**MINUTES**

**ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2013**

**ST. LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**11735 DENNY ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63126**

**Rev. Paul Emily (Bethany-Peace UCC and Association Council President) greeted the attendees. Paul reported that Allen Fluent, Acting Conference Minister, and Jan Aerie, Minister of Strategic Innovation, had expressed their regrets that they were unable to attend this meeting. Paul asked that we remember in prayer the family of Carol Tag and Donna Pupillo on the loss of her brother.**

**Paul thanked everyone for being here and St. Lucas for hosting the meeting.**

**Rev. Dr. Hale Schroer (Interim Senior Minister-St. Lucas UCC) welcomed everyone to St. Lucas and led us in an Opening Prayer.**

**Paul called the meeting to order. He announced that we do have a quorum present, clergy and lay members. Sixty-one delegates were in attendance. The Rev. Dr. David Beebe will serve as Parliamentarian. Paul announced that our current By-Laws require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to adopt the new By-Laws.**

**Rita D. Hill (Pilgrim UCC and Association Council Vice-President) made a motion that the SLA Council moves the adoption of the proposed By-Laws distributed with the notice for this meeting.**

**A presentation of the proposed By-Laws was made by Rev. Donna Kendrick-Philips (St. Phillip’s UCC) and Patrick Heisinger (St. Peter’s – Ferguson) from the By-Laws Task Force team. Donna said members of the proposed Creative Ministries team could be voted on at the Spring Annual Gathering Meeting. Sources for the process were from Rev. Dr. John Bracke and the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery.**

**Paul announced Open Discussion would be limited to two minutes per speaker.**

**A spiritual, creative discussion followed. A summary of comments were:**

**A glossary of terms was suggested to accompany the By-Laws.**

**Donna mentioned issues of racial tension in the early part of the work suggested a Covenant Team on Racial Issues. This work could fall under the work of the Creative Team.**

**“Dismantling Racism” group had lost energy.**

**We already have our “Identity” defined as diverse and mission–minded. New energy is bubbling up to affirm that racism needs to be addressed. Send suggestions to the Association Council. Our “Mission” encourages new initiatives.**

**This document is an excellent start; it can be changed as we go along.**

**Authorize Council to write enabling language for what Creative Ministries could do. Page 7, Section 3, C. says “The Council oversees the work of the Covenant Teams of the Association, and may establish additional project teams and programs as may be necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the Association.**

**David Beebe pointed out that the current By-Laws require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass; the proposed
By-Laws requires a simple majority.**

**Ten percent seems like a low threshold for taking a vote at Association meetings.**

**A question was asked. Was any research done on any mention of youth in other By-Laws? Donna said she would check the Eastern Association By-Laws.**

**Suggest passing the By-Laws with an additional amendment with suggestion for follow-up amendments. The Council would need to approve that amendment before we could take a vote today.**

**Gateway O&A has formed a group across boundaries of associations and groups.**

**There was a Call for the Question. The motion passed unanimously. There were not abstentions.**

**Rev. Donna Kendrick-Philips will put together a glossary.**

**Rev. Heather Arcovitch (First Congregational-St. Louis) suggested that the Council report out regarding discussions on racism in the E-Courier and Association emails.**

**Paul announced that the new By-Laws are in effect immediately.**

**The Association needs to acknowledge all of the work that has been done.**

**Send questions about terms to Donna. Send suggestions to Council for new teams.**

**Rev. Sue Leary (First Congregational-Webster Groves) said the Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the new Creative Team.**

**Donna Kendrick-Philips led the members in a reading from the new By-Laws, the Liturgical Addendum, Our Covenantal Life, Sections 1-3, Page 18-19.**

**Donna then read Galatians 3:11,” But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, they just shall live by faith.”**

**Donna Kendrick-Philips made a motion to dismiss.**

**Paul Emily closed the meeting with prayer.**

 **Respectfully submitted,**

**Joan M. Gildehaus**

**St. Louis Association Council Secretary**