

**COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE MINISTRIES  
United Church of Christ**

**Annual Membership Meeting  
March 6, 2009  
Saint Louis, MO**

**Minutes**

**OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Michael P. Brennan. Kendall Nordstrom of Fairhaven offered the opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2008**

**It was MSP (D. Graves/D. Sowell) to approve the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of March 8, 2008.**

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER:**

Greg Cardwell-Copenhfer presented the Treasurer's report. He referred the group to the specifics of the financial report which is printed in the 2008 Annual Report. He commended the staff on their budget revisions, resulting in a surplus at the end of the year.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

M. Brennan, Chair, reported that the board is in the process of a self assessment. An ad hoc committee was formed and they created a tool which contains governance goals which were adopted. It contains competency goals, demographics, skill sets which are currently contained on the board that will help the board identify what is needed to create a pool of potential board members. There is a plan in place to orient and integrate new board members. The Board will also begin a program of continuing education at its meetings which will act as a pilot plan for possible integration into Annual Meeting. A new 360 process for President/CEO evaluation is being developed. All of these endeavors are being pursued to improve performance and service to CHHSM.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS:**

John Buck and Brian Allen were recognized for their work on the CHHSM Board and were acknowledged by the members.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

B. Sickbert cited the 2008 Annual Report entitled "Run with Perseverance" which was drawn from a column he'd written for the CHHSM website in February. It was based on the letter the author of Hebrews wrote to a group of Jewish Christians who were finding it difficult to remain true to the way of Christ. He told them to be hopeful and persevere. Sickbert said that it may seem like a new call for many in this nation but it has *always* been the call. Having had many interactions with members over the last 6 months, there has been encouraging conversation. CHHSM is persevering too.

CHHSM is continuing to pursue the value proposition that was adopted three years ago, called *Filling Our Basin* by:

- Developing culture transformation in our ministries with *Walking the Talk*.
- Continuing the Diakonal Ministry program.
  - An active and vibrant class is underway now. We anticipate that will continue. It's one of the ways you are persevering in your mission and ministry. It will rise up new leadership in your ministries.
- Sending our Regional Representatives to learn about members' mission and share what CHHSM can do for you.
  - Regional Representatives are board members who volunteer to take significant time to stay in touch with members. They sit on the board, come to meetings, and report on what members are doing.
- Deliver more economic value.
  - There has been tangible growth by increased participation in the United Church Foundation, the United Church Financial Development Planned Giving Partnership, group purchasing through the Care Purchasing Program, and insurance programs through the Pension Boards-UCC.
  - After searching around for a short term note, CHHSM found the best rate right in the same offices, at the Cornerstone Fund. Members were encouraged to use the Cornerstone Fund as a way to invest in our church and yet reap personal benefits.

About the UCC: We're all experiencing financial stress in all our organizations but that pales in comparison to our church. We continue to see precipitous decline in our church's wider mission and this will hit hard in 2009 and even harder in 2010 and 2011. The church is struggling in many ways. There will be a leadership transition this year when John Thomas' term expires. Whoever is elected General Minister will be facing many challenges. Sickbert said to be mindful of the traumas our church is facing, but also all the people who are persevering. He reminded the members that we are called not to be successful, but faithful. He felt there was a discernable spirit of joy and faithfulness in this meeting and hoped it would continue.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

J. Wagenknecht, Chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The candidates recommended to be elected to the Board of Directors were:

Michael Brennan and Victoria Velez have agreed to serve another term, if elected.

Jon Henning and Brian Magnone have agreed to serve, if elected, as first time board members.

**It was MSP, (N. Joseph/J.Wagenknecht), to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee as to the election of board members.**

The members also recognized William C. Royster as the new Southern Regional Representative.

**INSTALLATION OF NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:**

Reverend Dorothy Shelly officiated at the installation of new directors and officers. The new directors, officers and regional representative came forth to the front of the meeting room and affirmed their willingness to serve in their roles on the Board of Directors. Prayers were offered on their behalf by the entire membership. The new directors were welcomed with the applause of the membership.

**ELECTION OF 2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

An opening was created when Jon Henning came on the board. The board recommended that Mary Wesley of United Church Homes and Services Foundation be appointed to the Nominating Committee.

M. Brennan recognized the current committee members:

- Jerry Wagenknecht, Chair
- Judy Alexander
- Cheryl Howell
- Nancy Himell
- Bryan Sickbert, Staff

**It was MSP (M. Price Huffman/ J. Henning) to approve the appointment of Mary Wesley to the Nominating Committee.**

**COMMISSIONING OF THE CHHSM DIAKONAL DELEGATION TO GERMANY:**

The German Delegation that visited us at our Annual Meeting two years ago invited a delegation to go to Germany in May to learn about the Health and Human Service ministries in Germany related to the United Church of Christ/

Steve Patterson, a member of the UEK Forum, led the commissioning of the following delegation:

- Douglas Fleegle, United Church Homes & Services
- Laverne Joseph, Retirement Housing Foundation
- Nesa Joseph, Deaconess Foundation
- Shari Prestemon, Back Bay Mission
- Bryan Sickbert, CHHSM

M. Brennan read a passage from “Leadership Lessons,” after which the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Cogan  
Recording Secretary