

Minutes

Three Rivers District Conference ~ September 22, 2019 ~ Elizabeth Chapel UMC

District Superintendent Lauri Jo Cranford presiding

Welcome and Prayer – Rev. Rick Clowers, host pastor

Hymn - #545 The Church's One Foundation

Election of Secretary - Betty Yeomans-Barton was nominated by Rev. Susan Arnold and elected by voice vote.

Camp Bays Mountain Report - Rev. Jeff Wadley. The written reports for camping are found in the Book of Reports pages 10-13. This year we had the largest group of summer campers ever served in Holston Conference: 3,208. Thank you from all of the camp directors for your support of camping ministry.

We had a hiatus of five years in our region after the flood at Buffalo Mountain. We had to make tough decisions about selling Buffalo Mountain, buying new property and building Bays Mountain. We are now 2% from completing our \$4.1 million campaign.

Summer camp was phenomenal. We hoped for 300 and had 320 campers. There were 49 first time commitments to Christ and about three dozen campers sensed a call to ministry. 22 staff members served the camp and they excelled in their work.

The camp is now open for retreat groups for weekends and during the week. Your camp is open year round to serve you. The second weekend in December is Christmas camp. Campers and parents can chose either a day camp or overnight camp experience. More info about this can be found on the website.
<http://www.campbaysmountain.com/>

Churches that have given to the capital campaign were recognized. As the church name was called, a representative from each congregation was given a print of the dinner bell. Churches recognized were: Wheeler, Sulphur Springs, Milburnton, Piney Flats, Munsey Memorial, Seviers, Marvins Chapel, Jonesborough, Otterbein, Jearoldstown, Hermon, Gethsemane, Gray, Grace, First Johnson City, First Elizabethton, Cokesbury, Centenary, Watauga Point, Hunter, Blountville, Zion, Baileyton, Austin Springs, Hulls Chapel. Thank you once again for all your support in getting camp up and running.

Wesley Foundation - Rev. Caleb Frazier. The written report for Wesley is found in the Book of Reports pages 14-15. Take special notice of Annual BBQ and Auction next Sunday.

Young adulthood is an important time as we discern our beliefs. Wesley offers worship every Tuesday and a free meal. Throughout the week are small group and Bible study opportunities. The building is available for student use at any time.

Talking to past and present students there are many stories coming out of Wesley of marriages, first experiences attending worship, first time to preach a sermon, etc. At a recent orientation we noticed that three students from a group picture are now serving as clergy in Holston. Recently a student told Caleb that she had never known what communion was or taken communion before coming to Wesley.

ESUMC Prague – Rev. Lauri Jo Cranford. The written report for ESUMC is found in the Book of Reports pages 18-19. We continue to have a presence in Prague. This year we have had a change in leadership with the Redmond family coming home. Rev. Mark and Heather Hicks are now in Prague leading this congregation. They are learning the language and the culture. We are so very thankful for them.

We have not been doing Czech mission Sundays so we will be looking for ways to raise money in the coming year. If you or persons in your congregation would like to learn more about missions in Czech Republic talk to Lauri Jo or Betty. The Czech Republic is a beautiful country where many have not heard of the love of Christ.

Offering – An offering was received for ESUMC Prague, totaling \$498.37

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Rev. Susan Arnold

Recognition of Excellence in Evangelism, Five Star Churches, 100% Tithe, 100% District Fair Share. These lists are printed in the Book of Reports pages 6-7. Rev. Cranford asked persons from the churches in each of these categories to stand. Certificates will be distributed at the next district clergy meeting.

Take time to read through the additional reports in our Book of Reports, paying special attention to the Hands on Mission project for 2020 on pages 22-23. Pictures were recently posted on Facebook of the hands on kits arriving in Africa. It is a blessing to see the excitement of the young people picking out their backpacks.

Nomination and Election of District Leaders – Roster is printed on pages 25-26. This report comes from the Committee on Nominations. It does not require a second. As there were no changes or additions that need to be made, the report was approved by a voice vote and the nominees duly elected.

Election of At-Large Lay Members to Annual Conference – Ballots were passed out for At-Large Nominations. A list of nominees with their bios is on page 28. The following additional persons were nominated from the floor: Lynn Mason (Wesley Memorial); Jane Wassem (Wesley Memorial); Sandy Eagle (Gray); Carole Williams (Wheeler); Chuck Alexander (Telford). This gives us 22 names and we need to elect 20. The two receiving the least number of votes will be our alternates.

The following were elected: Chuck Alexander, Jeff Anderson, Amy Blumberg, Jennifer Boarman, Lynice Broyles, Cindy Cutshall, Mark Cutshall, David Frost, Andrea Gates, Dell Gates, Dan Gill, Lynn Mason, Jennifer Mongold, Terry Muse, Andy Nelson, Trish Patterson, Steve Reis, Heather Vaughn, Hugh Wallace, Carole Williams. Elected as alternates are Sandy Eagle and Jane Wassem.

Finance Reports – The proposed budget for 2020 is on page 29. The Finance Committee recommends an increase of \$5,000 for First UMC Johnson City Children and Youth. This is an excellent outreach to children and youth. To offset this there is a recommended decrease of \$5,000 for Good Samaritan. This is also an excellent ministry that we will still continue to support. However, they have grant opportunities from churches of other denominations and organizations that are not available to First Johnson City.

Mark Laughlin asked a question concerning 62120 – Insurance. There is a very large increase on this line. Is it a typo? Rev. Cranford responded that in years past we have not been covering Betty's insurance. Now we will be covering it which is the reason for large increase.

There were no more comments or questions. The budget was passed by a hand vote.

The Fair Share Apportionment calculations are printed on page 31. Make note of your Fair Share Apportionment for 2020.

District Conference Resolution. The following resolution was approved by a hand vote: *Since there may be business matters that are not completed or are omitted during this session of the District Conference, or business needing action between sessions of the District Conference, it is recommended that the District Discipleship Team be empowered to care for such matters.*

Meditation

Lord's Supper

Hymn - #368 My Hope is Built

Benediction

Respectfully submitted by Betty Yeomans-Barton