

Minutes of Eastern Association Fall Gathering, October 29, 2022 via Zoom

Final count of Active churches and voting delegates present: 21 churches and 41 voting delegates. There were 41 voting delegates logged in at the beginning of the meeting but the list below only has 37 names so I'm missing four of you. Please email me at [Gregg.hepner@gmail.com](mailto:Gregg.hepner@gmail.com) if you see a name or names missing from this list.

Alta Loma, CA, Sacred Place UCC: Matthew Redrich

Barstow, First Congregational Community UCC: Carol Ziegler

Bloomington, Bloomington Congregational UCC: Loletta Barrett

Brea, Brea Congregational UCC: Sarah Averette-Phillips

Claremont, Claremont UCC: Jacob Buchholz, Jennifer Stickland, Jean Rosewall, Dagmar Grefe

Downey, First and St. Paul's UCC: Greg Smith

Fullerton, Congregational Church of Fullerton: Suzanne Barone, Christina Siva, Gary Chomiak

Hacienda Heights, Congregational Church of Hacienda Heights: Leaoga Lee Tanuvasa

Hemet, Pilgrim Congregational UCC: Gregg Hepner

Henderson, Rainbow Praise UCC: Marjorie Guese

La Habra Heights, Hillcrest Congregational UCC: Paul Clay

Las Vegas, Abundant Peace UCC: Wilfred Moore, Grace Thompson, Russ Smethers

Las Vegas, Las Vegas UCC: David Pomeroy, Ernesto Reyes

Ontario, Bethel UCC: Sylvia Mann, Jonathan Vincent

Palm Springs, Bloom in the Desert Ministries: Kevin Johnson, John DiNapoli, Linda Lang, Stephen Wayles, Carl Toland

Perris, First Congregational UCC: Cheri Metier, Quinn Hawley

Redlands, Redlands UCC: Erin Beardemphl, Kraig Berdemphl

Riverside, First Congregational UCC: Audrey Turner

San Bernardino, First Congregational UCC: Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Jean McAnespie

Santa Ana, Church of the Foothills UCC: Nancy Brink

Twentynine Palms, First UCC Second Life: Jerry Garber

Non-voting attendees: Kris Bergstrom, Tracey Brown, Shaleen Kendricks, Rachel Chapman

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Moderator Linda Lang opened our meeting with prayer.

Moved by David Pomeroy and Seconded by Ernie Reyes to **approve the proposed agenda for the meeting**. Motion passed.

**Registrar Report:**, Gregg Hepner said he is still counting but **we have 41 voting members and 17 active churches represented so far; more than the eleven active churches and 20 voting delegates needed for a quorum.**

Carl Toland moved and Petra Malleis-Sternberg seconded a motion to **approve the minutes of the Spring 2022 Eastern Association meeting**. 28 yes, 0 no seen, 0 Abstaining. Motion passed.

Linda Lang shared a **Moderator's Moment** about how challenging it has been during these Covid times to be church.

**Shaleen Kendricks** led a Moment of Reflection on well-being practices.

**Treasurer's Report:** Audrey Turner explained the 2022 Budget and **2023 Proposed Budget**. Moved by Russ Smethers and Seconded by Jean Rosewall to **approve the 2023 Proposed Budget**. 29 yes, 0 no, 0 Abstain

Audrey clarified that our budget year is the same as the calendar year. **The entire Treasurer's report agenda for this meeting, minutes of the Spring 2022 Eastern Association meeting and opportunities to serve in the Association, can be seen online at [easternassociation.org](http://easternassociation.org). You can also make your donations to the Association at [easternassociation.org](http://easternassociation.org). Those who want to mail their donations can use Audrey Turner, 3015 Watermount St., Riverside, CA 92501.**

**Tracey Brown**, new Executive Director of **Pilgrim Pines** reported there is a new board of directors. **You can find information on Pilgrim Pines by going to [pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://pilgrimpinescamp.org)**, or by going to their Instagram or Facebook pages. Winter Camp for Middle School and High School campers is February 18-20. New staff positions are being hired. Summer Camp will be here soon. Encourage groups in your church to use Pilgrim Pines.

Linda mentioned the Association committee opportunities(though we will have to wait to see what those opportunities are because of the revised ByLaws that were approved later in this meeting). Stephen Wayles is the person to contact for the Nominating Committee.

**Section A Report:** Sylvia Mann shared that several MIDs are moving along on their paths and one church is seeking standing in our Association.

**Section B Report:** No report

**Section N Report:** Kris Bergstrom is meeting with our Las Vegas/Henderson area pastors on November 5 to help them identify a new Section N Chairperson, and to begin meetings with them for ongoing support.

**Conference Minister's Report:** (Kris must have been feeling a bit schizophrenic because was in a Zoom meeting with the Northern Association as well as our Association.) Kris confirmed with Pastor Wilfred Moore that this year is the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abundant Peace UCC! Congratulations and blessings on your ministry in Las Vegas!

She also thanked Matthew Redrich for everything he has done in managing this meeting.

She is in conversations with 4-8 pastors every day who share two similar concerns; we will never again be the church we used to be, and everybody needs more than anybody can give. She is grateful for what our pastors and churches are doing and is available to assist in whatever ways she can.

David Pomeroy asked if pastors who complete Boundary Training will receive an actual certificate of completion. Yes you will. (Virginia, in the Conference office is the person to contact if you feel you should have received your certificate but have not yet received it.)

**Rachel Chapman gave a wonderful presentation for the Conference Accessibility Team Claremont UCC, an Accessible to All(A2A) church, was highlighted.** Our Conference is the only Conference designated as an A2A Conference. The Accessibility Team's website ([uccdm.org](http://uccdm.org)), has resources for Access Sunday, Disabilities Awareness Week and Disabilities Awareness Month. We are encouraged to be intentional about accessibility as an issue of hospitality and the radical welcome we are called to share.

**On behalf of our Association's Executive Committee, Matthew Redrich introduced the proposed revised ByLaws,** which are more in line with MOM and the new Manual on Church (that will be made available in the near future?) than our current ByLaws. This is what all Associations and Conferences are doing at this time. This is also in response to the difficulty our Nominating Committee currently has in filling all our committee spots. Much discussion about how the 20-member Committee On Ministry structure proposed by the revised ByLaws would work, when the current Committee on Ministry structure has 27 members and some things still aren't getting done, though it was pointed out that all 27 positions are never filled. The proposed new structure does not preclude the 20 elected Committee members from recruiting additional persons to help with projects/needs/responsibilities.

At some point we needed a motion to extend discussion for ten minutes. Motion was passed with 19 yes votes. No other votes were reported.

At the end of ten minutes(or more) the motion from the Executive Committee to approve the revised ByLaws was passed by 21 yes, 4 no and 2 Abstentions

**Shaleen Kendricks** led a second time of reflection on how to make some of what she shared useful to us. She introduced (to some of us for the first time) ENNEAGRAM, which (I think she said) is a way of navigating our humanness.

Linda said she hoped our **Spring 2023 Association meeting might be held in person and asked that any church interested in hosting that meeting contact her.** Matthew said we will still offer a virtual coverage of the meeting for those who can't make the meeting in person. The Executive Committee will set the date of the Spring meeting when it meets next.

**Our meeting was closed with prayer by Matthew Redrich.**

Nancy Brink shared that **Founders Day at Chapman College will be March 11, 2023, with Barbara Brown Taylor as the keynote speaker. Go to [chapman.edu/founders-day](http://chapman.edu/founders-day) for more information**

Moved by Nancy Brink and Seconded by Matthew Redrich that our **meeting be adjourned.** Motion was approved by a yes vote.