



Potomac Association

Central Atlantic Conference-United Church of Christ

Potomac Association Spring Meeting 2015

Bethesda UCC, Bethesda MD
Saturday, May 2, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Specifics

The Delegates and Authorized Ministers of the Potomac Association are called to the Spring Meeting 2015.

The purpose of the meeting is to renew our commitment in acknowledging, recognizing, gathering, and using the tools available in the furtherance of the work and mission of the Association.

At the meeting we will:

1. Gather for worship.
2. Receive and participate in a presentation on “Marks of Ministry” (ecclesial authorization in the UCC).
2. Receive reports from the officers of the Board of Directors, each Standing Committee, and any other person or organization as requested by the Board of Directors.
3. Consider and vote on the slate of officers and committee members.

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- Opening Worship (Worship was interspersed through the program)
Social Action and Missions Committee
- **Healing Communities Panel** (Briggs Center for Faith & Action)
 - * Healing Community
 - * Embracing Life After Incarceration
 - * Balancing Justice with Mercy
- **Call to Action on Climate Change** (slide presentation and panel discussion)
- Call to Order/Reading of the Roll Call
- Minutes of the Spring Meeting 2014 were approved
- Reports of the Association Board and Committees
 - * Christian Education
 - * Church & Ministry
 - * Higher Education
 - * Social Action & Missions
- Report from Treasurer (Rev. Hank Fairman)
 - * Budget & Assessments for 2015 were discussed and approved by vote

Moderator (Rev. Chuck Myers) and Vice Moderator (Minister Geneva Hudson) provided updates to the attendees.

Recognition of Associate Conference Minister - Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed

Closing Prayer followed by lunch

Reports of Standing Committees

Church and Ministry

Committee on Church & Ministry Potomac Association Annual Report May 2, 2015

The oversight responsibilities related to **nurture** and **accountability** given to Associations are sacred trusts that directly impact the effectiveness and integrity of the ministries of the church of Jesus Christ. The Committee on Church & Ministry takes great care to provide adequate oversight for the ministries of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required. Ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministries of the Potomac Association come under an oversight of watchful care provided by the Committee on behalf of the Association, which has responsibility for authorizing these ministries on behalf of the whole church.

Ongoing Activities

The Committee on Church & Ministry, over the course of its year, receives and acts on dozens of requests from those authorized, or seeking to be authorized for ministry in the United Church of Christ including:

- Members in Discernment (Students in care)
- Ordained ministers seeking to transfer their ordained ministerial standing within the Association, including those who are on leave of absence and those who are retired
- Ordained ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seeking ordained ministerial partner standing within the Association
- Ordained ministers from other denominations seeking dual standing or privilege of call
- Commissioning ministers within the Association

- Licensing ministers within the Association

Additionally, the Committee on Ministry engages, when necessary in four oversight proceedings: Periodic Support Consultation, Situational Support Consultation, Information Review, and Fitness Review; which, when taken together, provide a comprehensive system for oversight. The four proceedings are distinguished from one another by considering whether a particular proceeding is regularly scheduled, or occurs only when circumstances warrant.

Committee Restructuring

The Committee, in an effort to allow for greater schedule flexibility, and to better manage its workload, will dedicate its May 2015 meeting to considering a more optimal internal operating structure.

Boundary Awareness Training

The Potomac Association has a small number of authorized clergy who have not completed BAT 1. The door is closing on the opportunity to complete that training, however steps are underway to provide an opportunity for those who have not completed the training to do so prior to the Conference Annual Meeting in June. Church & Ministry has made a commitment to ensure that the training is sensitive to persons of color and others – to give these persons an opportunity to take BAT, to address their concerns, and to ameliorate any concerns ministers may have in taking BAT.

Accountability and Review

The Committee currently has two Situational Support Reviews in progress, and has completed one Fitness Review which resulted in a Conditional Affirmation of Fitness.

Members in Discernment

An individual’s perception of her or his gifts for ministry needs to be tested with the discernment by the Church of the individual’s gifts. When a member’s call leads to consideration of authorized ministry, the church and that member together seek to discern the particular shape of the call. Such discernment is an ongoing process, and the Committee on Church & Ministry engages in a structured program of oversight, support, counseling, and review in order to ensure that the pathway to ministry is a growing experience for the Member in Discernment. To that end, the Committee holds an Annual Review of Members in Discernment, where MIDs and their advisors “check-in” with the Committee; and are advised and assessed on their progress. Unlike the past where traditional “Students in Care” were largely full-time seminarians, The Potomac Association currently has many members in different phases of discernment and applying to become Members in Discernment; some of whom are second-career or dual-career individuals, which means we have to take special care to shape discernment periods (which may be extended) around individual circumstances.

Authorization Actions and Recommendations

Recommendations for Ecclesiastical Council - Ordination

- Rev. Mark Granfors-Hunt – Greenbelt Community UCC
- Min. Tabea Muenz, Pastor for German Services, The United Church

Licenses Granted/Renewed¹

- Min. Verdell Wright, Lincoln Temple UCC

Granting of Partnership Standing

- Rev. Wes Jamison, Great Lakes Association

Ecclesiastical Endorsement

- Rev. Linda Hodson, Montgomery County Hospice

¹ For administrative ease, all licenses co-terminate and are considered for renewal annually on July 17.

Transfer of Standing into Potomac Association

- Rev. David Lindsey, Little River UCC
- Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Greenbelt Community UCC from Florida Conference
- Rev. Ruth D. Harvey, Plymouth Congregational UCC from Penn Central Association
- Rev. Karen Byrne, First Congregational UCC from Kennebeck Valley Association (Maine)

Transfer of Standing out of Potomac Association

- Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer - St. John's UCC Richmond to Hampden Association (Mass.)

Dual Standing and Privilege of Call

- Rev. Jessie Lowry, Interim Minister Pilgrim UCC
- Rev. Samantha Tuttle, New Church Start

Resignation of Standing

- Rev. Arthur Keys

Installations

- Rev. David Lindsey, Little River UCC
- Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Greenbelt Community UCC
- Rev. James Deacon (PCUSA), Bowie United Parish
- Rev. Kay Rogers – United Christian Parish, Reston
- Rev. Guy Molock, Beloved Community UCC
- Rev. Sherry Molock, Beloved Community UCC
- Beloved Community Church

Churches seeking Covenant

- New Hope Baptist UCC

Submitted by grace,



William B. Cooper, Chair
Committee on Church & Ministry

Christian Education

Report from the Christian Education Committee

Chair: Rev. Ellen Jennings

Members: Rev. Sarah Anders, Rev. Alexis Kassim, Rev. Jessie Lowry, Rev. Kay Rodgers, Rev. Mark Suriano, Anna Sannes and Ina Slaughter.

Our committee met six times this year.

An overview of the year's work includes:

Last June the Older Adult Ministry Network (OAMN), a subgroup of this committee, provided some programming for the CAC Annual Meeting. This included a workshop focused on Five Wishes (a document and process that allows

people to state their wishes for end of life decisions) and an information/resource table. The OAMN has decided to continue meeting on a quarterly basis with the goal of sharing resources and offering programming to the Association. Rev. Mike Durst has agreed to succeed Rev. Sarah Anders as the group's leader.

Last summer our committee contacted every Potomac Association church and compiled a list of all CE contacts in the Association. In the fall we began hosting quarterly gatherings of CE leaders (clergy, staff and lay) from these congregations. Christ Congregational UCC has provided the venue. The purpose of such gatherings is to share resources, wisdom, ideas and support.

We held the first quarterly gathering on 11/1/14. At this meeting, Alexis Kassim (Westmoreland Congregational UCC) and Anna Sannes (Cleveland Park Congregational UCC) gave us an overview of last summer's Youth Mission Trips (middle school and high school) and a preview of this coming summer's trips. We also shared a number of "fresh ideas" for CE programming.

On 2/14/15 we held the second of our quarterly CE Gatherings featuring a presentation by Christina Fairman (Little River UCC) on the OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program on Human Sexuality. Our next quarterly gathering will be held on 5/30/15 featuring a presentation by Holly Jackson (Hope UCC), Ashley Martinage (Rock Spring UCC), and Billie Sutter (United Parish Reston) on Worship Stations and the Rotational Model.

From June 28-July 4 close to one hundred Potomac Association high school youth and youth leaders will gather in West Virginia for a week of work with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity. This highly successful youth mission program is coordinated by Rev. Hank Fairman, Billy Sutter and others with the support of the Christian Education Committee. The trip leaders have already met twice this year—with a requirement that all accompanying chaperones attend these meetings.

Our committee welcomes your input and any requests for specific workshops or program offerings during the church year. Please contact Rev. Ellen Jennings at pastor@cpchurch.org.

Faithfully submitted,
Rev. Ellen Jennings, Chair

Higher Education

Report not available at press time. May be available separately.

Social Action and Missions

**Social Action and Missions Committee
Potomac Association, CAC, UCC
REPORT
Program Year 2014-15**

The Potomac Association's Social Action and Missions Committee has two primary mandates: to budget for and then disburse the PA's mission budget and, more generally, to design and carryout activities and/or programs of its own choosing that address societal needs and concerns facing our congregations, our larger communities and/or the world.

The Committee's mission budget preparation responsibilities were completed by early fall, 2014 with the submission to the Association of a proposed budget totaling \$27,000, a substantial increase from earlier such budgets. At its fall meeting, the Association adopted the Committee's recommendations. The Committee will continue to monitor the mission fund disbursement process, making recommended adjustments if or when budgetary or issues related to recipients arise.

Having agreed to provide both the worship experience and an educational program at the October 2014 Association meeting, the Committee spent last summer and early fall planning for that occasion. Rev. Marjani Dele, assisted by Catarina Correia, created and led a combined worship and educational experience around the theme, “Redeeming Soil and Souls.”

The “souls” portion of the October Association meeting was provided by Rev. Robert Maddox, Executive Director, Briggs Center for Faith and Action, who introduced Healing Communities, a “distinct” ministry for men and women returning to their communities after serving periods of incarceration. Rev. Maddox also provided printed materials for the delegates. All delegates were encouraged to investigate further how their congregations can learn more about, inter alia, restorative justice and family reintegration. The “soils” part of the worship/program explored various elements of climate change. A panel of lay and clergy experts discussed climate science findings, while climate mitigation and adaptation materials were exhibited and distributed. During the panel discussion, there was a call for congregations to create climate-related covenantal partnerships to ease the learning curve for some congregations just beginning to address climate resilience concerns. Rev. Dele shared slides from her Climate Reality Leadership training in Johannesburg, South Africa. More generally, the delegates were inspired by the call and response style of weaving together the worship and educational portions of the program. The New Hope Baptist UCC choir provided wonderful music for the worship segments.

The organization that receives the largest portion of Association mission funds is Shaw Community Ministry, and one of our Committee’s responsibilities is to maintain contact with SCM on behalf of the Association. Founded by the Association in 1991, SCM serves families in the Shaw area of DC, particularly residents of Lincoln-Westmoreland Housing at 7th and R Streets, NW, by providing afterschool care and summer camp programs for children and by being available to their parents and other older adults who may need assistance. Housed for many years at LWH, SCM is now located at Lincoln Congregational Temple, 11th and R Streets, NW. SCM’s Board is drawn from many Association congregations. SCM’s executive director, Sudi West, and the president of its Board, Marjorie Hoffman, met in person with the Committee at its recent April meeting to bring us up to date on leadership changes over the past two years, the current financial status of the ministry (grant funds for 2015 summer camp have been greatly reduced, making fundraising for camp by Association congregations even more important), and other issues being addressed by the organization. Members of all Association congregations are warmly welcomed at SCM special events, the next one being the annual scholarship dinner in June.

The Committee decided to focus its own attention for the rest of the program year on two of the resolutions adopted at the spring, 2014 meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference for submission to General Synod. These resolutions are (1) “A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Action toward a Just Peace in the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict,” and (2) “Dismantling the New Jim Crow.” The goal with regard to both resolutions is to find ways to assist in their dissemination and to work to enhance the likelihood of favorable votes at Synod, particularly by CAC delegates from congregations in the Potomac Association. Howard Hjort of Rock Spring Congregational UCC, who was appointed to the Committee in the fall, agreed to lead a Committee working group on the I/P resolution, while Rev. Kenneth King, pastor of New Hope Baptist UCC, agreed to lead a similar group addressing the New Jim Crow. The I/P group has focused especially upon extensive sharing on a weekly basis of information about events in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza as well as attempts by other nations and organizations to address the policies and actions of the peoples involved, including the BDS campaign calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions aimed at companies that do business in the occupied Palestinian territories or that otherwise profit from the Israeli occupation. Members of the Committee’s I/P Working Group will assist with orientation of CAC delegates to Synod in May.

The Committee anticipates starting the new program year with at least two vacancies in its membership. Persons from congregations not otherwise represented on the Committee who would consider joining us are encouraged to identify themselves and their interest to Association leaders. It is never too late.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Weissenborn
Chair, Social Action and Missions Committee

Board of Directors

Moderator

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The work of the Association is done, overwhelmingly, by the local churches forming the Association; by the Committees of the Association; and by those organizations that the Association funds through its budget. Together, we attempt to build up the church and its complement of clergy and lay leaders; help those who are disadvantaged or at risk in our world; and spread the good news of God's insistence on justice.

In my two years as Moderator, ending today, I have done what I could to facilitate this work. Ceremonial and administrative duties aside, I do not claim to have led any of it. I take great pride in those of you who have, and in what you have done and continue to do.

I realize that I have asked many people to do many things. Today I have three final requests:

- That you support my successor as you have supported me.**
- That you continue to do God's work in this glorious but troubled world.**
- That you and your congregations prayerfully consider what you can do to fulfill the ambitious Association budget for 2015. It is ambitious because we thought this Association could do more. I still think so.**

In faith,

Rev. Chuck Myers

Associate Moderator (Geneva Hudson)

- Attended monthly meetings of the Board of Directors/substituted for Scribe as needed
- Assisted Scribe and Peoples Church in planning for Fall Association Meeting
- Assisted Social Action and Mission Committee in preparations for Fall Meeting
- Attended the Fall Association Meeting October 18, 2014 at Peoples Congregational UCC
- Attended the Ecclesiastical Council for Mark Gransfors-Hunt and Beloved Community at Christ Congregational UCC on October 25, 2014
- Attended and participated in the retirement celebration for Rev. Dr. Kwame Osei Reed at Christ Congregational UCC on November 14, 2014
- Attended Ordination for Kay Rogers at United Christian Parish in Reston, VA on December 21, 2014
- Attended Installation Service for Glennyce Grimstaff at Bethesda UCC, February 2, 2015
- Attended Ministry Institute at Little River UCC on March 3, 2015
- Attended Reception and Installation Service for Beloved Community in Accokeek, MD on March 15, 2015

- Attended and participated in the Seabury Senior Awards Program at the Washington Cathedral in recognition of senior volunteers in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ on April 22, 2015.

Conference Ministry Team

Potomac Association,

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Memorial for Pastor Michael Murphy
- The installation service at Community, Greenbelt, MD, and
- The installation and recognition service of the Beloved Community Church, Accokeek, MD.
- The anniversary Celebration weekend at First Congregation, DC ,and
- The anniversary Sunday at Wellspring, Centreville, VA
- There have been planning meetings and group meetings of the race and racism group in the Potomac Association, and
- There has been a forum on The New Jim Crow at Cleveland Park, DC.
- I preached Palm Sunday at Jubilee, Lanham, MD.
- I preached one of the Seven Last Words of Christ at Peoples Congregational, DC; then
- I attended Resurrection Sunday services at Christ Congregational, Silver Spring, MD, and then,
- I visited Seneca Valley. I have also visited Faith and Plymouth, DC. I hope to see more of you in the coming weeks.
- I also attended a planning meeting for and giving remarks at the Pillars of Faith Luncheon

There have been many calls, meetings, e-mails and lunches with clergy and lay, of many varieties, with more to come. Today, you will hear about changes in MESA and possibly a report from Kendall Brown, our staff person handling Church Vitality and maybe additional information from Alex Vishio, our staff person who sends out the various e-mails about our resolutions and other justice issues.

Currently, Alex, Kendall and I are working on matters pertaining to Mr. Freddie Gray and how we can support to the Chesapeake Association and our sister churches in the Baltimore area.

Remember that GS 17 is coming here; so get those cookie recipes ready!

This is just a short story of what is going on in the Potomac Association and our conference. Know that I am humbled to be working with you and that I would not take anything for the journey that we now share together.

Peace and Blessings,

Ruth D Harvey
Interim Associate Conference Minister
United Church of Christ - Central Atlantic Conference

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for Budget Year 2014

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman

4/27/2015

Grace and Peace to the local congregations of the Potomac Association United Church of Christ.

I offer the following report on the finances of our Association for the fiscal year 2014, our assets, liabilities, and budget. On the subsequent pages, you will find the Balance Sheet for year-end (12/31/2014) and Profit and Loss Report for 2014. The comments on this page seek to explain the actions in managing the accounts of the Association.

Financial Position

Our funds are maintained in three accounts at two financial institutions. The funds held in the Suntrust Checking account are equity from prior periods (the accumulated unspent funds from prior years). The small amount in the United Bank (formerly Virginia Commerce Bank) account is held to maintain the account in good standing. The funds held in the Suntrust Money Market comprise exclusively the funds held in our Restricted Fund accounts.

We began 2013 with assets in the amount of \$74,230.82, divided as:

Suntrust Checking	\$37,935.56
Virginia Commerce Bank (Pass-through)	\$80.69
Suntrust Money Market (Savings)	\$36,214.57

The assets on hand as of 31 December 2013 are in the amount of \$88417.81 divided as:

Suntrust Checking	\$51,591.10
Virginia Commerce Bank (Pass-through)	\$80.73
Suntrust Money Market (Savings)	\$36,745.98

For the fiscal year 2013, we have increased our total assets to \$11,182.66. These funds comprise the increases in our restricted funds and carryover from the budget.

Budget, Income and Expenses

Total Income to the budget was received at \$79,429.82 to the \$84,900 budget. Total Expenses against the budget were \$63,607.80. Including a reduction in non-budget expenses, this provided a residual income of \$11,182.66 for the year. This is nearly identical to the FY 2013 income and expenses.

The difference in receipts and expenses versus residual income comes from the budgeted funds for the new campus ministry at Howard University/University of the District of Columbia. This was also the case in 2013, and this fact remains a concern as we hear good reports from the Committee on Higher Education on the renewal of this ministry.

We must remember that the apportionments that are affirmed by the Delegates of our congregations need to be honored to fulfill the budget. Receipts to the 2013 Apportionment returned less \$5,320.48 than voted. Had the third campus ministry been operational, the budget would have closed at a deficit of \$817.34. Our covenants with our mission partners require each congregation to take seriously their responsibility in funding our shared ministries.

Restricted Funds

Our Restricted Funds have gained negligibly in value this year. The one fund receiving income is the Stanley Scholarship, amounting to just over \$600. Other action in the funds that can be noted:

- The Potomac Youth Ministry Team continued to hold funds in reserve of the 2015 Summer Mission Experience. While reduced in value \$350 from 2013, the fund remains positive as the planning continues.
- The Stanley Scholarship Fund, which receives income from offerings taken at Fall and Spring Meetings, Ordinations, and Installations, retains \$16,100. This fund provides support for our Members-in-Discernment as they journey towards authorization for ministry, and efforts are underway to disburse the funds in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Association.
- The Committee on Social Action and Missions asked that a fund be established from unspent 2013 budgeted funds in the amount of \$900 for determination in 2014. These funds were disbursed, and the account suspended.

Accounting and Financial Practices Review

In response to concerns from prior periods, a financial controls review was conducted with the help of Elizabeth Haley of My Part Time Comptroller, LLC. With few comments, our financial practices received good marks. One notable area of correction was in our accounting for “In and Out” expenses within a calendar year. In prior accounting, this was done through a restricted asset and liability account on the Balance Sheet. Beginning in 2014, we will be accounting these expenses within the fiscal year as “Pass-Through” income and expenses. Most notable in this area is the Potomac Youth funds, amounting to nearly \$50,000 per year. This change will allow for closer monitoring of a given project (or class) of expenses, and the income offset. It will also allow us to place expenses within the correct fiscal period (rather than “rolling” assets or liabilities into future periods).

Summary

We took a strong step forward in 2015, marking an increase in budget and stewardship from \$84,900 to \$91,000. We have much success in our financial support of ministry in 2014, and I hope that we can realize the same percentile of support for 2015. It has been a blessing of learning to take up this ministry, and I am honored by your trust in my ability to complete the tasks of the office.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Henry E. “Hank” Fairman,
Treasurer, Potomac Association UCC
