

United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Concerns
National Gathering, East Hartford, CT

Business Meeting Part 1
Tuesday June 19, 2007

Connecticut Conference Minister Davida Foy Crabtree welcomed us on behalf of the Connecticut Conference and announced there are 42 ONA churches in the Conference and thanked us for the work of The Coalition

Shannon Spencer led community building activities for verbal and non-verbal types.

Susie Smith and Ashley Moore introduced the Covenant of Community Tim Brown and James Christie interpreted honoring boundaries and communicating broken boundaries via role play.

John McIver Gage, moderator, introduced The Coalition Council, the worship planning committee and the National Gathering planning committee.

Ruth Garwood, national coordinator, introduced keynote speaker Lynice Pinkard, co-founder of City of Refuge.

Kathy Church introduced guests from the national offices of the UCC: Michael Lawrence, LCM, Craig Hoffman, Financial Development, Ann Hanson, JWM, Lauren Cope, OGM, Loey Powell JWM, and Lorie Tisher, Health & Wholeness Advocacy-WCM. Also, recognized were those serving on conference staff and Rebecca Voelkel of the Institute of Welcoming Resources.

Ann Stanback, Executive Director of *Love Makes a Family*, and a member of Emanuel UCC in Hartford, spoke of their work for civil unions with full equal right of marriage enacted by the legislature, but not enforced by the courts.

John Gage reviewed the schedule and logistics, business sessions, and announcements.

Lydia York presented last year's minutes which were accepted.

Rich Fluechtling gave the Treasurer's Report noting that individual gifts decreased and grant funding increased. The motion to accept the treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Marguerite Voelkel gave a Stewardship report – update on calling campaign to all ONA churches to give \$100 a year for more than one year and to establish a commitment of ONA churches to The Coalition and stated a need for volunteers for Idaho, Oregon, Nebraska, and maybe Texas. She closed with the following quote: “Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living” – Mother Jones.

Ruth Garwood gave the National Coordinator's Report.

The meeting was recessed until tomorrow. Melanie Savage led us in Closing Prayer.

Business Meeting Part 2
Wednesday June 20, 2007

Kathy Church opened this session with announcements. She also introduced national and conference staff who were not present the previous day.

Kara Hooper, communications coordinator, introduced a media piece to help us tell our story and requested creative ways to use it. DVDs will be made available upon completion of the project. A key part of the story is the 1985 General Synod resolution calling on local settings to become ONA (LGB) without a process to implement which The Coalition took on.

Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz addressed us about 2007 General Synod. He lifted up some issues: politics of terrorism – demagoguery, where fear is present, wisdom cannot be; call to leadership to manage fear; naming our status as same gender loving; meaning to the word family based on the reality of love. He stated that General Synod is like a family reunion for him. Kevin reported that resolutions of witness requires 2/3 majority and prudential resolutions require simple majority. There only be committees which will have multiple resolutions so we need to become trusted counselors and remind those attending Synod that our position on the intersection of issues are deeply imbedded in the life of the denomination. We are at the table, we have a seat and serve as peers. Faithful and Welcoming Congregations and Biblical Witness have requested voice without vote. Justice lived is justice achieved.

Marguerite Voelkel gave a stewardship moment including a quote from Isaiah - “My word goes forth and it will not come back empty.” Rich Fluechtling explained the automatic withdrawal form for giving to The Coalition.

James Christie and John Gage spoke about what constitutes membership: agreement with the values and mission of the Coalition.

Kathy Church explained the by-laws revisions and moved to accept the revisions as proposed. Discussion followed which included questions about the choice of the title Executive Director vs. Minister or Co-ordinator and the reasoning for the changes. Kathy Church and John Gage spoke to rationale which reflects that the organization is growing and changing and changing language will help us seek grants and interact with peers in the welcoming movement.

Sam Lolliger made amendment that Section 4 – currently titled “affirmative action statement” be labeled “equal opportunity statement” Cheryl Burke seconded. Discussion was held. The question called. The Amendment was defeated.

Other discussion included moving from a congregational model to a non-profit organizational model. Do we want that? Isn't that what we already are doing?

The question was called. The motion to adopt the bylaw amendments as proposed was opposed and two abstentions

The report of the Nominating Committee for Council (now Board) was presented. Those nominated for two year terms were Lydia York for secretary, Rich Fluechtling for treasurer, Lisa Robinson, Ashley Moore and Trent Williams for members at large. Allison Donovan moved, Mary Miller seconded, to elect the nominees. The slate was elected

A slate was presented for Nominating Committee for 2007-2008. It included Diane Christopherson, Oliver Martin, Dawn Jones Mark Steffan and Sarah Lohrbach. Kathy Church moved to elect this slate, it was seconded and passed.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. John Gage called for the vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Lydia York
Secretary