

Michigan USA Mission Center – 2019 Fall Conference Minutes

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 2, 2019. Following the singing of hymns Mission Center President Team Member Erica Nye welcomed delegates and guests and provided an overview of the conference focus. World Church leaders Lachlan Mackay, Apostle; Dena DeVormer, Field Support Minister; Jeff Naylor, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop; and Sandra Ferguson, Mission Funding Team, were introduced and brought greetings to the conference.

Mission Center President Team Member Dan Nowiski opened the conference at 9:17 a.m. and introduced Joey Kernstock as the conference secretary and Ben Crowley as the voting software operator. Thanks were given to volunteers helping with registration and conference youth activities and a statement was shared explaining that teachers and evangelists would be praying for the conference.

Carol Husted (Mt. Pleasant) was recognized to provide the credentials committee report. 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 315 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

Rules proposed by the Mission Center President Team were presented for adoption as the standing rules of the conference. The standing rules were approved. The chair declared the 2019 Michigan USA Mission Center Conference officially organized for conducting business.

The chair made comments on procedure to be followed for the conference. The chair indicated that the minutes from the fall 2018 mission center conference have been approved by the review committee. Delegates were asked to submit any corrections to the secretary.

Without objection, the chair appointed Dena DeVormer, Sandi Ecker, and Terry Brown 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 in the printed materials and share the information with their congregations.

The Mission Center President Team shared a report of highlights and updates from the past year and outlined events planned for the year ahead. Harvey Pearl, high priest, and Ron Demute, evangelist, were recognized for being granted emeritus status. Thanks were given to those who have served as mission center council members, camp staff members, pastors, and class instructors. Winnie Johnston, youth camp coordinator, shared about the youth camping program and offerings were received to support youth camp and Spectacular ministries.

Jessica Montague, Mission Center Financial Officer, shared highlights of her report. Jessica recommended the adoption of the 2018 auditor's report. The chair referred the conference to the printed 2018 auditor's report. A second was received to adopt the 2018 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center. The motion carried, and the auditor's report was adopted.

Jessica Montague recommended adoption of the proposed 2020 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. Carla Parkes, Board President,

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shared highlights of the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board report. Dana Thering, Board President, shared highlights of the Sanford Campground Board report. Tim Ross, Board President, shared highlights of the Woodlands Board report. Dave Caceres, Board President, shared highlights of the Journey House Campus Ministries Center Board report.

The chair directed delegates to the written reports of the Campground Sales Team, Disciple Development Fund Committee, and Earth Stewardship Team.

Dan Nowiski relinquished the chair to Lachlan Mackay, Apostle for the Northeast USA Mission Field, 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 John Wight recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Linda Stanbridge as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. The appointment of Linda Stanbridge as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister was approved. Lachlan Mackay shared a moment of blessing and then 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 indicated that a list of persons who have agreed to serve on the Mission Center Council for 2020 could be found in the printed materials on page 31. Three additional names were added to the list: Joey Kernstock – Bay City, Burt, Clio, Midland, Saginaw; Laura Tew – Grand Valley, Hastings, Holland, Northview, Union Avenue; and Sherry Jagger – Benton Harbor, Coldwater, Galien, Kalamazoo, South Bend. The Mission Center President Team recommended sustaining the individuals listed and added to serve on the mission center council for 2020. Those persons listed and added as Mission Center Council Members for 2020 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. Richard Hawks, Dave Premoe, and Tim Ross had expressed their desire to be nominated and were 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. Rich Allen, Russell Knight, Troy Piper, Brandon Robertson, and Tracie Sheets had expressed their desire to be nominated and were 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. Megan Hacker, Jamie Lis, Tyler Eaton, Grace King, Rich King, and Dusty Seifert were

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nominated. Megan Hacker, Jamie Lis, Tyler Eaton, Grace King, and Dusty Seifert were elected to three year terms on the Park of the Pines Board.

The chair informed the conference that there was one position open for election to a three year term on the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board of Directors. Carla Parkes had expressed her desire to be nominated and was 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. William Persall, Lisa Valentine, Ginny Tigner, Wayne Addis, Teresa Addis, and Ben Crowley were nominated. William Persall, Lisa Valentine, Ginny Tigner, Wayne Addis, and Ben Crowley were 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. Ron Rousse had expressed his desire to be nominated and was elected to three year terms on the Woodlands Board.

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

Carol Walden (South Bend) moved to approve the call of Tom Banks to the office of evangelist. Tom spoke in response to the call. The call of Tom Banks to the office of evangelist was approved.

Carol Walden (South Bend) moved to approve the call of Lyle “Bud” Teal Jr. to the office of high priest and evangelist. Lyle spoke in response to the call. The call of Lyle “Bud” Teal Jr. to the office of high priest and evangelist was approved. The chair announced that ordinations would occur during a worship experience at 7:00 pm that evening.

The chair shared announcements with the conference. The conference recessed at 11:43 a.m. A moment of blessing was offered by the conference youth.

During the time of recess Apostle Lachlan Mackay presented policies recently shared with the church and responded to questions. The body engaged in a prayer for peace experience and Linda Stanbridge was set apart as the Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. Jeff Naylor, Dena DeVormer, and Sandra Ferguson presented updates on mission funding and responded to questions.

The conference was called to order at 3:19 p.m. by Dan Nowiski. The chair announced that approximately \$2,000 was received for registration up to this point and \$5,407 was received for youth camping and the Spectacular delegation during morning offering opportunity.

The chair called attention to Resolution 1 – Jurisdiction Contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes submitted by the Mission Center Officers in consultation with the Apostle and Mission Center Council. The chair recognized delegates who had questions about the resolution. It was pointed out that the audit total was correct for the net income amount (\$4.00 difference that should read \$8,975.70) and the resolution would be modified.

The chair stated the motion to adopt Resolution 1 reading, *Resolved*, That the Michigan Mission Center contribute \$9000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to worldwide mission tithes; *Resolved*, That any net income from the 2019 Michigan Mission Center operating budget be contributed to worldwide mission tithes; and *Resolved*, That congregations in the Michigan Mission Center be encouraged to contribute

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any undesignated net income from 2019 operating budgets to worldwide mission tithes. The motion to adopt Resolution 1 – Jurisdiction Contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes carried. (217 yes; 94 no)

The chair called attention to Resolution 2 – Rescind Authorization to Sell The Woodlands submitted by the Sixth Street Congregation. The chair recognized delegates who had questions about the resolution.

Gary Wesch (Sixth Street) moved to adopt Resolution 2 with the proviso that it become effective December 22, 2019 at the end of the current listing agreement with the realtor marketing The Woodlands. Janet Herbert moved the previous question to end debate. There was 2/3 in favor of ending debate and the conference moved to the vote. The chair stated the question on adoption of Resolution 2 reading, *Resolved*, That authorization to sell The Woodlands be rescinded by amending the resolution to “Maintain and Operate Three (3) Campgrounds” adopted by the 2015 Spring Conference and amended by the 2015 Fall Conference by substituting the following for the first paragraph:

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center operate and maintain four campgrounds, Blue Water, Park of the Pines, Sanford, and the Woodlands; and sell one campground, Manitou; and be it further

Resolved, That the resolution “Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales” adopted by the 2017 Fall Conference and amended by the 2018 Fall Conference be further amended by striking all references to The Woodlands.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2 – Rescind Authorization to Sell The Woodlands failed by a vote of 76 yes to 238 no.

Announcements were made about remaining conference activities. The conference adjourned at 4:21 p.m. Dan Nowiski concluded the conference with a prayer.

Joey Kernstock, Secretary