Agenda - Eastern Association Fall Meeting 2020 – 9am, Sept 26, 2020

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME (by Zoom)

Welcome, Call to Order, Opening Prayer  Rev. Joe Rowley, President  9:00
Establish Quorum (from meeting sign-in)  Sharen Speckhals, Secretary
Introduction of new Clergy  COM

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST  9:10
Minutes from September 2019, March 2020  Sharen Speckhals, Secretary
Treasurer’s report (including Educ. Debt Reduction Fund) Diane Brennan, Treasurer
2021 Budget Presentation  Diane Brennan, Treasurer

NEW BUSINESS  9:20
Adoption of 2021 Budget
Nominating Committee Report  Joyce Bathke/Norma Klemme
Election of Association Leaders
Installation of Association Leaders  Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel
Announcement of Eastern Assoc. Open House by Zoom (Oct 17, 10am)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION  Rev. Laura Mignerone  9:40

New Association Committees meet/schedule first meeting
Questions or suggestions? Please contact Joe Rowley: jesus.party@hotmail.com or 573-587-2903

UPCOMING EVENTS (last four are tentative):
EA Council Meeting October 13, 6pm by Zoom
Eastern Association Open House October 17, 10am by Zoom
Educational Debt Reduction Fund Special Offering (suggested date) Sunday, October 25th?
All Committees meet Saturday, January 16, 2021, 10AM @ St Peter UCC, Washington or Zoom?
Eastern Association Spring Meeting March 27, 2021, 11am-3pm @ Camp MoVal or Zoom?
Conference Annual Gathering April 23-24, 2021 by Zoom?
WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME- Rev. David Poe welcomed everyone to St. Peter UCC. Rev. Joe Rowley introduced our special guest, Rev. Donna Pupillo, President of the Conference Council and coordinator of the Mid-South Conference Vision 20/20. While we enjoyed our luncheon, Rev. Pupillo discussed the data compiled to date and advised us that the data reviewed could be found on the website. We had some table discussions on various vision topics during our meal. Rev. Rowley lead discussion on our Eastern Association vision process and asked what can the Association be? Table discussions were shared with the group.

Gayle Lyles thanked everyone who has contributed to the Festival of Sharing and had detailed handouts on this year’s event dates and locations.

Rev. Rowley thanked the caterer for a wonderful lunch and invited everyone to move to the sanctuary.

Rev. Rowley called the meeting to order at 12:42. He welcomed everyone and thanked St. Peter UCC for their hospitality. Special Recognition for our guest Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders and Jeremy Force.

Rev. Christi Tennyson gave the following report from Committee on Ministry: The new clergy – Buzz Matthews and Tiffany Pittman were licensed, Jim Hilker was installed at Faith Wentzville, Christi Tennyson was ordained and installed at Pilgrim Labadie, and Don Frandsen was ordained. We have three new members in discernment: Sara Andler, Jay Weisner and Dana McNamara. The pulpit supply list has been updated: Rev. Dr. Gil Bisjak, Rev. James Elliot, Rev. Wayne Hoffman, Rev. Sally Ketterer, Rev. Chuck Kurtz, Rev Van Lahnmeyer, Rev. Sam Roethmeyer, Rev. Bill Schwab, Rev. John Silea, Rev. Connie Tanis, Rev. Ed Wilson, Rev. Charles Ackerson, Rev. John Allen, Rev. David Arndt, Rev. Carolyn Held, Rev. John Kinnard, Rev. Allen Ladoge, Rev. Carlton Norton, Rev. Donna Kendrick Phillips and Rev. Ron Williams. Committee on Ministry annual report submitted.
The Eastern Association Spring Program Meeting was held via Zoom on March 28. Thirty plus participants attended. Rev. Joe Rowley, President and Rev. Nichole Havelka, Conference Interim Minister for Search & Call Discernment, hosted the meeting which was held in a Town Hall format. After Nicole gave an overview of the Search & Call process, role of Search & Call Stewards, and options for shared ministry, the attendees were then put in a break-out room of their choice to discuss ways we can work together in shared ministry, options of bi-vocational ministry and keeping connected with those churches searching for a pastor. Great sharing and dialog by all!

Date to be determined for our Fall Business Meeting.
WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST- The minutes from our September 2018 meeting and March 2019 meeting were sent by email, with copies available at this meeting. Rev. David Beebe made a motion to approve the Minutes, and motion was seconded. Motion passed. The Treasurer’s report was presented by Diane Brennan. At the end of 2018 we had more income in excess of our expenses. It is the same for this year. The excess funds may be designated to worthwhile missions. There are no proposed changes for the 2020 Budget. Nylin Bathke made a motion to accept the report and proposed budget and motion was seconded. Motion passed.

The quorum was established through the sign-up sheets as we entered. There were 34 attendees representing 20 churches.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD- Rev. David Poe provided the devotion. He discussed grieving our past church services and the faith-filled hope in God’s future for the church. (He also requested that everyone complete the OCWM survey)

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD THROUGH OUR SERVICE- Today’s offering will be given to the Members in Discernment fund.

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD THROUGH OUR SERVICE- Conference Staff member Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders attended as the liaison for Rev. Ginny Brown Daniels, who sends her greetings. Thank you for your support in Our Churches Wider Mission. These funds support our Conference and support clergy. He updated us on staff changes—Tyler will be leaving and joining the Central Pacific Conference, Bookkeeping will be outsourced and a fulltime Associate Conference Minister will be nominated at the April meeting. CAG will be held in Jefferson City on April 24th and 25th next spring. This is due to hosting the General Synod in 2021. There will be a National Youth event July 22- July 25, 2020 (this is held every 4 years) for high school student (grade 9-12) the cost is $375. Neighbors in Need collections will start October 6th. It should be noted, that churches can apply for grants to assist in their neighborhood mission programs.

Jeremy Force thanked everyone for their support to OCWM which supports Camp MoVal. The cost for 1 week camper is actually $700 but due to these funds, kids
can attend for $430 per week. 2018 and 2019 were good years; we were fully staffed with program volunteers and had cleanup assistance. Next year’s program will be “Hear our Prayers”. We are reaching out to local families for additional participants – hopefully this will provide future growth of the camp.

The Shannondale Report-Nathan Fulk was unable to attend this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS- Adoption of the 2019 Budget- occurred earlier in the meeting. Educational Debt Reduction Fund Endowment was presented by Rev. Rowley. He explained that October 27, 2019 was the “Debt Reduction Sunday” date selected, but other dates were also acceptable for churches to contribute. We are optimistic that someday we will be able to assist new ministers with student loans.

Norma Klemme reported for the nominating committee and announced all new members and their positions. A motion to approve the nominated Association leaders, seconded. Motion passed. Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders installed the Association leaders. Members in attendance: Rev. Laura Mignerone, Wilma Zeh, Rev. Christi Tennyson, Norma Klemme, Aubrey Frietag, Rev. Jim Hilker, Rev. Ed Wilson and Rev. David Beebe

Rev. David Beebe reported on the Stewardship Committee’s recent letter sent to all Eastern Association churches. An annual report was submitted.

Aubrey Frietag announced that the Pastor Appreciation lunch will be held at St. Paul UCC in Herman on October 15th. An awesome skit has been planned. Invitations have been mailed and spouses are welcome.

Rev. Rowley announced the Covenanted Ministry on Aging Event to be held on November 16 from 10am to 2pm at St. Peter UCC, Washington, MO. He reminded us of the All Committees meeting on Saturday, January 18th at 10 am at St. Peter’s, Washington. And the Eastern Association Spring Meeting will be held on March 28, 2020 from 11am to 3pm at Camp MoVal.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION- Offered by Rev. Poe

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.
**Eastern Association Nominating Committee Report 2020**

The number in parenthesis indicates the year this term would end, and if this is the candidates’ first, second or third term. All Association Committee terms are two years, with the exception of the Committee on Ministry, which has three-year terms.

**Term Limits:** Three terms on all committees except Committee on Ministry; two term limits on COM.

Positions with an asterisk (*) indicate unexpired terms being filled (or needs to be filled).

**Eastern Association Council**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Rev. Jim Hilker</td>
<td>Faith, Wentzville</td>
<td>(2022-1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Charles Area Clergy</td>
<td>Rev. Todd Bean</td>
<td>St. John’s, Weldon Springs</td>
<td>(2022-1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Charles Area Clergy</td>
<td>Rev. Andrew Lovins</td>
<td>Friedens. Warrenton</td>
<td>(2022-1)</td>
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**Committee on Ministry**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Polly McWilliams</td>
<td>Grace, O’Fallon</td>
<td>(2022-1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Blaufuss</td>
<td>St. Paul, Hermann</td>
<td>(2023-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Gil Bisjak</td>
<td>Zion, Union</td>
<td>(2023-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty Wood</td>
<td>St. Peter’s, Washington</td>
<td>(2023-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Bathke</td>
<td>Faith, Wentzville</td>
<td>(2023-2)</td>
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**Nominating Committee**

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Fred Brandenberg</td>
<td>St. John’s, High Hill</td>
<td>(2022-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Susan Shumway</td>
<td>Grace, O’Fallon</td>
<td>(2022-1)</td>
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Rev. Jeff Mueller and Rev. Rocky Sheneman moved out of state during this year. They were replaced by Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss and Rev. Polly McWilliams. Rev. Douglas Anders completed his tenure as Conference Staff on July 17, 2020, and Rev. Damien Lake, the new Associate Conference Minister, assumed his duties July 1, 2020.

Boundary Awareness Training
In-person Boundary Awareness Training was held March 12, 2020 at St. John UCC, St. Charles. Rev. Christi Tennyson and Rev. Dr. Gil Bisjak served as facilitators. A date of October 29, 2020 was set for BAT to be held at St. Peter UCC, Washington but was cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. Rev. Damien Lake is working with Boundary Awareness Trainers across the Conference to prepare an online training session for later this fall.

Cultural Diversity, Racial Justice and Equity Training
Due to the Covid19 pandemic and limited training opportunities for clergy, the deadline for completing Racial Justice training was extended to December 31, 2021. Clergy are still encouraged to complete the training as soon as possible. Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training, Chicago, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America are offering several online training sessions this fall. Information is on their respective websites. Eastern Association may also be given credit for participating in one of several book studies provided by the Conference.

Information Reviews
The Committee on Ministry received and reviewed the yearly Information Reviews submitted by Eastern Association Clergy. Several retired clergy members were granted exempt status, and the Committee worked with the Older Adult Covenanted Ministry to provide continued care for these individuals. It should be noted that an updated Information Review is required annually for clergy to maintain good standing with the Eastern Association.

The following Licensure requests were granted:
- Jay Weisner, Zion UCC, Troy and Immanuel UCC, Wright City, October 2019
- Jeff Mignerone, St. John UCC, Mantles, November 2019
- Cindy Birkner, licensed for the sacrament of Holy Communion at Youth Events within the boundaries of the Eastern Association, November 2019
- Rev. Tom Baynham, Settled Pastor, Friedens UCC, St. Charles, February 2020
- Debra Tracy, Christ Evangelical Church, Cape Girardeau, August 2020
- Glenn Hollander, Ebenezer Stone Church, Gerald, August 2020
• Tanya Jeffcoat, Ebenezer UCC, Augusta, temporary licensure August 2020; An interview for full licensure will be scheduled later this fall.

Transfer of Standing was granted to the following individuals:
• Rev. Jim Hogue’s standing was transferred to the Southwest Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, December 2019
• Rev. Rocky Sheneman’s standing was transferred to the Illinois Conference, June 2020
• Rev. Don Bizer and Rev. Pricilla Bizer’s standings have been transferred to the Cumberland Association of the Maine Conference, August 2020

Installation Services:
• Rev. Jeff Willey, Femme Osage UCC, Augusta, November 2019

Farewell Services:
• Rev. Carl Norton, Femme Osage UCC, Augusta, October 2019
• Rev. Sue Leary, Ebenezer UCC, Augusta, January 2020
• Rev. Jeff Mueller, St. Paul UCC, Marthasville, February 2020
• Rev. Rocky Sheneman, St. John UCC, St. Charles, April 2020 via Zoom

Exit Interviews:
• Rev. Carl Norton, Femme Osage UCC, Augusta, October 2019
• Rev. Jeff Mueller, St. Paul UCC, Marthasville, February 2020
• Rev. Rocky Sheneman, St. John UCC, St. Charles, June 2020
• St. Paul UCC, Marthasville, July 2020
• Immanuel UCC, Wright City, August 2020
• St. John UCC, St. Charles, pending September 2020

Members in Discernment/Privilege of Call:
• Privilege of Call: Rev. Tom Baynham, Friedens UCC, St. Charles
• Members in Discernment: Jay Weisner, Friedens UCC, St. Charles
  Dana McNamara, Friedens UCC, St. Charles
• New Members in Discernment: Mary Ann Heinsman*, Emanuel UCC, Jackson, April 2020
  Jesse Dunavan*, Emanuel UCC, Jackson, July 2020
  *pending completion of psychological testing and background check

Committee on Ministry Events, 2020:
• A Search and Call Summit was held May 30, 2020 via Zoom for all Committee on Ministry members, churches in the Search and Call process, and clergy candidates looking for a church.
• A Farewell Liturgy for Rev. Douglas Anders was shared on June 18, 2020. Douglas was also presented with a prayer shawl from the Committee and members of the Committee showered him with cards.
The Annual Committee on Ministry Retreat was held August 1, 2020 via Zoom with representatives from the National UCC office presenting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Heinsman, Secretary