

Eastern Association Fall Gathering  
Saturday, October 5, 2019  
First Congregational UCC, San Bernardino

First Congregational UCC and First Samoan Congregational Christian UCC of San Bernardino had an amazing breakfast ready for us! The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

We had a quorum with 17 churches and 45 voting delegates and 13 guests.

We were grateful and thankful for Sarah Garcia who led our music for our meeting which was conducted within the setting of a worship service.

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The Rev. Jerry Garber opened our worship with prayer.

Rachel Chapman told us the Conference Inclusion Team wants to help local churches with inclusion efforts and issues. Go to [uccdm.org](http://uccdm.org) for information and to find out how this Team can help your church.

The Rev. Dr. Petra Malleis-Sternberg brought greetings from both of our host churches. She is on the Outdoor Ministries Team and reminded us Pilgrim Pines is having its Apple Pie Day October 12. Register at [pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://pilgrimpinescamp.org). There is also an intergenerational camp that weekend October 11-13.

The Rev. Tupe Auelua, pastor of the First Samoan Congregational Christian UCC of San Bernardino shared a prayer with us.

The Rev. Patricia Walton shared the work of the Nominating Committee with us. It meets via teleconference monthly. Several positions have been filled on the Executive Committee (most importantly John DiNapoli who will be our next Moderator), and Sections A and B of the Church and Ministry Committee. The Association needs a Historian.

The Rev. Marjorie Guese reported on the Las Vegas churches for Section N and asked that we lift them up in our prayers.

The Rev. Matthew Redrich presented the current budget and proposed 2020 budget, which was discussed and will be approved this afternoon.

An Offering of \$464 was received and blessed for our Scholarship Fund.

Covenanting with UrbanMission UCC: Gary Chomiak, who is on the Conference Board of Directors, shared words with us about UrbanMission. It was requested that we enter into covenant with UrbanMission as a United Church of Christ in our Eastern Association of the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Al Lopez, the Rev. Nora Jacob, The Rev. Natalie Shiras, Dennis Perez and the Rev. Steve Patton shared wonderful stories with us about this Mission With a Church. We voted unanimously to welcome UrbanMission as our newest United Church of Christ in our Eastern Association. UrbanMission gathers every Sunday at 5 pm to celebrate their ministry with 20+ partners. You are all always welcome to enjoy these dedicated people and their homemade carnitas.

The Rev. Matthew Redrick shared the Section A of the Church and Ministry report on its work of discernment and living out the Revised Manual on Ministry, which helps us understand why and how discernment is lived out in our Association. The Ecclesiastical Council for Suzanne Barone will be held this afternoon as one more way to help us understand how Section A carries out its work of discernment.

The Rev. Kraig Beardemphl explained how Section B of the Church and Ministry Committee provides support and maintenance of our Association's covenant with our clergy and churches. Section B oversees Transfers of Standing for clergy coming into and going out of our Association. It provides supportive consultations with clergy and churches when requested. In overseeing the requirements for ministerial standing in our Association, it receives Annual Reviews and Boundary Training Continuing Education data for our clergy. CEU information will start being requested next year. And, when necessary, Section B does Fitness Reviews.

Kraig invited us to participate in Open Spaces discussions on five topics that were offered.

After lunch we recapped the Open Spaces discussions, then, after discussion, approved the 2020 Proposed Budget with a unanimous vote.

Matthew opened out Ecclesiastical Council for Suzanne Barone who is requesting ordination in our Association because she will be in a four-way covenant with Fullerton UCC, The Eastern Association and VITAS Hospice Healthcare as a chaplain. Suzanne shared stories about her journey and her faith, especially literally stories about interactions with people who touched her life in significant ways. We questioned her for 30 minutes then asked her to leave. The consensus was that Suzanne is an exemplary candidate for ministry. Matthew's motion that we approve Suzanne for ordination in the Eastern Association of the SCNC of the UCC was approved unanimously.

Our meeting/worship was closed with song and prayer. A fine day together!

Respectfully Submitted, Gregg Hepner, Registrar