

**Maine Conference Annual Meeting 92**  
**October 21, 2023 at Pilgrim Lodge**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**9:07AM Welcome -Sara**

**We began with a moment of silent prayer for the Middle East and Ukraine**

**8:01AM – Sara Bartlett, Moderator welcomed all to the meeting**

**Stacy George (Hammond St UCC) led us in Opening Worship**

**Anne Hodgeman, Conference Registrar announced that we had a quorum**

**8:08AM Stef Michaud, Vice Moderator, called the meeting to order**

**Rev. Marisa Laviola, Conference Minister offered a Constituting Prayer**

**Announcement of Appointments for the Meeting – Sara Bartlett**

**Parliamentarian – Sally Colegrove**

**Head Teller – Christine Dyke**

**Counters – Marraine Kettell, and \_\_\_\_\_**

**Tech team – Stef, Michaud, Spencer \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_**

**The tech team then offered a test question to which the gathered responded to with appropriate results and showing the system was working**

**MOTION: to approve the adoption of the Rules and Procedures for Annual Meeting 92 as posted. PASSED**

**MOTION: to adopt the Meeting Agenda. PASSED**

**MOTION: to approve the Consent Agenda. PASSED**

**MOTION: to allow voice with no vote for non delegates. PASSED**

**Speak Out – Anne Roundy**

**8:40AM Greetings**

**Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ via video**

**Rev. Faith Maich-MacCuish, United Church of Canada via letter**

**Rev. Alan Ewing Merrill, BTS Center**

**Rev. Jane Field, Maine Council of Churches**

**Rev. Malcolm Himshoot, Maine School of Ministry (MESOM)**

**Liz Charles McGough, Pilgrim Lodge**

**9:35AM State of the Conference Address – Rev. Marisa Laviola**

**This is an important time of transition for the churches and the Conference. We should grieve the past as well as talk about it with deep appreciation and honor**

**We need to develop trusting relationships together (covenant) and strengthen our bonds, resisting the tendency to pull apart**

**We need to engage in vibrant and creative conversations and brainstorm ideas for churches of all sizes**

**We need to truly listen to one another and pray... and pray some more**

**Final words from Isaiah 43:19 “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”**

**Speak Outs – Anne Roundy**

**Clergy Compensation Guidelines – Rev. Beth Hoffman and Rev. Linda \_\_\_\_\_**

**MOTION: To accept the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2024 as amended ( the amendment was to increase the COLA by 3.2% which was not available at the time the Guidelines were printed). PASSED**

**10:15AM Budget Presentation and vote – Hariph Smith**

**The hope is to end the year with a surplus (? \$28, 590)**

**The investment have been restructured to make more money**

**Have decreased OCWM to the National setting from 20% to 10%**

**MOTION: As Treasurer of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, and therefore not requiring a second, I move the approval of the 2024 Maine Conference Budget PASSED**

**Prior to the vote on the budget, several people spoke with positive words for the budget, The question was also raised about why the need to decrease OCWM to 10% for the National Setting. This was explained by Stef Michaud, Vice Moderator. There were also comments about ways to raise funds for OCWM as well as the ability to help the Conference financially through Friends of the Maine Conference (FOMC)**

**Slate of Officers for 2024**

**MOTION: to approve the slate of Board of Director and Trustee nominees as printed (Rev. Steve Hastings) PASSED**

**Words of Recognition and Thanks for all the work put in to having this meeting here at Pilgrim Lodge**

**Rev. Marisa Laviola, Anne Hodgeman, Liz Charles McGough, Rev. Malcolm Himshoot, Vilette Fletcher & \_\_\_\_\_, Rev. Sally Colegrove, Rev. Christine Dyke, Hariph Smith, Rev. Bill Bliss, Rev, Bob Evans, Karen Choate, Gail Healy, Pam Burnham, Rev. Anne Roundy, Rev. Susan Reisert, Sharon Brobst, Pam Williams, Oscar & Linda Wallace, Rev. Kelli Whitman, Roselee Kimball, Rev. Deb Duval, Nicky Pilat, Marrison Kettell, the members of the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team (PLLT) & the Outdoor Ministry Team (OMT)**

**A special Thank You to Steve Wight & Kathy Woodside as they complete their terms on the Board of Directors**

**Credentials Report – Anne Hodgeman**

**Total – 183**

**Fri 109**

**Sat 73**

**7 Associations**

**5 Committee on Ministry Chairs**

**11 Board of Directors / Committees**

**48 Voting Clergy**

**17 Online**

**5 non-voting members of the Conference**

**9 Visitors**

**5 Staff**

**Closing was offered by Rev. Deb Duval**

**10:58AM adjournment. A reminder to join after lunch in the celebration of the installation of Rev. Marisa Laviola as our Conference Minister.**

**Submitted, Sue Burgess, Clerk**