The call was approved.

Talitha Pennington (Troy Oaks) moved to approve the call of Dana Thering to the office of high priest. Dana was recognized to speak to her call. The call was approved.

Jack Tigner (MCFO) moved to approve the call of Jessica Montague to the offices of high priest and bishop. Jessica was recognized to speak to her call. The call was approved.

Loretha Smith (Alaska) moved to approve the call of Dianna Vanderkarr to the office of evangelist. The call was approved.

Emily Munter shared a moment of blessing.

The chair called attention to Resolution 1 - Valley Center Net Proceeds as submitted by the Mission Center Officers in consultation with the Apostle and Mission Center Council. The chair stated the motion to adopt

Resolution 1 reading, “*Resolved*, That the net proceeds from the Valley Center congregation in the amount of \$36,009.71 shall be dispersed by providing \$1,000.00 to the Wadhams Grove congregation, \$5,000.00 to Blue Water Campground, \$12,009.71 to the Michigan Mission Center Youth Camp Scholarship Fund, and \$18,000.00 to the Bridge of Hope project outlined by the Presiding Bishopric.”

Gary Wesch (Sixth Street) moved to amend the resolution by inserting “\$2,000 to the Sixth Street congregation for support of the special needs camp at Sanford Campground,” following “Wadhams Grove congregation,” and replacing \$18,000 with \$16,000 before “to the Bridge of Hope project.” The motion to amend was approved. (Yes 88%; No 12%).

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 – Valley Center Net Proceeds as amended was approved. (Yes 97%; No 3%)

The chair called attention to Resolution 2 – Mission Center General and Non-Resident Delegates as submitted by the Mission Center President Team. The chair stated the motion to adopt Resolution 2 reading, “*Resolved*, That the delegate policy of the Michigan Mission Center be amended by adding the following two paragraphs to the end of the policy: “Congregations shall be permitted to elect and report one alternate for each elected delegate.” “The mission center president shall establish procedures for electing or appointing up to ten delegates from the nonresident and general category members. Any of the ten seats left open may be filled by alternates from congregations according to the Seating Alternates policy.” The motion to adopt Resolution 2 – Mission Center General and Non-Resident Delegates was approved. (Yes 293; No 15)

The chair called attention to Resolution 3 – Amend Previously Adopted Resolution “Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales” as submitted by the Park of the Pines, Sanford, and Blue Water Campground Boards. The chair stated the motion to adopt Resolution 3 reading “*Resolved*, That the “Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales” resolution previously adopted at the Nov. 4, 2017 Fall Conference be amended by striking “designated in a revolving loan fund” and inserting “distributed equally to Blue Water Campground, Park of the Pines, and Sanford Campground.”

Sally Hager (Richmond) made a motion to amend Resolution 3 by striking “and the Woodlands.” After a time of discussion, Dwight Easley (Battle Creek) moved the previous question on the amendment. Without objection, the previous question was adopted by unanimous consent. A vote was taken on the amendment and it failed. (Yes 105; No 206).

John Jones (Ann Arbor) moved the previous question on the original motion. Without objection, the previous question was adopted by unanimous consent. The motion to adopt Resolution 3 – Amend Previously Adopted Resolution “Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales” was approved. (Yes 180: No 122)

Announcements were made by Ellie Easley. The conference adjourned at 4:45 p.m. A moment of blessing was provided by Loretha Smith.

Submitted by Joey Kernstock, Conference Secretary

Approved by Terry Brown, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker, Minutes Review Committee