

**Penn West Conference
United Church of Christ**

**Annual Gathering & Meeting
“A Just World For All”
June 7 & 8, 2019
California University of Pennsylvania
California, PA**

Pre-meeting Activities

Prior to the meeting’s official start, three pre-meeting gatherings took place:

- “Cultivating a Vision for Future Annual Gatherings & Meetings: A Gathering of Prophets,” led by Tom Croner.
- “Hymn Sing,” led by Rev. Bob McKie, Ruth Miller, and Kathy Fair
- “General Synod 32,” led by Jill Marie and Joy Johnson

Opening Worship

The A.W.E. (“Artisan Worship Experience”) Team of First United Church of Christ in Millvale led opening worship, which included music in many styles, a poetic rendition of Micah 6:6-8, and a skit titled “The Promised Land.” An offering benefited the SHEEP Fund and upcoming Philippines global mission trip.

Welcome and Call to Order

Rev. Diane Wiley extended a welcome to the delegates and visitors and called the meeting to order. She thanked First UCC Millvale for leading worship and Kathy Fair and Ruth Miller for leading the choir, which will rehearse later in the afternoon. She offered an opening prayer.

Adoption of Agenda

MSP: That the agenda be adopted as amended.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Rev. Wiley thanked Sam Swick for serving as the parliamentarian.

Appointment of Tellers

Mr. Tom Croner said the tellers have agreed to serve: Doug Hearn (Clarion), Ron Pedersen (Pittsburgh), Karen Adelman (Somerset), Diana Johnson (Erie), Robert Garris (Westmoreland), and Nancy Harclerode (Juniata).

Prayer Chapel

Mr. Croner thanked Stephen Fair for setting up the prayer chapel. Rev. Fair said the chapel is located in room 331; it includes visible reminders of Christ’s presence, a Book of Worship and Bible, and copies of the Benedictine benediction.

Introduction of Visitors

Rev. Ackerman welcomed visitors to the meeting:

- The Rev. Traci Blackmon, our keynote presenter
- Guests from First UCC in Millvale and Faith UCC in Ridgway, leading opening and closing worship
- Alex Hay & Britney Lynn, performing at our Friday evening Ice Cream Social
- Dave Smith, PA Clean Air Council
- Joni Hufford, Living Waters Camp & Conference Center
- Heather Rohrbaugh, Hoffman Homes for Youth
- The Rev. Stephen Wolma, Lancaster Theological Seminary
- The Rev. Liddy Barlow, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania
- Rita Clemente & Theresa Findley, St. Paul's Continuing Care Retirement Community
- The Rev. Jerry McCuller, Homewood at Martinsburg
- Kathy Fair, Ruth Miler, and the Rev. Bob McKie, our musical leaders
- Tracy Riggle Young, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Don Hamm III, Insurance Board
- Daniel Adams, Bethany College
- Laurel Custer, Sarah Galko, and Matthew Fox, Our Youth Leaders
- The awesome California University of Pennsylvania staff

He asked the participants to welcome them with a round of applause.

Approval of Minutes

Rev. Wiley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 56th Annual Meeting and Gathering

MSP: That the minutes be approved.

Approval of 2018-2019 Board Decisions

Rev. Wiley asked for a motion to approve the 2018-19 Board Decisions.

MSP: That the board decisions be approved.

Presentation of Nominations Ballot

Rev. Ackerman drew attention to the nominations report. Officers to be elected are Tom Croner as Moderator and Rev. June Boutwell as Assistant Moderator.

MSP: That the nominations ballot be approved.

Introduction of 2020 Budget

Rev. Wiley drew attention to the proposed budget. Ms. Nancy Harclerode, Conference Treasurer, asked delegates to review it, and invited them to ask questions of her or anyone on the Financial Stewards.

Global Missions Team

Rev. Wiley introduced Jodie Enterline, the Chair of the Global Missions Team. Ms. Enterline said the team has been meeting monthly to plan an April-May 2020 mission trip to Northwest Luzon Synod of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. The group will be attending their annual conference and then dispersing to participate in mission projects. At the moment their interest is fundraising, with the hope of fully funding those who will participate. 8-9 people have expressed interest in participating; others may still come forward. This is a good opportunity to get to know our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. The team will also offer a workshop tomorrow afternoon.

Announcements

Rev. Wiley invited participants to print the names of those who have died since our last Annual Meeting on pads of paper near the cafeteria to be recognized at the Necrology service.

Table centerpieces are available for sale at \$25 each to support Living Waters. Camper Ella Lucas encouraged attendees to purchase them.

Speak-Outs

Ryan Lucas, the Conference's new Disaster Ministries Coordinator, described his recent trip to Puerto Rico. He would like to get to know the work that Penn West churches are doing to respond to disasters. He also intends to organize trips to disaster zones, such as Puerto Rico. He is prepared to speak to churches about disaster preparedness and response as needed.

Meredith Hutchison invited everyone who has ever attended Penn West Academy to stand, as well as those who have been ministered to by them. The Academy has done an outstanding job and would like to continue its ministry. She invited all to consider taking a class or enrolling in the full program.

Joni Hufford recognized these donors to Camp Living Waters:

- Salem UCC, Martinsburg - Century Donor
- St. John's UCC, Laughlintown - Half-Century Donor
- St. Paul's UCC, Somerset - Century Donor
- Trinity UCC, Greensburg - Quarter-Century Donor
- Unity UCC, Shanksville - Century Donor
- Rev. Jay and Eyvonne Shaffer - Willow Donors

The camp needs help; the facilities are aging. Everyone loves Living Waters, but it cannot survive without upgraded and repaired facilities. They are sponsoring a free lumberjack competition to which all are invited the second weekend of August.

Liddy Barlow shared Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania's 300 Cups of Coffee project.

Dwelling in the Word

TJ Lucas shared Luke 18:1-8 and invited participants to identify a word or phrase that speaks to them. After discussion, she invited participants to name something they heard from others, then led the Prayer of St. Francis.

Session One with the Rev. Traci Blackmon: What Does “A Just World For All” Mean?

Rev. Ackerman introduced Rev. Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries. She thanked Penn West for their contributions to make possible her ministry of bearing witness to Jesus in the name of the UCC, and brought greetings from John Dorhauer.

What is a just world? Rev. Blackmon asked. Some Christians believe they must make the choice between justice and Jesus. But there is no need to make a choice: wanting to end hunger, wanting access to health care, is not a “progressive idea,” it is the Gospel. Justice is not an appendage to our faith as conservative church leaders would suggest; is not blind as courts would (falsely) suggest. The word for justice in Micah 6:8 is *mizpat*; it means more than punishment of wrongdoing, it means giving people their due, whether punishment, protection, or care. Biblical justice honors right relationship between God and one another. In the Second Testament, justice is often translated “righteousness,” which connotes individual traits rather than communal responsibility. But that is not how Jesus uses the word. See, for example, the focus passage for the UCC’s national setting, where Jesus quotes Leviticus – a passage that if read in context closely connects justice and love. Cornell West said, “Justice is what love looks like in public.”

There is no existential distance between justice and discipleship. Justice is not an extra ministry; justice is what it means to follow Jesus. There is no chasm between activism and the church. Every church, if it is a church of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, must be a church that is about justice. That doesn’t mean you can do it all, but it means you have to do something. Everyone doesn’t work the same way, but we can work toward the same cause. In that way, the United Church of Christ is making a difference all over the world: it may look like a ripple, but we can be a big part of making a more just society.

Workshops Session One

Members of the conference led a variety of workshops, including:

- “Health Care Today: Taking Ownership of Your Health Care,” led by Rita Clemente and other CCRC Leaders
- “UCC White Privilege Curriculum,” led by Rev. Rebecca Hickok, Rev. Liddy Barlow, and Rev. Joseph Hedden
- “Mission Grants Training,” led by Diane Fox
- “A.L.I.C.E.,” led by Melissa McLean
- “Youth,” led by Laurel Custer, Sara Galko, and Matthew Fox
- “Chatting with David,” led by Rev. David Ackerman
- “Christian Hospitality and Extravagant Welcome,” led by Julia DeFiore and the PWC ONA Team
- “General Synod 32,” led by Jill Marie and Joy Johnson
- “Sacrificial Decisions: Bible Study,” led by Cathy Bowser

Evening Prayer

Following dinner, Rev. Donna Jarrell led a service of evening prayer.

Evening Celebration

Rev. Ackerman welcomed the assembly to the evening celebration.

Penn West Academy Graduation

Rev. Joseph Hedden, Dean of the Academy, drew the assembly's attention to his report, and noted that Penn West Academy polo shirts are now available. He encouraged everyone who would like to deepen their relationship with God to participate in the Penn West Academy.

Rev. Hedden recognized two students who are graduating from the academy: Terry Luteri and Joy Johnson.

Five for Five Celebration

Rev. Barry Fillman recognized the churches that contributed to Our Church's Wider Mission basic support (OCWM) as well as the four special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund). He called attention to the list of Five for Five churches for 2018 in the meeting booklet.

Introducing Ministers New to PWC

Rev. Ackerman welcomed the following pastors to the conference and/or to their new or installed calls:

- The Rev. Ericjon Thomas, St. Paul's, Hermitage
- The Rev. Jim Stobaugh, Mt. Laurel, Boswell
- The Rev. June Boutwell, Zion's Reformed, Greenville
- The Rev. Jonathan Jensen, St. Paul's Community, Chicora
- The Rev. Elizabeth Michael Ross (PCUSA), Community of Reconciliation, Pittsburgh
- The Rev. Shirley Musick, Trinity, Greensburg
- The Rev. Steven Craft, First, Irwin

He also recognized these student pastors (MIDs) serving in our churches:

- Don Watkins, Denmark Manor, Export
- Ryan & TJ Lucas, First & South, Ebensburg
- Julia DiFiore, St. Paul's, Erie

Thanksgiving for Churches that Have Completed their Ministry

Rev. Ackerman invited prayers and thanksgiving for churches that have closed or are in the process of closing. St. Thomas UCC of Gastown closed in November 2018. Birmingham Pittsburgh, Calvary Turtle Creek, Redeemer's Ellerslie, and First UCC Apollo are in the process of closing. Attendees offered a moment of silent prayer and round of applause for their ministries.

Authorization Anniversaries & Committee on Ministry Comments

Rev. Fillman recognized ministers who are marking milestone anniversaries of ordination or licensure, whose names appear in the booklet.

He added that Rev. Ackerman was a tremendous help in assisting the Committee on Ministry with Fitness Review bylaw changes.

Mission Grants Celebration

This year the conference distributed \$46,251.78 to 27 different congregations. David's prayer is that we will be able to distribute more than \$100,000 annually to the churches. There are three types of grants: reaching out, strengthening the church, and operational support. Every congregation that applied received some award.

- St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora received a \$1,500 grant for their Guatemala Mission Trip.
- Paradise Community United Church of Christ in Reynoldsville received a \$1,000 grant toward their Roof Replacement and a \$1,500 grant to help with Living Water – the Tinaca Project for Moving Mountains Mission.
- The Abbey Reformed United Church of Christ in Huntingdon received a \$1,000 award for Lighting the Church.
- Trinity United Church of Christ in Dorseyville (Pittsburgh) received a \$1,000 grant for their Chancel Floor Repair.
- Stoystown Charge United Church of Christ in Stoystown received a \$1,000 award for their Video Upgrade.
- Grace United Church of Christ in Duquesne received a \$1,000 grant for Moving to the Age of Technology.
- St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ in Johnstown received a \$500 grant to secure their Sump Pump and Sump Pump Well. They received an additional \$1,000 award for Backflow Valves to Prevent Sewer Backup. Finally, they received a \$500 grant to Divert the Roof Drains to Comply with the Government.
- Brush Creek Salem United Church of Christ in Irwin received a \$1,000 grant for their Entry Door Replacement.
- First United Church of Christ in Ebensburg received a \$1,000 award for their Office Upgrade, a \$1,000 award for Youth Discernment and Action, and a \$370 award for Faith in Fellowship.
- First United Church of Christ in Greensburg received a \$1,000 grant for their Security Project and a \$1,500 grant for their Outreach and Communication Project.
- First United Church of Christ in Irwin received an award of \$1,000 for Kitchen Repairs, and a grant for Holiday Events.
- Trinity United Church of Christ in Manns Choice received a \$1,000 award for their Bell Tower Painting Project.
- Christ UCC in Latrobe received a \$1,000 grant for their Front Door Replacement and a \$1,500 grant for their Bible Study with the Union Mission of Latrobe Project.
- First United Church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant received a \$1,000 grant for Digital Signage for the Exterior of the Church.

- St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Trauger (Pleasant Unity) received a \$1,000 grant for the Repair of their Stained Glass Windows, an Online Presence and Outreach award for \$1,000, and a \$722 award for upgrading the Video System for Use with Youth Ministry, Children's Church Activities, as well as Intergenerational Programs Held in Multiple Church Areas.
- First United Church of Christ in Millvale received a \$1,000 award for their Gutenberg Project, a \$1,412 award for their Wonderful Wandering Worship Project, and a \$1,500 grant for their Fostering Hope Speaker Series.
- Calvary United Church of Christ in Turtle Creek received a \$1,500 award for their Outdoor Handicapped Accessibility Project.
- Greenfield United Church of Christ in Imler received a \$1,000 grant for their Enhancement of Printed Material Project.
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Imler received a \$1,000 award to install a Pump Disposal System and a \$1,500 grant for their Monthly Meal and Dinner Outreach Project.
- Community of Reconciliation Church in Pittsburgh received a \$939 grant for their Interior Window Signage Project.
- Community United Church in Erie received a \$1,000 award for Projecting into the Future. They also received a \$1,250 award for their Trinity-Fest Celebration and an award for \$1,170 for Strengthening the Presence of the Church.
- Emmanuel Reformed United Church of Christ in Export received a \$1,500 grant for a Spiritual Direction and Leadership Program for their Pastor.
- St. John's United Church of Christ in Evans City received a \$1,025 award for Church Growth and Community Events, and an \$850 award for Reaching out Mission Projects.
- Amity Reformed United Church of Christ in Meyersdale received the amount of \$981.78 for Continued Support of their Youth Group.
- Zion's United Church of Christ in Transfer received a \$1,500 award for the Reynolds Backpack Program.
- Jerusalem United Church of Christ in Rimersburg received a \$1,500 grant for their Blessing Kids Project.
- Emanuel United Church of Christ in Warren received a \$595 grant for their "One Sky One World Kite Fly."

Mission Partner Presentations

Stephen Wolma from Lancaster Theological Seminary recognized alumni of the seminary and trustee Rev. Matthew Deal. The seminary offers a two-year Master of Arts in Ministry and Leadership as well as the three-year Master of Divinity program. Both are offered in both weekday and weekend formats. They aim to develop the ability to do theological reflection, and to help people develop practical skills they can use in ministry. Additionally, the seminary offers the Doctor of Ministry degree, designed to be hospitable to those with busy active lives, featuring a one-week intensive, online coursework, and a culminating project. Ultimately the seminary's goal is to strengthen the church, to partner with people to bring God's peace and healing and love into the world.

Rev. Jerry McCuller shared a video presentation from Homewood at Martinsburg, which aims to “add life to years.” There are two Homewood communities in Maryland and three in Pennsylvania, including another in our conference: Homewood at Spring House Estates in Bedford. Homewood has a new president and CEO, Thad Rothrock. Homewood now offers an on-site training program for Certified Nursing Assistant and a telehealth video conferencing program that helps eliminate trips to emergency rooms by communicating on a live screen with residents and family members. The goal is resident-centered care.

After-Hours Events

Participants enjoyed an ice cream social with music by Alex Hay & Britney Lynn, while youth had an escape room led by Rev. Steve Craft.

Necrology Service

On Saturday morning, the Rev. Judith Tobias led a service remembering the clergy and lay leaders who have died in the past year.

Session Two with the Rev. Traci Blackmon: How Does “A Just World For All” Work?

Rev. Blackmon reflected on the UCC’s legacy on the forefront of justice. What makes the church’s work different from secular organizations that work for justice? We are led and listening to the Holy Spirit. We don’t do it because it’s politically expedient or because of popular opinion, but because we believe it is discipleship; what we are called to do as the church.

Rev. Blackmon shared Moses’ call story in Exodus 3. She urged us to call our attention to God’s action in the story, rather than Moses’ response. The bush is burning because of God, not because of Moses. There are bushes burning all over the world; we tend not to pay attention until the flames get out of control. We are challenged to look for the bushes burning in our midst and to listen for the cries. Whose bushes are burning? Whose cries are we hearing? Occupied Palestinians? Refugees in Syria? Children detained at our Southern border? Native Americans denied water rights? Children hungry in our own neighborhoods? There are 33,000 zip codes in the United States; 20% of the zip codes are home to 80% of children who live in poverty and 76% of people who have a high school education or less, who struggle most with lack of health care coverage and housing security. We know where bushes are burning around poverty, inequity, racism. Do we hear those cries? Cries of justice go up every day in every neighborhood around the globe. As disciples, we must be those who are turning aside to listen and see what God would have us do.

The first thing Moses does is obey God’s call to take off his shoes. Usually the places where bushes are burning are not places that we consider holy. They are places where things are most unstable. But if bushes are burning there, God is there. We are called to worship God there in acts of service: not always as leaders, but accompanying the people who are there.

Rev. Blackmon drew the assembly’s attention to UCC programs that help our congregations work for justice. These include the white privilege curriculum, sacred conversations to end racism, just peace curriculum, accessible to all, creation justice, ONA. The church, being political though non-partisan, encourages people to vote: our votes should be in

line with our identity as followers of Christ. Listen, take your shoes off, and act for the liberation of all!

With the information Moses receives from God, he says yes and begins to work for liberation of Israelites from Egypt. He talks to Pharaoh many times; in our culture we tend to dismiss those we disagree with, but Moses returns again and again to talk with Pharaoh. God says, “let my people go, so that they may worship me.” Throughout the Bible, the phrase “so that” is important: the purpose always leads back to worship, serving, helping – that is the purpose for which we were created. When you ask, how might your churches begin to do justice work, you must find your “so that.” You know what you are about, but WHY are you about those things? Whether it’s an act of charity within a system or justice confronting a system, what is your “so that”? For example, Christ the King distributes coats so that people can experience the warmth of God’s love through the warmth of a coat. We cannot preach a God of abundance and not share those blessings with others. Rev. Blackmon invited people at their tables to share something their church is doing and the “so that” for that ministry.

Dwelling in the Word

TJ Lucas again shared Luke 18:1-8 and invited participants to identify a word or phrase that speaks to them. After discussion, she invited participants to name something they heard from others, then led the Prayer of St. Francis.

Session Three with the Rev. Traci Blackmon: How Can We Make “A Just World For All” Work Here?

Rev. Blackmon said that our church’s commitment to justice must begin in our own communities. There are few if any neighborhoods that lack a burning bush of their own; how are we responding to the needs of our communities? We all run to the flash fires, but if we turn to the bushes when they still require us to turn aside, we might not have as many flash fires.

Members of the conference shared examples of justice work that is happening in their congregations and communities: collecting products for distribution that are not covered by food stamps, creating space for youth to have deep conversations on pressing issues, a Bible study that welcomes people with disabilities, gluten-free communion options, hosting AA groups.

Rev. Blackmon said that church is not where people come for the purpose of gathering as much as a place where they come for the purpose of scattering. We must disciple the entire church and consider everyone’s work as a form of ministry. The church can’t be measured by those who sit together on Sundays, but by all those impacted by the church during the week. Our ministries of outreach are also portals of entry. You’d be surprised if you simply invite people in, how many will take that invitation.

Rev. Blackmon concluded: Start by looking where you are, and make a difference where you are. The national setting will continue to do its national and international work, but it’s important that the local church be lifted up as models for what you are doing on the ground. We don’t exist for you, we exist because of you. The local churches are the engine that is driving us. The local churches are too often unseen and unrecognized; on your everyday journey, you are stopping to see the bushes and turning aside. I want to thank you and

challenge you to look deeper, stretch farther, trust God more, and try the impossible and let our possible God fill in the gaps.

The conference recognized Rev. Blackmon with a standing ovation.

Workshops Session Two

Members of the conference led a variety of workshops, including:

- “Who Do You Say That I Am? What Will Others Say About Me in Years to Come? Estate Planning for the Church,” led by Rev. Linda Miller-Pretz
- “Church Growth and Technology,” led by the Transformation and Renewal Team
- “Five Easy Steps to Listening,” led by Rev. Joseph Hedden
- “Philippines Mission Trip 2020,” led by Ryan Lucas
- “Youth,” led by Laurel Custer, Sara Galko, and Matthew Fox
- “The New Manual on Ministry,” led by June Boutwell
- “Mobilizing for Environmental Stewardship,” led by Dave Smith
- “Holy Rest,” led by TJ Lucas
- “Teaching Adult Bible Study in the Church,” led by Cathy Bowser

Financial Stewards Presentation

The financial stewards offered a presentation on the ways the Penn West Conference fans the holy spark of Jesus through the work of the ministers and people of faith. Are we a church on fire? Do we have a burning desire to work for justice and peace? The conference responded with a resounding YES.

Appointment of Substitute Parliamentarian

In the absence of Sam Swick, Rev. Wiley appointed Rev. Stephen Fair as parliamentarian.

Vote on Budget

Mr. Croner said his perspective on giving changed when Rev. Diane Smith once challenged the board to attempt tithing. The practice affirmed for him that all things come from God. He challenged the conference to go forth and make disciples and to bring the next generations into the church.

MSP: That the budget be approved as submitted by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Croner led the conference in prayer, thanking God for all God’s gifts, and trusting God’s continued provision.

Election of Officers

Rev. Wiley reintroduced the nominations of Mr. Tom Croner and Rev. June Boutwell.

MSP: That Mr. Tom Croner be elected Moderator and that the Rev. June Boutwell be elected Assistant Moderator.

Comments from Rev. Dr. Paul Westcoat

Dr. Westcoat said that meeting the budget will require generous giving on the part of the conference, and urged everyone to take their financial commitment seriously. Rev. Ackerman noted this was the first year the Financial Stewards took the initiative in preparing the budget and thanked them for their effort, and for Dr. Westcoat for his comments.

Introduction of General Synod Delegates

Rev. Ackerman introduced the General Synod delegates:

- Nathan Hart, Pittsburgh
- Joy Johnson, Lake Erie
- Jill Marie, Clarion
- Anna Geary, Somerset
- Mathew Anderson, Lake Erie (to be filled by Rev. June Boutwell)
- Melissa McLean
- Rev. Donna Jarrell
- Rev. Lisa Griffin, Pittsburgh

He encouraged all to connect with associations and local churches to share any

Housekeeping

Rev. Ackerman said outgoing moderator Rev. Diane Wiley has gone beyond the call of duty to be a blessing to the conference in many ways. He presented a certificate and gift and invited the assembly's applause.

Rev. Ackerman also expressed deep gratitude to office manager Diane Fox, his wife Marsha Ackerman, and the Annual Gathering & Meeting Planning Team. He noted that if anyone has critical feedback on the meeting, they are most welcome to bring their ideas to the team next year!

Credentials Report

Mr. Croner offered the Credential report:

Pastors	61
Lay Delegates	55
<u>Visitors</u>	<u>27</u>
Total Attendance	143

Speak-Out Two

Deb Long reminded the conference about the Faithful Stewards program, which provides an extra source of income for the conference through individual donations. She encouraged all to participate.

Jill Marie is the Penn West Conference representative to the board of directors for Hoffman Homes. She encouraged the conference to read the report from Hoffman Homes. She thanked Heather Auerbach for coming to sit at a table. Hoffman Homes illustrates love of children; children that are hurting and in pain come to Hoffman Homes and learn love and trust. Hoffman Homes representatives are available to visit churches and organizations.

Ryan Lucas encouraged the conference to see ourselves as risk takers and missionaries in our communities. He would love to see some energy in church planting in our conference.

Diane Nugent thanked everyone for stopping by the UCC Swag store, which was set up to help us carry the UCC message home with us. Items continue to be available from UCC Resources. Similarly, the book swap seems to have been a success.

Rev. Linda Miller-Pretz said the International Association of Women Ministers is celebrating its 100th anniversary with an assembly July 22-24. Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis will be keynote speaker for the theme “Women’s Prophetic Leadership in a Changing Church.” Registration is available on the IAWM website.

Adjournment

Rev. Wiley thanked the conference for “walking to the promised land” with her during the past four years.

MSP: That the meeting be adjourned.

Closing Worship with Holy Communion

Rev. Stephen Fair of Faith United of Christ in Ridgway led closing worship, assisted by students of the Penn West Academy and the PWC Choir. Rev. David Ackerman preached the sermon, sharing the book *God’s Big Plan* (by Elizabeth Caldwell and Theodore Hiebert) that celebrates the diversity created at Babel. Rev. Ackerman also installed the officers and General Synod delegates. An offering benefited Lancaster Theological Seminary and Homewood.