

Annual Gathering 2020
Saturday, June 13, 2020
9 am -12 pm (via Zoom Webinar)

Walking the Valley: We Journey Together

Session I:

Welcome

Megan Owens, Conference Moderator

Megan welcomed attendees and acknowledged the many special efforts to make this online event (webinar) possible. Parliamentarians and interpreters were introduced. Megan and her team provided a brief orientation to the online platform and related participation/voting norms.

Worship

Greg Davis, Kelly Ryan, Jessica Chapman

Call to Order

Megan Owens, Conference Moderator

Declaration of Quorum

A quorum of at least 75 voting members with representation from each Association was established.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved with modifications to include additional new business (144 yes; 4 abstained = 98% approval)

Approval of Minutes of 2019

The minutes from the 2019 Annual Gathering were approved with corrections (172 yes; 10 abstained = 95% approval)

New Business

Megan Owens, Conference Moderator

Megan oriented attendees to the guidelines for the spontaneous or emergency introduction of resolutions from the floor. Resolutions must be introduced by delegates and be accompanied by all required information. (See requirements on SCNCUCC website.)

Conference Minister's Report

Felix Villanueva, Conference Minister

The Conference Minister's report was shared via video.

In Memorium

Felix Villanueva shared the names of those clergy who have passed in the last year.

9/5/19	John Rawlings
11/14/19	Kenneth Mitchell
11/24/19	Richard Moore
12/25/19	Walter Davis
1/27/20	Harold Jackson
3/4/20	Frank A. Johnson
3/10/20	Robert Fung

Resolution of Affirmation

Presented by Erin Beardemphl

Resolution of Affirmation for the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ to Become an “Accessible to All” (A2A) Conference, submitted by the Conference Inclusion Team of the Southern California Nevada Conference, Conference Inclusion Team

Motion to Approve Resolution: Maggy Broderick

The resolution was approved with the following (158 yes; 1 abstained = 99% approval)

Church Milestones: 5-for-5 Churches, New ONA Churches, New A2A Churches

Finance Report (Full Report Included)

Neal Washburn, Treasurer

The budget was approved with the following (149 yes; 2 no; 10 abstained = 93% approval)

Ministry Transitions

Felix shared the names of those whose ministries have transitioned.

Stacy Thomas	UCC in Simi Valey
Sarah Avarette-Phillips	Brea Congregational
Tracy Barnowe	Ramona, First Congregational
Wendell Miller	LA, Lincoln Memorial Congregational
Greg Davis	Poway Community Church
Leo Lynch, Transitional Pastor	Santa Ana, First Congregational
Ashley Hiestand	LA, Mt. Hollywood Congregational
Michelle Freeman	Riverside, First Congregational
Benjamin Samuel	Torrance, Seaside Community Church
Called Interims	
Elizabeth Steele	Bakersfield, First Congregational
Alex Dreese	Paso Robles, Plymouth Congregational

Retired Clergy

1/31/19	Glen Larsen
12/31/19	Libby Tigner, Long Beach, Los Altos UCC & as Associate Conference Minister
2/29/20	Dan Smith, LA, West Hollywood UCC
1/31/20	M. Scott Landis, SD, Mission Hills UCC
5/31/20	Steven Mabry, Paso Robles
9/13/20	Michael Holland

Clergy Ministry Anniversaries

5th Anniversary of Ministry
Chapman, Jessica
Echols, Rodrick
Elderkin, Christopher
Grauman, Richard
Page, Glenndon
Racelis, Thea Leticia
Ryan, Kelly
Sisk-Provencio, Jason
10th Anniversary of Ministry
Choi, Holgie
Samples, Rick
Schwiebert, Andrew
Terrones, Annica
15th Anniversary of Ministry
Brecht, Susan
DeNero, Nancy
Fa'alua, Puleinu'utu
Halverson-Cano, Sarah
Hill, J. Lee
Randolph, Sheri
Shiraiwa, Masaaki

20th Anniversary of Ministry
Garber, Jerold
Leavasa, Andrew
Papali'i, Iosefa

25th Anniversary of Ministry
Beu, B J
Kirchner-Rose, Jill
Pomeroy, Marlene
Tigner, Libby
30th Anniversary of Ministry
Babb, Donna
Colman, Kenneth
Findlay, James
Lebacqz, Karen
Thompson, Liona
Wallace, Peggy
Whitacre, John
35th Anniversary of Ministry
Boyd, Stephen
Deroko, Richard
Graff, Sharon
Marshall, Rick
Olney, Carolyn
40th Anniversary of Ministry
Dreese, Alexander
Heckles, Jane
Irving, Richard
Landis, M. Scott
Mabry, Steven
45th Anniversary of Ministry
Leon, Lewis
Peterson, William
Wilke, Christopher
50th Anniversary of Ministry
Augspurger, Diana
Campbell, David
Duncan, Richard
Durrant, Paula
Eilers, William
Mann, David
Romero, Daniel F.

Sparks, Ronald
55th Anniversary of Ministry
Benbow, John
Doss, David

Newly Ordained Ministers

Cynthia “Wally” Hoeger

Church Anniversaries

9/22/19	San Diego, Kensington Community	90 th Anniversary
11/17/19	Santa Ana, First Congregational Church	130 th Anniversary

Members in Discernment

Central

Zoltan Batori
Denise LaChance
Kyle Sears
Donald Shenk

Eastern

Suzanne Barone
Al Breems
Michael Lewis
Jeremy Wallace

Northern

Bill Bartlett
Keslinn Kohfeld-Stout
Ron Pilling

Southern

Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi
Monica Bradley

Newly Welcomed Churches

10/5/19	Pomona, Urban Mission
10/6/19	San Diego, University Christian Church

Report of the Board Chair

Gary Chomiak, Board Chair

Gary shared an overview of the Board's work in 2019 and into the future.

Presentation of Proposed By-Law Changes

Gary Chomiak, Board Chair

The proposed changes to the Conference by-laws are indicated in red:

24. Term of Office: The term of office for elected officers of the Conference, other than the **Secretary** and the Treasurer, shall be one (1) year. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator may not serve two (2) consecutive terms. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors **and the Secretary** may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. **The term of office for the Secretary shall be two (2) years, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.**

The proposed changes were approved (146 yes; 1 no; 5 abstained = 96% approval)

Friends of the Conference**Pilgrim Pines and Outdoor Ministries Report**

Petra Malleis-Sternberg

Petra shared a report including updates events before and after the pandemic. She encouraged using the website to learn more about summer programming and special camp-at-home opportunities (June 15 deadline for registration and scholarships). Pilgrim Pines just received county approval to open camp facilities for small group use.

YAYA Report

Mary Traylor

Report of the Nominating Committee

Sarah Averette-Phillips

The following slate was recommended for approval by Sarah Averette-Phillips on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

Board Of Directors: Class of 2023

Susie Bjork
Rich Fluechtling
Clayton Heard
Rosario Ibarra

Board Officers 2021

Chair: Gary Chomiak
Vice Chair: Sarah Averette-Phillips
Secretary: Kris Bergstrom (2022)
Moderator: Gary Chomiak
Vice Moderator: Rachael Chapman

Annual Gathering Planning Team

2021 David Clark
2023 Shannon Clay
2023 Mitchell Young

Nominating Committee

2023 Sarah Halverson Cano
2023 Mark Pettis
2022 Wally Hoeger
2021 Paul Tellstrom

The new slate of officers was approved.

Motion: Mary Sue Brookshire moved to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes. **No vote taken.**

Resolution

Jay Lee Hill presented the following emergency resolution and motion: To accept resolution of witness regarding police brutality and systemic racism against black people in America (full text below) with a request for the Board to engage more deeply in the future. Resolution adopted (yes 130; no 6; abstain 7 = 91% approved).

An Emergency Resolution to the 2020 Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada
Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Resolution to End Police Brutality and Systemic Racism Against Black People in America

Background:

When our “Founding Fathers” etched into our Declaration of Independence the self-evident truth that “all men are created equal,” slavery—enslavement of Black lives—was widely accepted and had been a reality here for hundreds of years. Black lives were bought and sold, treated as property, beaten, and killed. Did all lives matter then? Did Black lives matter?

Our United States Constitution—which aspires to form a “more perfect union” and to “secure the Blessings of Liberty”—treated Black slaves not as “free Persons” but as “others,” with each

slave equal to three-fifths of a person. Did all lives matter then? Did Black lives matter?

Slavery and an economy built on slavery continued in our Nation for nearly 100 years more. Did all lives matter then? Did Black lives matter?

Even after our ancestors fought a Civil War and slaves were declared free persons, Jim Crow laws maintained a great imbalance. Ingrained societal and systemic prejudices impaired the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for persons based on color. In the last 60 years alone, lynchings, church bombings, and too many atrocities occurred in order to prevent Black lives from enjoying equal rights. Our government agents/officers were slow to protect them and at times were their persecutors. Did all lives matter then? Did Black lives matter?

In very recent years, months, and weeks, we have seen time-and-again a representative of government—a police officer charged with a duty to protect lives—kill an unarmed Black person. We have seen at times a careless, and at times a malicious, disregard for the value of Black lives. We have seen a system that allows such deaths to occur and that resists change. Can we truly say that our Nation, our government, has overcome all of its past failings and is now guided by the principle that “all lives matter”?

Since Black lives have not mattered to too many for too long, I echo a message that needs repeating: Black Lives Matter.

The body of resolution:

Whereas, the vestiges of this country’s harmful and racist legacy of slavery lives on in the police violence inflicted on members of our Black community.

Whereas, our faith teaches us that each person is created in the “Imago Dei” (image of God) in Genesis 1:27. Because humanity has been made in the image of the Holy Parent we are therefore full of intrinsic worth, value and deserving of dignity. What is true is that God did not create race, racism, or superior groups of humans. God does not sanction human suffering, but looks upon those who are suffering and intervenes directly to bring about liberation and justice.

Whereas as a Church, we boldly proclaim Black Lives Matter because we are called to witness against white supremacy to support the struggle and build a society that is anti-racist and reimagine a world where the public safety of the most vulnerable is centered and prioritized.

Whereas the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ is committed to not only be allies in the fight for justice but will use our privilege in spaces to

amplify calls for justice and take actions where we have power and authority to do so, and call on others to use their power to further liberation and justice.

Black Lives Matter. THEREFORE, let it be resolved:

That the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with the Black community.

Be it further resolved that Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ commits to following the lead and listening to not only our God, as well as our Black siblings and activists in this movement to guide our actions.

Be it further resolved, that to turn this tide of systemic racism and economic injustice by racism, we call upon our elected leaders to address police brutality and mass incarceration by taking actions to reduce the role of police in our communities by divesting from the police budget into services in the Black community and non- law enforcement interventions.

Be it finally resolved that we, the Southern Nevada Conference affirm and declare that Black Lives Matter.

Funding The funding for implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and funds available.

Implementation

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries and other entities of the UCC, will determine the implementing body.

Introduced by:

Randy K. Jones, Esq. Moderator, Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC

The Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr Pastor, Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC

The Rev. Jessica Chapman Pastor, Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC

The Rev. Mary Brookshire

Pastor, Pioneer Oceanview UCC

Dr. Frances Foster Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC

The Rev. Libby Tigner Associate Conference Minister for Central and Northern Associations

Note: An additional resolution regarding the White House rolling back protections for LGBTQ person will come to the Board in July.

Acknowledgements

Megan Owens, Conference Moderator

Adjourn 1:03 PM



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 2020

Report from the Conference Treasurer

We are now living in some strange times, strange times indeed. As a nation we have multiple struggles with fears of a pandemic, multiple justice issues, and concerns for the economy. We feel bombarded without a sense of relief, respite, or sabbath. Deep breaths... deep breaths... We are now going to talk about our Conference budget for the coming year. This year's proposed budget form and format will look very much like what has been presented at the last couple of Annual Gatherings. We will be talking about our resources, that is, income streams or monies coming in and our responsibilities or the monies we are using for basic Conference Operations and our ministries in the Conference as well as the wider Church.

The primary source of our resources is pledge income from Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Of all the OCWN that we receive, we have pledged that 10 percent of those funds will be transferred to the National Setting of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH. Additionally, other special offerings, which include, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund are collected by the Conference and transferred to the National Setting of the UCC, with any other Directed National Gifts. The Conference is acting essentially as a pass-through for these funds, so we include them in our received resources and identify them in our paid our responsibilities. Other received (pledged) resources come from per-capita (the per-person per church amount that we depend upon our churches for), miscellaneous gifts, and Friends of the Conference gifts. Finally, we include the Board Directed Funds, – using our Conference Assets, usually received from the sale of a Conference owned property, to do ministry in the Conference.

In the Proposed Budget for 2021, we are again using a line-item under resources for "Board Directed Funds." We recognize that these are not infinite resources, and we continue to look for new and different streams of resource to supplement and eventually completely cover our Conference responsibilities. We may be making additional use of these funds due to the uncertainty due to the current pandemic/economy/justice concerns. We invite you to vision with us of how we can make the best use of our existing resources as well as plan and grow for the future. We are all in this together; we are in covenant as the United Church of Christ in Southern California and Nevada.

Yours in Christ,

Neal H. Washburn

Conference Treasurer



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SCNC UCC Budget Proposal Overview 2021					
			2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
Resources					
		OCWM - Basic Support	416,263.09	473,000.00	418,000.00
		Per Capita	118,108.50	145,000.00	120,000.00
		National Directed Gifts	163,719.91	20,000.00	5,000.00
		Special Offerings	163,719.91	164,000.00	160,000.00
		Miscellaneous Income	57,524.34	24,600.00	65,400.00
		Friends of the Conference Appeal	14,516.25	15,000.00	15,000.00
		Board Directed Funds	290,162.82	344,090.32	442,548.81
		Total Resources	1,224,014.82	1,185,690.32	1,225,948.81
Responsibilities					
		Basic Conference Operations	615,752.71	556,574.49	594,349.74
		Due to National	210,664.19	231,300.00	206,800.00
		Program & Mission Expense	10,705.56	14,903.15	6,900.00
		Church Development & Renewal	151,694.62	151,694.62	238,884.00
		Church Relations	123,197.74	119,218.06	67,015.07
		Youth Ministry	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
		Young Adult Ministry	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
		Outdoor Ministries	55,000.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
		Marketed Properties	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
		Mission Grants	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
		Total Responsibility	1,224,014.82	1,185,690.32	1,225,948.81
Net Outcome			0.00	0.00	0.00



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA
CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2019

2019-12-31

ASSETS

Total Current Assets

2,617,407.56

Total Fixed Assets

1,379,344.56

Total Other Assets

2,916,473.69

TOTAL ASSETS

6,913,225.81

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities

138,251.06

Total Liabilities

138,251.06

Total Equity

6,774,974.75

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

6,913,225.81



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Conference Resources

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
External Resources			
Total 4000 · Contributions Income	0.00	0.00	
4010 · OCWM - Basic Support	416,263.09	473,000.00	418,000.00
4020 · Per Capita	118,108.50	145,000.00	120,000.00
4030 · National Directed Gifts	4,318.82	20,000.00	5,000.00
4040 · Special Offerings			
4041 · Christmas Fund	36,900.85	35,000.00	35,000.00
4042 · Neighbors in Need	44,255.53	45,000.00	45,000.00
4043 · One Great Hour of Sharing	70,000.71	75,000.00	70,000.00
4044 · Strengthen The Church -National	12,562.82	9,000.00	10,000.00
Total 4040 · Special Offerings	163,719.91	164,000.00	160,000.00
Total 4050 · Miscellaneous Income	72,040.59	39,600.00	80,400.00
Total 4080 · Interest Income	65,193.31	5,000.00	62,000.00
Total 4085 · Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
4095 · Real Estates Gain			
Total External Resources	839,644.22	846,600.00	845,400.00
Internal Resources		344,090.32	442,548.81



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Basic Conference Responsibilities

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
Expense			
Human Resources			
5100 · Salaries			
Total 5110 · Salaries - Conference Ministers	142,426.26	146,699.05	151,100.02
Total 5120 · Salaries - Staff	79,338.71	73,326.81	77,741.62
Total 5100 · Salaries	221,764.97	220,025.86	228,841.64
Total 5200 · Social Security Offset	10,895.64	11,222.48	11,559.15
Total 5300 · Payroll Expenses	9,363.35	5,600.00	5,950.00
5350 · Paychex Payroll Fee	2,643.57	840.00	0.00
5400 · Benefits			
Total 5410 · Health Benefits	11,238.90	14,561.00	12,360.00
Total 5420 · Pension	7,022.16	7,705.15	7,936.31
Total 5500 · Workers Compensation	4,565.67	3,650.00	4,702.64
Total 5400 · Benefits	22,826.73	25,916.15	24,998.95
Total 5600 · Professional Expenses	16,857.97	18,820.00	20,420.00
Total 5700 · Training/Continuing Education	1,209.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5800 · Cell Phone Expense	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Total Human Resources	287,961.23	289,824.49	299,169.74
Total Operations	327,791.48	266,750.00	295,180.00
Total Program & Mission Expense	14,903.15	6,900.00	6,900.00
9999 · MISCELLANEOUS		0.00	0.00
Total Expense	630,655.86	563,474.49	601,249.74



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Monies Due To National Setting

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
OCWM - Basic Support (10% of Conference)	41,626.31	47,300.00	41,800.00
4030 · National Directed Gifts	5,318.82	20,000.00	5,000.00
4040 · Special Offerings			
4041 · Christmas Fund	36,900.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
4042 · Neighbors in Need	44,255.53	45,000.00	45,000.00
4043 · One Great Hour of Sharing	70,000.71	75,000.00	70,000.00
4044 · Strengthen The Church -National	12,562.82	9,000.00	10,000.00
Total National Gifts	210,664.19	231,300.00	206,800.00



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Relations

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
Expense			
Human Resources			
5100 · Salaries			
5120 · Salaries - Staff			
5120-09 · Salaries - Tigner	46,821.17	48,225.81	0.00
5120-12 · Salaries - Van Graan	45,457.44	46,821.16	48,225.80
Total 5120 · Salaries - Staff	92,278.61	95,046.97	48,225.80
Total 5100 · Salaries	92,278.65	95,046.97	48,225.80
5200 · Social Security Offset			
5200-11 · Offset - Tigner	3,581.82	3,689.27	0.00
5200-14 · Offset - Van Graan	3,477.49	3,581.81	3,689.27
Total 5200 · Social Security Offset	7,059.36	7,271.09	3,689.27
5600 · Professional Expenses			
5620 · Prof Exp - Staff			
5620-07 · Prof Exp - Tigner	9,115.00	3,200.00	0.00
5620-10 · Prof Exp - Van Graan	14,144.00	12,500.00	14,500.00
Total 5600 · Professional Expenses	23,259.73	15,700.00	14,500.00
5800 · Cell Phone Expense	600.00	1,200.00	600.00
Total Human Resources	123,197.74	119,218.06	67,015.07



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Development

	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
Yucaipa	1,400.00		4,200.00
Immanuel L.A.	94,184.00	94,000.00	94,184.00
Urban Mission	73,000.00	75,613.00	85,000.00
Moreno Valley	9,330.00	-	500.00
Church Development Other	3,150.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
TOTAL	181,064.00	224,613.00	238,884.00