

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Jodi - Stewardship - May 19 brat fry - call went out for volunteers and cash donations to offset groceries.

New Business:

Interest surveys will be done again in summer. Last done in spring 2022.

No other New Business.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:21 pm

Minutes submitted by Jodi Cowen



FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WI CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting was held at Green Lake Conference Center from June 9 -11. Our church was fortunate to have five members attend in different roles, Jeanne Mantsch was our church representative, Cathy Jones was present in her role as Co-Chair of the Church and Ministry Team of the Southeast Association, Bonnie Jacque was the clergy representative from St. Paul's UCC in Erin, Don Niederfrank was present as a clergyperson (and having way too much fun driving a golf cart around), and Pastor Scott. Here are Five Takeaways from the "Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter Annual Meeting Edition". Follow the links about the rich and insightful material presented to those in attendance.

1. **We're on a journey to becoming "the next expression of Christ in the world"**

Conference Minister Franz Rigert drew on a metaphor from Stephanie Spellers' book "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community" in describing the state of the Wisconsin Conference. Although external forces like COVID-19 and racial and political tensions have produced cracks in the Church, Franz said, the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to "refashion and renew this Church . . . to transform us, to empower us to transcend all that limits us, and ultimately to transition us into the next expression of Christ in the world." [Read the text of Franz's State of the Conference Address.](#)

2. **We got WISEer**

Delegates to the Annual Meeting unanimously approved a resolution declaring the Wisconsin Conference Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health. The resolution followed a year of discussion by a critical mass of Wisconsin UCC congregations. On Saturday evening, Vicki Harvey of the UCC Mental Health Network emailed Associate Conference Minister Lisa Hart with the news that Wisconsin is the fourth WISE conference in the denomination. WISE is an official designation awarded by the UCC Mental Health Network. "We are so impressed with the unprecedented effort you have made to get a large number of Wisconsin churches entering this process," Vicki wrote.

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FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING continued...

"These churches are aflame with excitement over beginning their journey." Contact Lisa (lhart@wcucc.org) for more information about how to join the WISE movement.

3. A Window of Opportunity for the UCC

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the decline of trust in institutions, including the church, yet it also accentuated individuals' appreciation for community as loneliness and mental health challenges proliferated, said keynoter Sarah B. Drummond, founding dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. That presents an opportunity for the UCC. "We learned that chronic loneliness is bad," she said. "The church has something to say about this. The idea that communities that check in on each other and provide spaces for moral meaning-making, I'm not sure how long that will last." [Click for a copy of Sarah's presentation.](#)

4. "Make plans in faith but hold them loosely"

In her sermon at Saturday's closing worship, Damascus Project Director Stephanie Perdeu preached about the importance to faith communities of "extraordinary, improvised plans" during uncertain times. "We can improvise our plans, excessively and abundantly, with courage and hope and not just the way we've always done it," Stephanie said. "We can plan and God may laugh, but only in order to ask us to expand our imaginations toward the flourishing God intends for all of us." [Read Stephanie's entire sermon.](#)

5. Through our budgets, we build a beloved community

The way the church spends money is a statement about how we are responding to God's call in this time and place "to create a beloved community wherein lives get transformed," said the Rev. Andrew Warner, development director for the Wisconsin Conference. "Through budgets we make decisions about how we will embody God's love in the world." Examples include the Conference's investments in leadership development and congregational development. Support from congregations through Our Church's Wider Mission makes most of this work possible. Beyond gifts to OCWM Basic Support, individuals in the Conference over the past year have donated generously to refugee relief in Ukraine, earthquake recovery in Syria and Turkey, and tornado recovery in Mississippi and Alabama. [Read Andrew's complete report.](#)



Pastor Scott, Don Niederfrank, Bonnie Jacque, Jeanne Mantsch, and Cathy Jones meet up for a photo at the conference.