

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES

January 17, 2013

Present: Rev. John Mummert, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Jan Pennington, Mary Court, Kathy Tashima, Rev. Dan Busch

Devotions: Ruth was unable to make it. We had a beginning prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from November 15, 2012 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

AuGlaize Vacancy We still need an AuGlaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team Link.

El Salvador: A trip, Feb 28 – March 6, divided between NWOA and 6 Heidleberg Students/1 Supervisor is being planned. There are 2 spots empty for NWOA people who want to go. A \$4,000 donation towards building a new church is being sent.

Mission Questionnaire: Nothing new at this time.

Green Project:

MISSION 4/1 EARTH begins Easter Monday, April 1. It is asking that **we green up, power down, and shout out for the environment**. National is hoping to have all UCC Churches report in and be able to total 1 million hours of engaged earth care, 100,000 tree plantings around the globe and 100,000 advocacy letters written regarding environmental concerns during this 50 day campaign.

A number of websites were shared. These are websites to connect with community projects that any church or person can participate in and then send the information to UCC.org/earth.

“Keep America Beautiful” is having a number of special collections and events during the month of April. **Go to your county website and look for information**. One example is the Great American Clothes Cleanup during April. Environmental Fairs and recycling events will happen throughout April. **Youth are invited to join in the fifth annual Global Youth Service Day**. Appliances, household objects made of steel, and electronics recycling will be held. THERE IS **NO** reason that any church can not find at least one program they can participate in.

Talk up this program – MISSION 4/1 EARTH. We are stewards of God’s world and this project is here to help us show that Christians care and work hard to maintain what God has provided.

Paton Award: A list of all churches who have received this award was given out. It was also discovered that if a church has made further improvements they can apply again for the award. Kathy Tashima will write an article for the VINE and accept the applications.

Clean up kits: With Super Storm Sandy many more Disaster Kits are needed. They will be collected, along with personal care kits, at the Annual Gathering April 27, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Vince Lavieri is leaving Spencerville UCC for a chaplain position. We will now need a clergy representative from AuGlaize and a Coordinating Team link from Auglaize. Ruth Whitten is from AuGlaize Valley (15) but is an at-large member.

50 Years The Northwest Ohio Association will be celebrating 50years at the upcoming April 27 Annual Gathering. To celebrate this a proposal is being submitted to the council to have\$50,00 raised. It would be divided into 4 areas. El Salvador – \$12,500, Excellence in Ministry - \$12,500, Care & Support - \$12,500 and Church Development - \$12,500. A Communications Center to update our use of digital technology as well as Skype for meetings (to eliminate the need to drive long distances) would be included.

Peace It was decided to have a Peace Day throughout the Northwest Ohio churches in Spetember. Kathy Tashima will put it in the vine. We will be asking for pictures of peace poles that are in NWOA. If you know of a church or organization that has one please let Kathy know or e mail her a photo with the pertinent information included.

Islamic Center: Work is coming along and they hope to be able to be in their temple by end of March. The International Festival in August 2013 will still be held. Terry asked for people to still send cards to let them know we have not forgotten what happened and that they are in our prayers.

Regional Reports: Lakeshore has scheduled a Choir Fest Feb 10, 2013 in Elmore, OH

Cabinet: Will not meet until end of this month

Grace Community Center Kathy Tashima invited our churches to participate in a cleanup of the grounds at Grace Community Center. This would be good for the MISSION 4/1 EARTH national project. She will bring a date later.

Dan Busch is on the Board of Grace Community Center and unable to make the meetings so far. He assigned Terry Kohanski to represent him at the Feb 19 meeting and be his voice.

Annual Meeting Displays: We will have two boards telling a little of what we do. Kathy Tashima will spruce up the board Terry Kohanski made last year. Terry will again provide 50 containers of eco friendly soap to be passed out.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Kohanski, Secretary

Meeting Dates: 3/21/13 (Terry Devotions)
5/16/13 (Jan, Devotions)

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES

March 21, 2013

Present: Mary Court, Madeline Klingensmith, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Jan Pennington, Kathy Tashima, Rev. Dan Busch, guests John & Joyce Gilberg, and Jamie Seabrecht (Spelling?)

Devotions: Rev. Terry Kohanski led a Lenten devotional.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from January 17, 2013 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

AuGlaize Vacancy Has two vacancies.

El Salvador: The trip, Feb 28 – March 6, divided between NWOA, Heidleberg Students and 1 Supervisor took place. The Gilbergs gave us a glowing report, showed us a wonderful video of the Heidleberg students, the El Salvadorian students, churches etc. Well done. Rev, Dan Busch was honored as the Bishop of Peace. More crosses (over \$500 worth) were brought to be sold. Last year we ran out of crosses. Music is a large part of the youth groups being formed to help keep these kids off the streets.

Rev Dan Busch reported on his mission trip at **Back Bay Mission**. He shared his photos with us. Back Bay is working with the homeless people and treating them with respect. The homeless who come to clean up with showers and laundry are very appreciative of it and very respectful not only of Back Bay but of each other. Our mission money is really multiplying at Back Bat Mission.

Mission Questionnaire: Nothing new at this time.

Green Project:

MISSION 4/1 EARTH begins Easter Monday, April 1. It is asking that **we green up, power down, and shout out for the environment**. National is hoping to have all UCC Churches report in and be able to total 1 million hours of engaged earth care, 100,000 tree plantings around the globe and 100,000 advocacy letters written regarding environmental concerns during this 50 day campaign.

A reminder was given to look at the web site of “Keep America Beautiful.” They are having a number of special collections and events during the month of April. **Go to your county website and look for information.** One example is the Great American Clothes Cleanup during April. THERE IS **NO** reason that any church can not find at least one program they can participate in.

Youth are invited to join in the fifth annual Global Youth Service Day.

Talk up this program – MISSION 4/1 EARTH. We are stewards of God’s world and this project is here to help us show that Christians care and work hard to maintain what God has provided. Marblehead is on the ball and has over seven projects – Environmental Moments in worship, reading green books to children, having Children’s Sermons that talk about stewardship etc.

Kathy Tashima has arranged a clean up at Grace Community Center on Saturday April 20. Several Toledo churches will participate with Sylvania UCC.

CALL THE CLOSEST UCC CHURCH TO YOU AND INVITE THEM TO FIND SOMETHING THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN 4/1 Earth. It is God's world!

REMEMBER to go online and report your hours to 4/1Earth.

Grace Community Center: Terry Kohanski attended the February 19 meeting. Kathy Tashima attended the Annual Meeting. Because of the Annual Meeting the March 19 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be April 16 at 5:30pm.

Paton Award: No applications have been received.

Clean up kits: They will be collected, along with personal care kits, at the Annual Gathering April 27, 2013.

Greater Toledo Area Mosque: They were able to have their first prayers on Friday, March 15, 2013. All of the building is not moved in yet, but the school will finish it's year in the repaired building. We thank God for this.

NWOA Annual Gathering: Kathy Tashima has a beautiful display board with peace pole photos on it and another board telling people what W&P does. She is also repairing the Green Award Board. Terry Kohanski will make either laundry detergent or bathtub cleaner to pass out at the Annual Gathering, April 27, 2013 in Tiffin.

Peace Sunday: Sunday, September 29, 2013 will be declared Peace Sunday for the Northwest Ohio Association. We will have Service Prayers available on the Vine. Kathy Tashima will have a photo sheet that churches can download from the Vine. This way they can see what the pole looks like and how you can install it. We will share a Peace Packet, hopefully, at the NWOA ALL TEAM Meeting. Read the information Mary Court handed out, mark it up and bring it to our May 16 meeting to be worked on.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Reports: Lakeshore's Choir Fest Feb 10, 2013 in Elmore, OH was canceled.

Cabinet:

50 Years The NWOA is celebrating 50years at the upcoming April 27 Annual Gathering. In celebration a proposal was accepted by cabinet to have \$50,000 raised. It would be divided into 4 areas. El Salvador – \$12,500, Excellence in Ministry - \$12,500, Church Development - \$12,500, and Care & Support - \$12,500 - a Communications Center to update our use of digital technology as well as Skype for meetings (to eliminate the need to drive long distances) would be included.

ALL TEAM EVENT is Saturday May 18, 2013. We will begin at 9am and close at 3pm. First UCC of Findlay is hosting the event. The Cabinet will meet afterwards.

OHIO CONFERENCE is struggling. There will have to be a major change in the way we know the conference. This will be a topic at the May All Team Event. The Conference could be designed as a networking model that simply facilitates networking among clergy and congregations. It takes less staff for this. This means that Associations and the Conference will not be centers for staff and resources. The major change would be the Conference providing the staffing for the Association. There will not be discrete “Association offices.” Association level expenses will be minimal. This model will rely more heavily on volunteer participation. The estimated savings could be \$586,000.

OTHER:

ALL TEAM MEETING is Saturday May 18, 2013 from 9am to 3pm at First UCC in Findlay, OH. The Cabinet will hold a meeting immediately after this event. Please make every effort to attend this very important event.

Toledo Time Exchange: Rev. Terry Kohanski announced that a time exchange was in the beginning stages in the Greater Toledo Area. At the present there are representatives from the UCC, Sylvania Baha’i, and the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo Area forging this plan. This is a way to help develop a wider community that can be effective in many life aspects, as well as to help one another in these tough economic times.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Terry Kohanski, Secretary

Meeting Dates: 5/16/13 (Jan, Devotions) (Reorganization meeting)

Attached is Peace Pole Liturgy from Park Church, UCC

Witness and Proclamation Minutes
May 18, 2013 ~ All-Team Meeting ~ First UCC, Findlay

Those present: Rev. Terry Kohanski, Mary Court, Jan Pennington, Rev. John Mummert, Rev. Don Rock, Kathy Tashima

APPROVAL of MINUTES – Minutes from March 21, 2013 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Team vacancies** – Auglaize Valley (Vince Lavieri); Sandusky Valley (Rev. Steven Mortach) Kathy will call and check in with Brian Womer, Ruth Witten and Madeline Klingensmith and provide them with meeting dates.
- **El Salvador** – This project started in Witness and Proclamation. Since there is an El Salvador subcommittee, we do not have much to discuss, perhaps just updates.
- **Green Project** – Park Church in Toledo received the Level Three Kermit Award at the Association meeting.
- **Association Annual Gathering** – Terry reported that not many viewed the displays.
- **Mission 4/1 Earth** – Congregations greened up, powered down and shouted out for the environment. We encourage congregations to continue even though the 50 days have passed.
- **Grace Community Center** – Memorial UCC confirmants, Sylvania UCC, Point Place, and the Grace Basketball team gathered on a snowy morning to landscape and fix the fence. Much was accomplished during this Mission 4/1 Earth project.
- **Tom Paton Award** – No applications have been received.
- **Clean Up and Health Kits** – A good number was collected but they are continually being used. They may be delivered to the Association office any time or call Terry Tangeman for pick up.
- **Islamic Center of Greater Toledo** – Terry shared the students are pleased to be finishing the school year in their newly renovated classrooms (following the arson fire).
- **Toledo Time Exchange** – In these tough economic times, this project trades skills in a community to bring the community back together. The membership fee is \$10. Those involved gather for a monthly dinner. Terry reported they observed Akron's Time Exchange.
- **Peace Sunday** – September 29, 2013 is declared Peace Sunday for the Northwest Ohio Association. Resources include: John's litany, the Christian Education piece and other materials from Terry. Terry will include the peace pole from Park in the Vine's article. Also, congregations can contact Terry and John for more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Witness and Proclamation **welcomes** Rev. Don Rock to the team!
- **Meeting Dates** – September 19, November 21, January 16, March 20, May 15 at 3-4:30
- **Assignments for the coming year:**
Chair – Mary Court, Vice-Chair – Rev. Terry Kohanski, Secretary – Kathy Tashima, Cabinet Representative- Rev. Don Rock
Regional Representatives: Sandusky – Rev. John Mummert; Auglaize Valley – need a representative; Lakeshore – Madeline Klingensmith

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES **September 19, 2013**

Those present: Jan Pennington, Dan Busch, Don Rock, John Mummert, Terry Kohanski, Kathy Tashima

Devotions by Jan Pennington

Introductions – We welcomed Don to the team.

Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2013 – approved as printed

Old Business:

- **Team vacancy** – Auglaize Valley needs representative (lay person) *Terry and John will look into this.* Rev. Steven Mortach and Rev. Vince Lavieri will continue to serve on this team.
- **Green Project** - Small Business Day is November 23, 2013 Put a notice in your Sunday bulletins. Talk it up at bazaars, potlucks etc.
Bluffton University is gathering small merchants to present business opportunities to students
- **Islamic Center** - Looks wonderful after fire. International Festival was held once again on Sept. 13 & 14, 2013. Attendance was amazing.
- **All Team Meeting Evaluation** – *Prefer having it in May rather than August.*

New Business:

- **Northwest Ohio Association 50th Anniversary** – Terry asked the group if we might collectively donate to this project to raise \$100,000 for the El Salvador Lutheran Project; Church Development; Communications Center and Excellence in Ministry. We agreed to do that...\$10 or whatever folks want to donate.
- **Devotions for the year** - Nov 21 - John Mummert; Jan 16 - Terry Kohanski; March 20- Don Rock; May 15 - Mary Court.
- **Currently Promoted**
 1. Green Project/ Green Award - Terry
 2. Paton Award - Jan
 3. Mission Questionnaire - Ruth
 4. Clean up and personal care kits - Kathy
 5. Iglesia Luterana NWOA El Salvador Partnership – Dan updated us on their meeting:
Trip – Feb 19-27, 2014 (tentative) \$1250; medicine from last trip still being held by the government; cucumbers planted on last trip plentiful/fed many and sold some the reformed refugee center now serves as the organic farm ed center; new church will be built in 2014
 6. Peace Sunday – September 29 Dan
 7. What else can our team do to fulfill the mission of the team as set forth in the NWOA Constitution?
The Witness and Proclamation Team shall include no less than twelve (12) members (Four of whom shall be two (2) lay and two (2) authorized ministers from each region). They shall work in collaboration with and on behalf of the regions to help each individual and church live faithfully in the world. Whether we are worshiping or serving, we are doing it in Christ's name.

Continued on the next page.

- **Project/Assignments**

The Vine Articles (each month a "green" article by Terry)

? = volunteers needed to write these

Jan – Mission Projects, Ruth

February – Clean Up Kits, Kathy

March – El Salvador, ?

April – Housing Families, Don

May – Five for Five ?

June - Grace Community Center ?

July –OCWM – what it does, ?

August – Peace Sunday, John Mummert

September – Alternative gifts, Kathy

October – Paton Award, Jan

November -Christmas Fund Giving – personal stories, Terry

December – Hymn Sing, John or synopsis of each region/W & P

- **Regional Reports and Cabinet Reports**

- **Our regional representatives:** Auglaize – Ruth Whitten; Lakeshore – Madeline Klingensmith; Sandusky - John Mummert
- **Cabinet** rep is Don. Dan reported: law suit with Culligan settled in NWOA favor. The Ohio Associations act more like conferences, (example – Search and Call)
- **Ohio Conference:** poor financial standing and the camps have spent all reserves; Phil Hart is designated Ohio Conference Minister; some reorganization for the conference; General Synod is in Cleveland in 2015. Dan encouraged us to support the Pension Board.
- Kathy encouraged congregations to join the **Deck Project** at Pilgrim Hills in June or July of 2014.
- **Sandusky Valley** – Hymn Sing on January 12 at Second UCC in Tiffin

Next Meeting: November 21, 2013 at 3 pm in Culvers in Findlay, 806 Trenton Avenue

Please contact Terry if you are unable to attend.

January 16 – Dan will give us the number to have a conference call/Skype meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Tashima

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION AGENDA

November 21, 2013

Those present: John Mummert, Terry Kohanski (chair), Vince Lavieri, Jan Pennington, Ruth Whitten, Don Rock, Don Giesmann, Kathy Tashima

- John Mummert shared a Thanksgiving devotion.
- Terry updated us on our team members, Mary, Steve and Madeline. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them. We look forward to their return.
- The September 19, 2013 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Team vacancies – Auglaize Valley needs representative

Green Project - Small Business Day is November 23, 2013

Witness and Proclamation Team donation to the NWOA 50th anniversary – at our last meeting we decided to collect donations from our team. Those wishing to participate, please bring them to the March meeting. Checks payable to NWO Association or cash.

Still need volunteer Vine writers for the following:

March – El Salvador; May – Five for five; June – Grace Community Center (Kathy);
July – OCWM (Kathy)

New Business:

News regarding:

1. **Green Project/ Green Award** – Terry
 - Terry encouraged us to share Columbia Gas' Energy Audit with our congregations.
2. **Paton Award** – Jan wrote a Vine article in October.
3. **Mission Questionnaire**- Ruth will write an article in January. Kathy will look for our last questionnaire and send it to Ruth.
4. **Clean up and personal care kits**
 - Kathy will write an article soon due to the recent tornadoes.
 - Terry will check to see if there are any disaster relief projects
5. **Iglesia Luterana NWOA Partnership** –We will ask Dan for an update at our next meeting.
6. **Peace Sunday** – was Sept 29.
 - Park Church rededicated their peace pole. They wrote prayer flags and attached them to a line from the peace pole.

Regional, State and Cabinet Reports

1. **Auglaize** – Ruth Whitten/ They met and are reorganizing.
2. **Lakeshore** – Terry Kohanski for Madeline Klingensmith
 - Pastoral Excellence Program – Don G. shared this is pastoral support/small groups/prayer and sharing and is patterned after Massachusetts and Wisconsin. They have a grant, well supported. Grace UCC in Fostoria, February 5 or 6
 - Chidester Lecture Series featuring Walter Bruggemann, mid January, Sylvania UCC

- Blues Christmas, The Village, December 8, Maumee Theater. Tickets are \$5. This event benefits the YWCA Battered Woman's Shelter and Concha Del Oro Methodist mission in Mexico.
- Park Church sent notes to 40 inactive members sharing Advent activities/services
- 3. **Sandusky** – John Mummert
 - Met last week and is reactivating.
 - Epiphany Hymn and Carol Sing, January 12, 3-5 PM at 2nd UCC Tiffin
 - Upcoming service project at Fairhaven
- 4. **Cabinet** – Don Rock
 - Church and Ministry has been working very hard with personnel issues.
 - Gomer withdrew and is now independent
 - Finances are better than other associations
- 5. **State & National** – Dan Busch
 - General Synod, 2015 in Cleveland, the planning is beginning
 - The association's search and call process is acknowledged by the Conference's new leadership.

Other Business

- Don Rock has a December 2 appointment with a neurologist for his back. Our thoughts are with you Don.
- Meeting in Findlay worked well. It accommodated our far western team members and was a decent drive for others.

Next Meeting: January 16 will be a conference call/Skype meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Tashima