Business Meeting Minutes for 2015 Missouri Mid-South Conference Annual Gathering
Friday, June 5, & Saturday June 6, 2015

June 5—Session One- 9:00-10:30 A.M.

Call to Order by Joyce Bathke & Introduction of Rev. Dr. David Beebe as Parliamentarian.

Credentials Report—Two hundred fifty–three voting delegates were in attendance. David declared a quorum.

Adoption of the Agenda and Standing Rules—David recommended that we vote to accept the standing rules for today and then approve the Standing Rules for next year. Polly McWilliams, Grace/Karl Frieze, St. Charles moved to accept the Standing Rules for the 2015 CAG. Motion carried.
Karl Frieze, St. Charles/Polly McWilliams, Grace moved to accept the Standing Rules for the 2016 CAG. Motion carried.
Wayne Dobbs/Steve Buchholz moved to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Review of 2014 CAG Meeting Minutes. Laura Dierberg-Ayers/Danny Burk moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Introduction & Acknowledgement of Guests, Officers, Conference Staff
Dick Hamm was given voice without vote. Dick Rose-Heine, DOC NW regional minister, brought greetings from DOC and discussed our cooperation in making a difference. Gary Luallin from Ghana, representing Global Ministries, was also given voice without vote. It was announced that Rev. Rick Oberle has a birthday today and the delegation sang Happy Birthday to him. Steve Buchholz (Immanuel UCC, Sedalia)/Ron Wendle (Bethel UCC, Kansas City) moved to give voice without vote to our guests. Motion carried.

Staff of MMSUCC was introduced by Allen Fluent, Acting Conference Minister. Dale Parson (ACM), Jeremy Force (Mo-Val), Renee Cordes, Lorraine Brooks, Kris Scott and Josh Gibson (seminary intern) were in attendance and were thanked for all of their hard work.

Conference Treasurer’s Report was presented by Rev. Ken Ulmer. The year end result for 2015 was in the black for the first time in years. Camp MoVal and Shannondale Community Center had a positive year. In 2015 Shannondale is looking at an influx of money from the sale of carbon credits as the result of the enrollment of the tree farm in the Air Resources Board program in the State of California. During 2014 additional clarification was given to Accountable Accounts (formerly called fund accounts) so that the entity responsible for each account can better monitor the dollars under their responsibility. Ken thanked Lorraine, Renee and Allen for making the report possible. David Mehl recognized the sale of Church of the Open Door and thanked the people who were part of that church. Holy Ghost, from which the Conference received a large gift, has closed. It was the first Evangelical Church in MMSC and was where the first interracial marriage was performed in Missouri.
The 2016 Proposed Conference Budget was presented by Ken Ulmer. The proposed budget assumes revenue expectation of a 3% increase in OCWM gifts from member churches. Twenty percent of OCWM gifts go to the National Setting of the UCC. Camp funding from OCWM contributions is prorated – 7.9% for MoVal and 5.8% for Shannondale Community Center. Allen thanked Ken Ulmer for his ability to make the budget clear to all of us. The financial reports enable Covenanted Ministries to have increased understanding the budget and other dollars available for their endeavors. Allen stated that he appreciates the increased role of Covenanted Ministries in financial management of the various ministries of the Conferences. Rick Oberle noted that we celebrate the additional funds generated by the returns on assets invested with the United Church Fund.

June 6—Session Two-9:00-11:45 A.M.

Rick Oberle introduced Lindsey Mercer, long term volunteer for Global Ministries in Mexico and Elena Martinez who is an indigenous Mayan from Mexico. Joyce Bathke welcomed them as participants in our gathering.

The second session of the meeting was called to order by Moderator, Joyce Bathke.

Conference Minister’s Report – Rev Dr. Allen Fluent thanked Dr. Mike Bone and Dr. Vernon Howard for their relevant Bible Study. The Conference will be implementing the Vision Report to create a democratized conference through networking. OCWM Covenanted Ministry has been rejuvenated with a new enthusiastic team. The Justice/Witness Covenanted Ministry has been formed and is seeking members. Eleven people from the Conference will be attending a church vitality leadership conference in Boston. He noted that the Conference Minister spends much time on Search and Call and needs to be supplemented in some new way.

Search Committee Report – Rev. Dr. David Mehl reported that we have reopened the call for profiles to reach out to new applicants. The recommendation, when it comes, will have unanimous support of the Search Committee. The Search Committee will be active at General Synod at the end of June to promote the Conference and seek new candidates.

Vision Team--Where Do We Go from Here– Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm affirmed the good work that the conference is doing which has changed the tone of the conference from two years ago. He thanked the Search Committee for their diligence in waiting for the right person. He briefly highlighted the 14 points referenced in the Strategic Plan. The next step is to seek feedback and prioritize work on the Plan. A Conference Planning Event is being scheduled for fall as part of the gathering of feedback. If anyone is interested in being on the implementation team, they can contact Joyce Bathke. Dick will be with us for the next year as we begin implementation.

Justice/Witness Covenanted Ministry-Death Penalty Resolution –Josh Gibson is working with the Conference Minister (CM) revitalizing the covenanted ministry and is looking for new members who are willing to do the work of the church. Dr. Jane Fisler-Hoffman and Mary Albert introduced the Death Penalty resolution. (Austin McCandless asked what the next step would be if the
resolution was approved. Allen Fluent stated that the Covenanted Ministry will put information on the Conference website for congregations to use in response to this issue. Following discussion of the resolution Donald Sabbert/Polly McWilliams moved to call the question. The motion carried. The Death Penalty Resolution as presented passed. (Ninety-five positive, one negative, six abstentions)

Introduction & Election of Council Class for 2018—Laura Dierberg-Ayers thanked Cindy Moeller and Les Kemp for their service to the Conference Council as their terms have expired. She reported that they will be presented with a certificate of appreciation at their local churches. The slate of council members was accepted by acclamation. It was also reported that Betsy Reznicek and Bruce Moeller are filling vacated terms on the Conference Council.

The Shannondale Covenanted Ministry Update -- in written form – was highlighted since Jeff Fulk, Manager of SCC, was unable to attend CAG due to the startup of the summer program.

Wider Church – Missionary Gary Luallin of Global Ministries in Ghana thanked the conference for its support and generosity. Gary explained briefly the philosophy of mission work used by Global Ministries -- we work with partners that are indigenous churches that have asked for specific help.

Church Vitality Covenanted Ministry Update—Rayla Hogue report that the Covenanted Ministry has met and defined it purpose and provided the Thursday programming for the CAG. The conference has a contract with the CPR for the next three years. Eleven people will be attending the leadership conference, many through scholarships. The conference is also providing information on New Beginnings by David Schoen, Congregational Assessment, Support, & Advancement at the National Office

The 2016 Conference Budget, as presented by the Finance and Administration Committee on Friday morning, was put before the Annual Gathering for vote by Ken Ulmer, Treasurer. The proposed 2016 budget with expected income of $1,388,786 was approved unanimously

Josh Gibson, intern seminarian, who is in the Reserves presented Allen Fluent with an award from the Department of Defense recognizing him for his cooperation and employer support.

Joyce reminded people that the Conference Planning Event will be Oct 30 and 31 and all are invited to do planning for the future of the conference.

Joyce thanked the Conference Planning Team, David, Bob, display tables, Rayla, Jan, Judi, the choir, and the Bible study pastors.

Allen reminded all to keep the General Synod delegates in our prayers.

David Beebe thanked Joyce for her work as Moderator. Chase Peeples reminded us that we have come a long way toward optimism and trust of each other.

Meeting adjourned.