

Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations
Joint Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 4, 2017
First UCC, New Philadelphia, OH

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator David Brown (EOA) at 9:36 am.

There was a quorum present, and the agenda was adopted as presented. Rev. Jerry Cruse was named Parliamentarian. The reports were accepted by consensus. Guests were recognized. Special Guests, Rev. Jim Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Rev. Daniel Bursch, Association Minister of the Northwest Association (Ohio Conference) were introduced.

David presented a gift to Dr. Rita Root on behalf of the Associations in appreciation of her service and ministry over the last five years.

Rita led the meeting in "Remembering the Saints" (Necrology).

Ian Lynch presented the State of the Associations from the Association Council. Ian requested a motion to petition the Ohio Conference to establish a new association from the merger our two associations. It was moved and seconded. The motion carried.

David Evans, member of the Constitution Working Group, moved for the adoption of the Constitutional Revisions. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed revision to Article V, Section B, Sub-section 2 changing the requirement of ordination for the Association General Minister to authorize ministry. Shawnthea Monroe moved to strike that language from the revision in both documents. It was seconded. The motion was defeated by the EOA Delegation and the WRA Delegation. Marsha Blythe moved to amend the revisions so that the new article VIII of the EOA Constitution should mirror the language of the WRA article VIII. The WRA Delegation and the EOA passed the revisions as amended unanimously.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of Nominees and moved for unanimous acceptance of the slate. The motion carried. Outgoing Leadership was recognized and thanked for their service. Dr. Root officiated the installation of new leadership.

Jeneen presented and moved for adoption the 2018 Budgets (Joint, EOA, and WRA). The Joint Budget passed unanimously. The EOA Budget passed. There is a correction on the WRA budget, the Ohio Conference Basic Support expense line item should be \$203,500 based on the predetermined percentage. The WRA Budget passed as corrected. Dr. Root added that the Stewardship and Resources Working Group has been working. OCWM has decreased by 25% and the group is working on a strategy to address it.

Cheryl Lindsay provided the report of the AGM Search Committee. A special meeting will be convened to present the candidate in December. Rev. Mark Fry will serve as Acting Associations General Minister during the transition period.

Ian Lynch, Mark Fry, and Kelly Byrd presented the Wider Church Proposal. Kelly moved to affirm the direction of this vision team to become one judicatory level. There was a concern about using the term "level" rather than "setting."

The meeting recessed for worship and reconvened immediately after worship concluded.

Further discussion ensued concerning the financial stewardship of the Ohio Conference and unreadiness of the local church. It was noted that an affirmative vote allows our associations to continue participating in the visioning process. Cathy Green, Moderator of the Ohio Conference Board of Trustees, addressed how the existing structure could be consolidated into a new structure. She suggests that our model of shared ministry could be exported throughout the five associations. Rip Noble expressed concern that our ministry is being asked to give up what has worked well for an unknown reality given that conference has not been working well. A motion was made to amend the original motion adding "with reservation." It was seconded. The motion to amend failed. The original motion passed. It was moved and seconded to express reservations. That motion failed.

The next annual meeting will be held on November 3, 2018.

Respectively Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay
WRA Council Secretary