

**Penn West Conference
United Church of Christ**

**56th Annual Meeting
Putting On Our Love Shoes
June 8 and 9, 2018
California University of Pennsylvania
California, PA**

Pre-meeting Activities

On Friday morning, at 10:00 AM, registration began with an opportunity for those who were registering to peruse various vendor materials and the Penn West Conference (PWC) Bookstore. Prior to the official call to order, a concert was presented by the Lemington Gospel Chorale.

Lunch was held in the dining hall 11:30-1:00PM.

Opening Worship

The Conference gathered for the opening worship service at 1:15. The service was lead by The Reverend Thaddaeus Allen, Regional Minister and President of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and The Reverend June Boutwell and The Reverend Rich McCarty of the Lake Erie Association. Music was lead by The Rev. Deryck Tines & the Lemington Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh. The Rev. Thad Allen shared the message, "Always Wear Good Shoes."

Business Session One

David Ackerman, conference minister, welcomed everyone to the 56th Annual Gathering & Meeting (AG&M) sharing the conference's mission statement, "The Penn West Conference: engaging in covenantal relationships sharing God's love with all." He thanked Christine Nichter and Donna Carroll for the centerpieces, and invited registrants to visit the conference bookstore. After sharing housekeeping details, he then invited participants to fill out cards for the Saturday necrology service.

Diane Wiley, PWC moderator, explained the packet of materials distributed at registration, and explained the AG&M booklet. She then called the Gathering to order at 2:27 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion/second - To adopt the proposed agenda as printed in the Annual Gathering and Meeting booklet. **MOTION CARRIED**

Appointment of the Parliamentarian

The Chair appointed Sam Swick, licensed minister from the Clarion Association to be the Parliamentarian.

Appointment of the Tellers

The following were appointed as tellers: Joy Johnson (Lake Erie Association), Bob Newell (Clarion Association), Joyfa Kelly (Westmoreland Association), Jim Neatrou (Juniata Association), Anna Geary (Somerset Association), and David Mears (Pittsburgh Association).

Prayer Chapel

David Ackerman thanked Betty Royer for her efforts with the Prayer Chapel, indicated the chapel's location, and encouraged the people to visit it.

Introduction of Visitors

Ackerman introduced the following individuals and the ministries they represent:

The Rev. Thad Allen (Regional Minister and President The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia and Pennsylvania)

Bishop Csaba Krasznai (Calvin Synod)

The Rev. Deryck Tines & the Lemington Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh

The Rev. De Neice Welch (Bidwell Presbyterian Church)

Joyce Ellis (LeMoyne Community Center)

Joni Hufford (Executive Director, Living Waters Camp & Conference Center)

Donald E. Hamm II (Agent for the Insurance Board)

Donald E. Hamm III (Agent for the Insurance Board)

Rita Clemente, Bill Kirker, Jennie Kather, & Dawn Hartman (St. Paul's)

Continuing Care Community), celebrating St. Paul's 150 Anniversary
Aimee Lozniak, Jerry McCuller, & Jim Neatrour (Homewood at
Martinsburg)
Nancy Mears (Bethlen Communities)
Liddy Barlow (Executive Minister, Christian Associates of Southwest
Pennsylvania)
Jen Sepic (Hoffman Homes for Youth)

Ackerman read greetings from Bishop Elorde Sambat, Northwest Luzon
Conference of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines

Diane Wiley introduced Tom Croner, Assistant Moderator, who shared
some PWC comments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion/Second – To accept the minutes of the 55th Annual Meeting of the
Penn West Conference as printed in the 56th Annual Meeting Program
Booklet. **MOTION CARRIED**

Acceptance of 2017-2018 Board of Directors Actions

Motion/Second – To accept the summary of the 2015-2016 Board of
Director's Actions as printed in the 55th Annual Meeting Program Booklet.
MOTION CARRIED

Explanation of United Church of Christ Constitution and Ratification

Ackerman explained changes made to the United Church of Christ
Constitution as found in the program booklet on page 32. He asked for
questions and noted that questions would be addressed on Saturday
before the vote on ratification.

Presentation of Nominations Ballot

Officers nominated to serve two year terms are Rev. Liddy Barlow as
secretary, Class of 2020 and Nancy Harclerode as treasurer, Class of

2020. Their biographies are found on page 29 (White Section) of the 56th Annual Meeting Program Booklet.

Motion/Second – To close the nominations for secretary and treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

Introduction of the 2019 Budget

Tom Croner, Financial Steward, introduced the budget found on pages 14-16 (Green pages) of the 56th annual meeting program booklet. Croner commented that serious effort must be made to increase Our Churches Wider Mission monies and encouraged attendees to study the budget under consideration before Saturday's meeting.

Addendum to Nominations Ballot

It was noted that also under consideration for nomination are our General Synod delegates as listed in the program booklet on pages 30 & 31, which had not earlier been noted.

Speak Outs – First Round – Two Minutes

T.J. Lucas spoke about the Annual Gathering & Meeting (AG&M) shoe-themed table centerpieces sharing that they may be purchased for a donation of \$25 a piece with proceeds going to Camp Living Waters.

Joseph Hedden made a plea for the Global Ministries Team which is planning a trip to the Philippines in 2020. Help is needed from detail oriented people who would be interested in planning the trip. Those interested were advised to sign up with Jodie Enterline at the table in the lobby.

Matt Diehl recognized and called for applause for the hard work and dedication of the (AG&M) Planning Team and the Conference Minister.

Marge Gaul shared that as a result of the "Days for Girls" program workshop at a prior Annual Gathering, Trinity Dorseyville in the Pittsburgh Association has begun a wonderful mission. She invited anyone interested to visit Dorseyville to see what is happening.

Joni Hufford spoke on behalf of Camp Living Waters mentioning gratitude to a list of churches who have given special offerings to camp. She also spoke to promote the Golf Outing for Living Waters fundraiser. She offered forms for those interested in serving on the Camp Living Waters Board of Directors.

It was announced that the offering taken at the morning worship service for the LeMoyne Center totaled \$981.34.

Dwelling in the Word One

TJ Lucas introduced the Bible Study on I Corinthians 13:8- 14:1. After reading the selection, attendees were instructed to listen for God's word among us. Groups at tables were to discuss what captured individual attentions and then to share what another person said.

Joseph Hedden lead the concluding prayer.

Session One with The Rev. De Neice Welch

Rev. Welch captivated the Annual Gathering attendees with an animated message on the conference theme of "Putting On Our Love Shoes." She had the group focus on their own shoes and consider, "These are the shoes of someone who..."

Joyce Ellis from the LeMoyne Center thanked the PWC for the offering from morning worship.

Workshop One

Attendees had several choices of workshops:

- A. "Continuing Care Retirement Communities" (CCRC Leaders)
- B. "Chatting with David" (David Ackerman)
- C. "Mission Grants Training (Doug Satterlee & Bruce Ashlock)
- D. "Media Relations for Churches/Nonprofits (Jane Duffield)
- E. "Self-Care" (TJ Lucas)
- F. "Sexual Ethics/ Open & Affirming (Rich McCarty)
- G. "Choir Rehearsal" (Ruth Miller & Kathy Fair)

- H. "Youth" (Melissa McLean)
- I. "Addiction & Recovery" (Donna Jarrell)
- J. "The LeMoyne Center" (Joyce Ellis)

Dinner followed from 5:15-6:30

Evening Activities

Evening prayer was led by Donna Jarrell.

Penn West Academy Graduates

The Rev. Joseph Hedden, Dean of the Penn West Academy, introduced the recent graduate of the academy:
Melissa McLean

Five for Five Celebration

Five for Five Churches are those congregations that have given to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support, plus One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund all-Church offerings. Those congregations were recognized with a certificate of thanks. The Five for Five Churches for 2017 are listed on page 18 (Green Section) of the 56th Annual Meeting Booklet.

Introducing Ministers New to PWC

Those pastors new to PWC or those who have returned were introduced: David Williams (Berlin), Lisa Griffin (Evans City), Bill Shrout (Friends Cove), Jim Stobaugh (Mt. Laurel), Jack Russell (McConnellstown), Deirdre Hainsworth (Interim @ COR), Joy Johnson (Licensed @ CUC), Steve Craft (Irwin), Shirley Musick (Student LS @ Trinity), Don Watkins (Student @ Denmark Manor).

Authorization Anniversaries

Persons celebrating five year incremental anniversaries of ordination or licensure were recognized:

Licensure: Robert Garris (5), George Kepple (15), Roland Skeen (30).

Ordination: Liddy Barlow (10), Susan Cherian (15), Linda Lawson (20), Charles Brauchler (20), David Williams (25), David Ackerman (25), Hugh Pratt (35), Barbara Hine (35), Ronald Snyder (40), Martin Hardy (40), Paul Marsteller (45), George Steffey (45), Barry Fillman (50), Robert Kobele (55), John Bonebreak (50).

Mission Grants Celebration

The following grants were distributed to these 20 churches in a celebration ceremony. The combined churches received over \$29,000.00.

- a. The Abbey Reformed UCC, Huntingdon, PA
- b. Christ UCC, Latrobe, PA
- c. Community United Church, Erie, PA
- d. St. Paul's UCC, Imler, PA
- e. Emmanuel (Hill's) UCC, Export, PA
- f. Grace UCC, Mann's Choice, PA
- g. First Reformed UCC, Greensburg, PA
- h. Amity Reformed UCC, Meyersdale, PA
- i. Trinity UCC, Dorseyville, PA
- j. First UCC, Irwin, PA
- k. Grace UCC, Claysburg, PA
- l. UCC, Shanksville, PA
- m. Grace UCC, Duquesne, PA
- n. Jerusalem UCC, Rimersburg, PA
- o. Paradise Community UCC, Reynoldsville, PA
- p. St. Paul's Community Church, Chicora, PA
- q. St. Paul's UCC, Johnstown, PA
- r. St. Paul's UCC, Trauger, PA
- s. Trinity UCC, Greensburg, PA
- t. Zion's UCC, Transfer, PA

Regional Youth Event Sponsorship Thank You

Valarie Poole

Lemington Gospel Chorale Concert

Under the direction of The Rev. Deryck Tines, the Lemington Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh closed the Friday portion of the Annual Meeting with a concert.

After-Hours Programs

After-hours programs included an ice cream social with music by Apostles' Creed and orientation for RYE volunteers.

Saturday – June 9, 2018

After breakfast, day two of the Annual Meeting began with the necrology service honoring those who have passed away during the year. The service was led by Judith Tobias.

Business Session Two

Moderator Diane Wiley welcomed those in attendance.

Tom Croner, on behalf of the Financial Stewards, explained the challenging job of the budget as the “flow of money continues to decline.” He called on individual churches to increase their giving.

Treasurer’s Report

Adoption of the 2019 Budget:

Tom Croner reviewed high points in the budget and entertained questions. The 2019 Proposed Budget is on pages 15 & 16(Green Section) of the 56th Annual Meeting Program Booklet.

Motion/Second – To adopt the Proposed 2019 Budget of the Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ. **MOTION CARRIED**

Dr. Paul Westcoat spoke challenging everyone in attendance to give \$1 per week extra. He asked that attendees go back to their churches and ask every member to give \$1 or \$2 per week more to the conference.

UCC Constitution Changes

David Ackerman lead the discussion and entertained questions on the changes and ratification to the UCC Constitution as found on pages 32-45 (White Section) of the 56th Annual Meeting Program Booklet.

Motion/Second - The Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ ratifies the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ as voted by the Thirty-first General Synod on July 2 and 3 2017.

MOTION CARRIED

Election of Officers/ General Synod Delegates

Officers nominated to serve two year terms are Liddy Barlow as secretary, Class of 2020 and Nancy Harclerode as treasurer, Class of 2020. Their biographies are found on page 29 (White Section) of the 56th Annual Meeting Program Booklet.

The list of the General Synod delegates that were elected is on pages 30 & 31 of the Annual Gathering & Meeting book.

Delegates elected to General Synod this year are:

Anna Geary, (Class of 2019), Somerset Association

Mathew Anderson, (Class of 2021), Lake Erie Association

Melissa McLean, (Class of 2021), Clarion Association

Donna Jarrell, (Class of 2021), Juniata Association

Lisa Griffin, (Class of 2021), Pittsburgh Association

and Matthew Fox, (Class of 2021), Westmoreland Association

Motion/Second To elect the officers and general synod delegates by unanimous ballot. **MOTION CARRIED**

Regional Youth Event

Valarie Poole and Maggie Walker reported on the planning of the upcoming Regional Youth Event and encouraged conference-wide participation.

Credentials Report

Diane Wiley reported that present this year were 59 pastors, 59 delegates, and 21 visitors bringing the total to 139. A quorum was present.

Unfinished Business

David Ackerman shared a list of pastors who have passed away this year. He further shared housekeeping details and reminded those in attendance to fill out evaluation forms. An invitation was given for volunteers to serve on the Annual Gathering Planning Team. He concluded by thanking this year's planning team, the moderator and assistant moderator and the outgoing secretary and treasurer.

Speak Outs- Round Two

Marsha Ackerman called for volunteers for the upcoming Regional Youth Event.

Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister, thanked the Penn West Conference for all the ways the conference supports the Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania.

Meredith Hutchinson addressed the importance of the Penn West Academy by asking those who had participated with the Academy to stand. She emphasized that the Academy is Our Church's Wider Mission money at work.

Alexa Smith called on attendees to participate in the campaign to boycott Wendy's fast food corporation.

Valarie Poole shared that unless somebody steps up to handle it, the Conference bookstore will not be offered at future annual gatherings.

Robert McKie encouraged that we need to spell out the United Church of Christ rather than using the UCC which as an acronym sounds like the uncomplimentary "uck."

Jennifer Ward promoted the sale of Penn West Academy shirts at \$20/shirt.

Dwelling in the Word Two

TJ Lucas introduced the second Bible Study on I Corinthians 13:8- 14:1. Joseph Hedden closed with prayer.

Session Two with The Rev. De Neice Welch

Rev. Welch encouraged attendees to study their own shoes and to complete the statement, "These are the shoes of someone who..."

Workshop Two

Attendees had several choices of workshops:

- A. "Financial Stewards" (Tom Croner, Deb Long, Judith Tobias)
- B. "Chatting with David" (David Ackerman)
- C. "Penn West Academy" (Joseph Hedden)
- D. "The Marks, Pathways to Ordination, and the UCC Ministerial Code"
(Liddy Barlow)
- E. "Self-Care" (T.J. Lucas)
- F. "Sexual Ethics/ Open & Affirming" (Rich McCarty)
- G. "Choir Rehearsal" (Ruth Miller & Kathy Fair)
- H. "Youth" (Alexa Smith)
- I. "Addiction & Recovery" (Donna Jarrell)

Lunch from 11:45-1:15

Ella Lucas made a plea for money for camp.

Dwelling in the Word Three

TJ Lucas introduced the third Bible Study on I Corinthians 13:8- 14:1 asking attendees to "grapple with the text in different ways." Joseph Hedden closed with prayer.

Session Three with The Rev. De Neice Welch

Rev. Welch encouraged attendees to study their own shoes and to complete the statement, "These are the shoes of someone who I hope..."

Adjournment

Motion/Second – To adjourn the 56th Annual meeting of the Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ. **MOTION CARRIED**

Closing Worship with Holy Communion

Bishop Csaba Krasznai, Calvin Synod, was the featured speaker. The worship included the installation of the new PWC officers, participation by Stephen Fair and the PWA students, and the the PWC choir. The offering was collected for the SHEEP Fund. Celebrants for Holy Communion were Bishop Krasznai and David Ackerman.

Faithfully submitted,

Jill M. Clawson

