

Minutes for the 2017 Business Meeting of the Southwest Association's Annual Meeting

1. Opening (roll call of churches)

Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister for the Southwest Association offered greetings and a thank you to the host congregation as well as the planning committee members. She also recognized all committee/division members, our moderator Mark Yurs and Vice Moderator Petra Streiff.

2. Approve/Modify agenda – So moved by Kerri Parker and seconded by Petra Streiff
Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes of April 16, 2016 Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Peter Fabian to approve the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting, seconded by Gail Holmes. Motion carried

4. Recognition of New Pastors

Rev. Ann Beaty – First Congregational UCC Madison

Rev. Kim Moeller – Swiss UCC, New Glarus

Rev. Lance Smith – Zwingli UCC, Monticello

Rev. Kathleen Rinear – St. John's UCC, Monroe

Rev. Barbara Brakey – Immanuel UCC Darlington

Rev. Blair Hull – Congregational UCC, Whitewater

Brad Bergin – Juneau and Lowell

Maggie Lewis – Potosi and Cornelia

Bill Rettig – Boscobel – designated pastor

5. Treasurer's Report

Jim Iliff, Southwest Association treasurer, offered the report. Added details include grants given by the Social Concerns committee as well as our German partnership. The Association serves as a pass through for their expenses. Conference staff does heavy lifting of compiling reports – thanks to them. The plan currently is to spend down the balance accrued by the Association. Dues are the lion share of money for the Association, sent from the member churches. 24 of the 48 churches have already completed their goals. Another 26 have made partial payment. 18 have not yet paid. (look at report). We will approve budget later in agenda. Motion to accept the treasurers report made by Chris Buckingham-Taylor and seconded by Phil Haslanger. Motion carried.

6. Moderator's Report

Mark Yurs echoed Joanne's thanks to all who had done something that helped forward the work of the association. He expressed thanks to Petra Streiff and the planning committee. Thanks to host congregation. And pie cutters.

7. Added Business Items (if any): Adopting the budget.

Annual per capita dues are based on numbers reported to the yearbook (\$5.00 per member is the suggested increase). Transfer of funds from reserves will be make in keeping to the plan to spend down accumulated money. A two percent raise is recommended for our webmaster and Communications Coordinator. A point of clarification – the \$5 is a return to a number from some years ago (per member dues). There is a hope we can return to a sustaining budget with the commitment to dues payments by member churches. Budget was adopted

8. Nominating Committee Reports & Elections

Asterisks indicate an individual appointed by the Executive Committee. A correction was made to the General Synod delegates – Gabe McKelvey (name correction). Nominations from the floor: none. Motion to close nominations and accept the slate unanimously – moved by Gretchen Viney, seconded by Chris Buckingham-Taylor. Nominations accepted.

10. Announcements & Updates

- **Julie Ruegsegger, for Lay Academy** – detailed her experience in Lay Academy – particularly the ways the Lay Academy challenged and encouraged participants to welcome all, no matter who they are or where they are on the journey. She conveyed an invitation to grow faith with Lay Academy. Next round of registration begins in summer of 2018. Lay Academy will host a summer event on Aug. 11 and 12 – Nonviolent and Compassionate Conversation at the Trost Center.
- **Leslie Schenk, for Shift Coaching** – Leslie offered a plug for coaching to help Shift teams refine and achieve their goals.
- **Glenn Svetnicka, for the Camps** – Glenn outlined some of the upcoming changes in staffing – Glenn will be merging into development. He gave thanks for all who participate in the camping faith experience. The Campital Campaign is currently at 3.3 million dollars in pledging. OCWM funds also help with camp and scholarships provide access for all who wish to be a part of the program. Part of the mission of Pilgrim and Moon Beach is to promote love of God, one another, and the earth by providing hospitality and sanctuary. Future plans are being made to fund endowment and strengthen the infrastructure at the camps. Come visit!
- An announcement was made highlighting the Robert D. Mutton Lecture series. Next February 9 and 10, Curt Anderson will be the featured guest for the lecture series in Milwaukee.

11. Adjourn – Motion was made by Gail Holmes to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Brizius. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Voigt