

55th Annual Meeting Western North Carolina Association Southern Conference United Church of Christ

Originally planned for October 1, 2022

Postponed due to weather

Rescheduled to Oct 22, 2022



August 15, 2022

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am issuing this official call to the 55th Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. We will be gathering in person on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at Abernethy Laurels in Newton, NC. We will begin gathering at 9 a.m. and hope to be adjourned by 3 p.m. This will be our first in person gathering since 2019, and we are looking forward to being together.

The theme for our meeting will be "We Are Family." We look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends as we come together in the name of our Savior, Jesus Chris. We will share in fellowship, celebrate good things happening in our churches and ministries, and dedicate ourselves anew to the calling of Christ as we embrace our future with faith and hope. We believe that we have planned for a special day in the life of our Association.

According to our By Laws,

"The voting delegates of the Association shall consist of the authorized ministers, ordained ministerial partners, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and two lay delegates selected by and representing each local church within the Association."

Please be sure your church is represented at our meeting, and that your clergy and lay delegates register in advance for this meeting.

Registration for our meeting will open August 15. We encourage you to register on line through Eventbrite. The registration fee is \$25 per delegate, which includes lunch. When you register through Eventbrite, please indicate your lunch preference. In order for our association office and Abernethy Laurels to make adequate preparations, please register by Wednesday, September 21. Those who don't register ahead of time and show up the day of the meeting will pay a \$15 registration fee but will not have a prepared lunch.



At our meeting we will conduct the usual business of the Western N.C. Association. Materials will be available on line at our association website (wnca-soc.org) and through a link on the Southern Conference website (soc-ucc.org). These materials will include minutes from last year's meeting, financial reports and the proposed budget, report from the Committee on Ministry and three proposed amendments to our By Laws, as well as other materials. If you want printed materials, please print them ahead of time and bring them with you.

I realize these are challenging times, and we are still coming to grips with life in the midst of a pandemic. We on the Board of Directors believe it is important for us at this time to come together in faith and prayer to strengthen and encourage one another. Recognizing the need for safety, we are asking everyone to wear a mask and respect proper distancing. Masks will be available for those who forget to bring one. This meeting can be a special moment of encouragement and renewal of faith in our life in the Western North Carolina Association.

In preparation for our meeting please refer to materials found on our Association website or the Southern Conference website and be sure to register by September 21. And make sure your church is up to date with its \$2 per member per capita dues.

I look forward to seeing you all on October 1 at Abernethy Laurels. God's blessings to you all!

Reverend Dale Kennedy, President

Agenda for 2022 WNCA Annual Meeting Saturday, October 1, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and greetings: President, Dale Kennedy
- Opening Devotions and Prayer: Reverend Kristin Gerner-Vaughn, Mt. Hope UCC Whitsett
- Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order
- Appointment of Parliamentarian
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Standing Rules
- Appointment of Tellers
- Approve minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting
- Greetings and welcome from Abernethy Laurels
- Recognition of Guests and announcements
- Greetings from Conference Minister
- Report from President
- Report from ACM
- Break
- Music by Rev. Tom Warren and Anne Badgett from Peace UCC, Greensboro
- Report from the Treasurer
 - o Financials
 - Presentation and Vote on the proposed budget
- Report from Committee on Ministry
- Nominating Committee report
- Election
- Action on By Laws amendment
- Description of small group meetings. Program districts meet to in small group session after lunch.
- 12:00 Noon---Lunch. The Western N.C. Association Church Women will meet during lunch.
- 12:45 p.m. Small group meetings.
- 1:45 p.m. Reconvene.
- Other business
- 2:00 p.m.
 - Closing worship
 - o Music by Rev. Tom Warren and Anne Bagettt from Peace UCC, Greensboro
 - o Sermon by Rev. William Vanderburg, Beulah UCC, Liberty
 - Communion
 - o Installation of new committee members and board members
- Closing prayer
- Adjournment

Western North Carolina Association 2022 Annual Meeting Standing Rules

- 1. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall always be followed, unless a Special Rule of Order supersedes a rule in Robert's.
- 2. Matters deemed by the Association President to be non-controversial in nature, routine, or formal may be handled by Unanimous Consent. However, if there is an objection, the President must state the question on the motion and follow the rest of the formal process for handling a motion.
- 3. A written copy of any main motion or resolution presented at the Annual Meeting must be given to the secretary immediately after the motion is made. If there is a second to the motion, the President will read or direct the secretary to read the motion again before placing it before the assembly for debate.
- 4. Amendments or other procedural motions may be made to a main motion.
- 5. If the amendment is brief and there is a second, the President may simply restate the motion as amended prior to allowing debate on the amendment. However, if the amendment is long or complicated and is seconded, it shall be submitted in writing to be read again prior to debate.
- 6. An amendment may be amended. However, an amendment to an amendment must be dealt with before any additional amendments can be made.
- 7. Prior to speaking, delegates must be recognized by the President. After they are recognized to speak, they shall first state their name and the church or agency they are affiliated with.
- 8. During debate on a motion, no delegate shall speak without first being recognized by the President.
- 9. During debate, no delegate may speak to the same motion more than twice.
- Debate on any motion shall be limited to a total of 20 minutes.
- 11. A delegate who makes the main motion (or their representative) shall be granted five minutes to present the case for the motion after the President has put the motion before the assembly. Additional speeches for or against the main motion shall be limited to two minutes each.

12. The proper motion to close debate on a motion is "I move the previous question." ("I move to close debate" would also be recognized by the President as the same motion.) The mover must first gain recognition from the chair, and the motion must be seconded. The motion to close debate cannot be amended and requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

It is always out of order to simply call out "Question" if there are still delegates who wish to speak, and/or the time limit has not been reached.

- 13. The Association may vote to allow a guest the right to speak to the Association but shall not grant that person the right to vote.
- 14. Resolutions may be submitted by any voting delegate, congregation, or committee of the Association for consideration at the annual meeting. These resolutions must be submitted in written form to the Association office not less than 45 days prior to the annual meeting to allow for their distribution and review by churches and delegates prior to the annual meeting.
- Please be courteous.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Ordinary Standing Rules are rules in the nature of administrative duties of the Association.

The Special Standing Rules are rules that supersede a rule in Robert's Rules of Order. (Examples: Standing Rules 10 & 11.)

Both Ordinary Standing Rules and Special Standing Rules remain in effect from one year to the next unless they are changed or deleted.

Ordinary Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of those attending the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Special Standing Rules (Rule 10 & 11 above) may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those attending the Annual Meeting of the Association.

President Report

October 2022

I want to begin my report by expressing my gratitude to all of you for the privilege of serving as your President. This is a great Association, and I am honored to serve among you and with you.

This has been a most unusual year. Covid 19 has restricted our gatherings, and we have had to make adjustments in the ways we connect with each other and how we operate. We have found new ways of being church and working together. We have tapped into our imaginations and creative energies, which is always a good thing for people of faith.

I want to express my gratitude to our Board of Directors. The Board members are good people and have proven they are more than ready and able to serve our association in these times. We have laughed and prayed and worked together, even cried together. We were saddened at the death of David Abernethy, who was becoming a valuable member of our team, and we miss his insight, his inquisitiveness and his energy.

I also want to thank our Associate Conference Minister, the Reverend Dr. Warren Casiday. Warren is a friend to the churches and clergy and laity of our Western N.C. Association. He is a faithful and capable servant of Christ, and we are blessed for his presence and service among us.

We have much to celebrate in the Western N.C. Association in 2022. We affirmed our identity as a W.I.S.E. Association as we held a timely education day in April and were inspired to focus on the ways that we as people of faith can nurture good mental health in the midst of a pandemic. We have welcomed new ordained leadership in our churches, and Exodus Missionary Outreach United Church of Christ in Hickory, NC joined us as a new member of our Association family. In our churches and communities we are celebrating new and fresh followers of Christ and new opportunities to carry on and grow the faith.

There has been sadness as we have lost good friends among our clergy and laity, many of them taken by Covid 19. And we grieve the closing of one of our older and cherished congregations as First UCC in Winston Salem pronounced the benediction on a long and fruitful ministry.

Covid 19 and economic, sociological and cultural issues have put a strain on our churches and association. Yet we remain true to who we have always been. We go on, embracing the challenges and celebrating the victories. The Church remains the Church. We go on, undeterred, determined to shine the light of Christ in our communities and beyond.

When I was elected your President, I offered this prayer to the Lord: "O God, help me to listen carefully to your Spirit's voice and follow your Spirit's leading; help me to listen to and learn

from those with whom I serve; help me to love as Christ loves; and help me to lean upon and rely on Your power and promises." This remains my prayer each day, and I ask you to join me in this prayer as we seek and do God's will.

These are challenging times. It will require the best we have to do the job. Yet, as I look around our association, I see people and churches who are equipped, energized and inspired to more than meet every challenge. We have God, and we have faith. As I like to say at Board meetings, "Let's have faith and see what will happen."

And so, sisters and brothers, let's have faith and see what can happen. Let us go forward, growing in love and faith, growing in hope, growing in determination to be God's faithful church. Let's have faith, and see how God will bless us.

Faithfully yours,

Reverend Dale Kennedy, President

The Annual Report from the ACM of the WNCA

Greetings to the sisters and brothers in the WNCA. May God's blessings be with all of us as we attempt to do God's work in the WNCA.

There are 66 churches in the WNCA. Statistically, 51.5% of our churches are under 100 members and 48.5% are over 100 members. We currently have 8 churches open -4 churches are being supplied and 4 are still open. The Search and Call committees are actively searching for their settled pastors.

Sadly, one church (First UCC, Winston-Salem) closed at the end of last year. And we will lose another one (Hebron UCC, Winston-Salem) in November.

Our Annual Spring Educational Forum was on "Mental Health Challenges During and After the COVID Pandemic." It was led by the Rev. Sarah Lund.

Our churches are beginning to return to normal after COVID. Attendance is still down with many of them. However, when you add the attendance on their streaming services along with those in attendance at the worship service the number in total attendance is near or above what they were before COVID.

We celebrated 2 Ecclesiastical Councils and Ordained 2 new pastors this past year: Rev. Michelle Johnson and Rev. Kevin Watkins.

We installed Rev. Michelle Johnson at Parkway UCC in Winston-Salem and Rev. William Sowers at St. Matthews UCC in Maiden.

The beautifully renovated sanctuary at St. Matthews UCC in Maiden was rededicated.

Two of our former ACMs are under Hospice care: Rev. Allen Miller and Rev. Jerry Rhyne. We ask for your prayers for them.

Two of the Program Districts have held their ministerium meetings and we are hoping to have all of them active again soon.

We held the Farewell Services for the Rev. Kelly Barefoot, the Rev. Kim Buchanan, and through retirement, the Rev. Gary Phaup.

Our Board of Directors, Commission on Ministry, and the Committee on Nominations meet regularly. We are blessed to have some wonderfully committed members on them.

Great things are happening in the WNCA and we anticipate even greater things this next year.

Respectfully Submitted by
Rev. H. Warren Casiday, D.Min.
Associate Conference Minister
Western North Carolina Association
Southern Conference, UCC

Western NC Assoc of the Southern Conf of the UCC Profit - Loss Statement and Budgets

		FINAL		RRENT YR		OPOSED
	INCOME	Actual		Budget	E	Budget
		-Dec 2021	Jan	-Dec 2022		2023
47100	Per Capita Dues	\$ 21,224	\$	20,000	\$	20,000
47400	WNCA Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$	3,000	\$	2,400
47401	Spring Workshop Registration	\$ 474	\$	800	\$	350
47430	Grant Income	\$	\$		\$	-
46430	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ -	\$	1,300	\$	
46400	Other Income	\$ -	\$	925	\$	500
46431	Fee Processing Income	\$ •	\$	20	\$	
43400	Other Contributions	\$ 3,099	\$	1,000	\$	500
43500	Meeting Offerings	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
49030	Interest	\$ 685	\$	550	\$	480
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 25,482	\$	27,595	\$	24,230
	EXPENSES					
	Ministry of Congregational Excellence					
50101	Lay Leadership Training	\$ -	\$	700	\$	400
50102	Congregational Vitallity	\$	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
50103	WNCA Resurce Center	\$	\$	200	\$	100
50104	SOC Covenant Support	\$ 1,800	\$	1,800	\$	2,000
50105	Contingency Fund	\$	\$	-	\$	
50106	Delegates to Synod	\$ -	\$	1,500	\$	2,000
50107	Youth Ministries	\$ -	\$	500	\$	500
50108	Young Adult Mininstries	\$ -	\$	500	\$	500
50100	Administration	\$	\$		\$	
50111	General Synod Support	\$ 1,000	\$		\$	-
50112	Education Workshop Expenses	\$ 600	\$	1,400	\$	750
	Total Ministry of Cong Excellence	\$ 3,400	\$	7,600	\$	7,250
	Ministry of Pastoral Excellence					
50201	Min in Discernment Financial Aid	\$	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
50202	Boundary Awareness Training	\$ 	\$	500	\$	500
50203	Clergy Retreat	\$	\$	500	\$	500
	Total Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	\$ -	\$	2,000	\$	2,000

	Ministry of Jusice & Witness						
50301	SOC Missions Initiative	\$	-	\$	500	\$	500
50302	Johns River Valley Camp	\$	1,100	\$	1,100	\$	1,100
50303	Local and Nat. Disaster Relief	\$	-	\$	500	\$	500
50304	WNCA & Regional Mission Project	\$		\$	500	\$	500
50305	Evang/Reformed Historical Society	\$	700	\$	700	\$	700
50306	Meeting Offerings Payout	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
	Total Ministry of Justice & Witness	\$	1,800	\$	3,300	\$	3,300
	Committee on Ministry						
50401	Candidate Assessments	\$	2,769	\$	3,000	\$	3,000
50402	Consulting Resources	\$	-	\$	200	\$	200
50403	Recognition Materials	\$	- 2	\$	350	\$	350
50410	Administration	\$	-	\$	750	\$	250
	Total Committee on Ministry	\$	2,769	\$	4,300	\$	3,800
	Association Support						
50501	Printing & Office Supplies	\$	9	\$	500	\$	175
50502	Equpment (New Replacement)	\$		\$	100	\$	500
50503	Postage	\$	34	\$	200	\$	200
50505	Comm (Web) Software/Contract	\$	1,997	\$	2,400	\$	600
50506	Financial Review	\$		\$		\$	
50507	Bd of Directors Support	\$		\$	50	\$	100
50509	Other (PO Box etc.)	\$	171	\$	150	\$	200
50510	Assoc Support Ministry areas	\$	-	\$	500	\$	500
50512	ACM Support	\$	100	\$	-	\$	_
50513	Electronic Processing Fees	\$		\$	80	\$	_
50514	Staff Appreciation	\$	2,100	\$	2,400	\$	2,400
	Total Association Support	\$	4,411	\$	6,380	\$	4,675
	Annual Meeting						
50601	Postage	\$		\$	175	\$	175
50602	Printing & Supplies	\$	-	\$	300	\$	300
50603	Meals	\$		\$	2,000	\$	2,000
50604	Programming	\$		\$	350	\$	350
	Total annual Meeting	\$		\$	2,825	\$	2,825
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	12,380	\$	26,405	\$	23,850
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$	13,102	\$	1,190	\$	380
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Western North Carolina Association Committee on Ministry Report

Oct 30, 2021 to Oct 1, 2022

AUTHORIZED MINISTERIAL STANDING

ORDAINED Rev. Michelle Johnson Rev. Kevin Watkins	Parkway UCC Corinth Reformed UCC	Winston Salem Hickory	6/26/2022 8/14/2022
INSTALLATIONS Rev. Michelle Johnson Rev. William Sowers	Parkway UCC St. Matthews Reformed	Winston Salem Maiden	6/26/2022 5/01/2022
APPROVED FOR ECCLESIASTIC Michelle Johnson Kevin Watkins	AL COUNCIL Parkway UCC Corinth Reformed	Winston Salem Hickory	2/17/2022
ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL APP Michelle Johnson Kevin Watkins	ROVED FOR ORDINATION Parkway UCC Corinth Reformed	Winston Salem Hickory	5/15/2022 7/17/2022
GRANTED EXEMPT STANDING IN Rev. Merlin Batt	IUCC		3/17/2022
APPROVED TO SEEK ECCLESIAS Rev. Andrea Simmonds	STICAL ENDORSEMENT IN Parkway UCC	I CHAPLAINCY Winston Salem	9/15/2022
MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT Kerri Gibbs Beatrice Franklin	Congregational Congregational	Greensboro Greensboro	4/25/2017 9/19/2019
MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT STA Christine Hargraves	ATUS DROPPED WITHOUT Congregational UCC	BIAS Greensboro	2/24/2022
WITHDREW FROM SEEKING PRIV Rev. Carol Pennick	ILEGE OF CALL Southern Baptist	Parkway UCC	12/2021

TRANFER OF STANDING INTO V	/NCA		
Rev. Dr. Henry Simmons		on, New York Conference	
Rev. Mia McClain	Reformed Association	1/20/2022	
Rev. Heidi Gessner	Eastern NC Association	on, Southern Conference	1/20/2022
Rev. Harold "Hunter" Thompson	n Eastern NC Association	on Southern Conference	1/20/2022
Rev. W.A. "Bill" Seaman	Penn Northeast Confe	rence, No Associations	1/20/2022
Rev. Donald Morgan	Hampshire Association	n, Southern New England Conference	5/19/2022
Rev. Wanda Hunt	Eastern NC Association	on, Southern Conference	9/15/2022 9/15/2022
TRANSER OF CTANDING OUT O			
TRANFER OF STANDING OUT OF			
Bernie Ingram	Eastern NC Association	on, Southern Conference	
Rev. Kimberleigh Buchanan	Florida Conference, N	o Associations	9/15/2022
RETIREMENTS Rev. Carl Stephen Monroe	Hatalatta 1100		
Rev. Ken Clapp	Heidelberg UCC	Thomasville	2/2022
Rev. Gary Phaup	Catawba College Zion UCC	Salisbury	- 4
1104. Gary Fridap	21011 000	Thomasville	8/2022
DEATHS			
Dr. Kenneth Daniel Sell	Congressional	0 1	
Di. Neimen Dainei Sen	Congregational	Greensboro	11/18/2021
CUUDOUEO DEOUGUE DEO			
CHURCHES BROUGHT INTO FUL Exodus Missionary Outreach - H			
Exoded Missionary Outleach - 1	ilckory nev. Susan Si	mith & Rev. Reggie Longcrier	11/5/0001
			11/5/2021
CHURCHES CLOSING			
First UCC	Winston Salem		12/05/2021
Hebron	Winston Salem		11/20/2022
YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSAF	RY DATES (25 & 50)	(EARS)	
50 Jose A DeJesus		•	4/21/1972
50 Galen E. Hahn			6/18/1972
50 Wayne R Nelson			1972
50 Phillip W. Norwood			10/28/1972
50 Robert O. Rahe			6/18/1972
50 J. Lloyd Spencer			6/01/1972
50 Clarence "Curly" S	tumb		7/02/1972
0000 010111510 1115 01115			
2022 SIGNIFICANT CHURCH ANNI		s of 25 years)	
100 Mt. Hope U		Whitsett	1847
25 Exodus Mis	sionary Outreach	Hickory	1997



2021 SLATE OF NOMINEES

Below you'll find the slate of nominees, along with a short bio of each new nominee. Names and positions in **bold represent people up for election**; those in italics represent people standing for re-election.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Rev. Dale Kennedy	1 of 2	2023
Vice President	Ms. Ava Chambers	2 of 2	2022
Secretary	Ms. JoAnn Jellison	2 of 2	2023
Treasurer	Ms. Joni Yoder	2 of 2	2022
Catawba	Ms. Yolanda Adams	2 of 2	2022
	Rev. Curly Stumb	2 of 2	2022
	Mr. David Abernethy	1 of 2	
Davidson/Forsyth	Rev. David Crook	1 of 2	
	Rev. Steve Monroe	1 of 2	
	Mr. Rick Swaim	1 of 2	
Guilford/Randolph	Ms. Thelma Copeland	1 of 2	2023
	Rev. Thelma Flowers	2 of 2	2023
	Rev. Gary Owens	2 of 2	2022
Rowan	Mr. Kenneth Crawford	2 of 2	2022
	Rev. Ed Holloway	1 of 2	2023
	Mr. Ed Vickery	1 of 2	2023

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Catawba	Rev. Kathy Naish	1 of 2	2023
	Mr. Wade "Hamp" Shuford	1 of 2	2023
	Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood	1 of 2	2023
Davidson/Forsyth	Rev. Elizabeth Horton	1 of 2	2023
	Ms. Mary Ann Mealor	1 of 2	2022
	Ms. Nan Parrish	1 of 2	2022
Guilford/Randolph	Rev. Paul Davis	2 of 2	2022
	Rev. Renee Griffin	1 of 2	2022
	Ms. Coradene Rutledge	1 of 2	
Rowan	Rev. Carol Hallman	2 of 2	2022
	Ms. Kristen Andes	1 of 2	2022
	Mr. Henry McQueen	2 of 2	2023

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Catawba Davidson/Forsyth	Dr. Bruce Cariton Rev. Gary Phaup	retired veteran at Corinth Reformed UCC Hickory pastor at Zion UCC Thomasville
Guilford/Randolph	Ms. Ernestine Purnell	member of St. Stephens UCC in Greensboro
Rowan	Rev. Cheri Dennis	Associate Pastor at Holy Covenant UCC Charlotte

Closing Worship Western N.C. Association October 1, 2022

Call to Worship

Rev. Edward Holloway

One: In the name of the triune God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen.

One: With what shall we come before the Holy One,

Many: And bow ourselves before God on high?

One: God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Holy One

desire of you?

All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen.

Prayer

Ava Chambers, Vice President

Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom: through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting of Memorial Candle

Ava Chambers, Vice President

"We light this candle in loving memory of all who have passed from our midst and have found their rest in the eternal peace and love of God. Amen."

Song

"We are One in the Spirit"

Rev. Tom Warren and Anne Badgett

Offering

The offering is designated for the Neighbors in Need offering.

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Stephen Monroe

Scripture and Sermon

Rev. William Vanderburg

Service of Holy Communion

Rev. H. Warren Casiday and Rev. Dale Kennedy

Installation of New Officers

Rev. H. Warren Casiday

Litany of Commitment

Rev. Thelma Flowers

One: Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully,

Many: Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

One: Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.

Many: Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

One: Take my will; your will be done. Make your will and mine be one.

Many: Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

One: Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

All: Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community. Amen.

Benediction

Rev. Gary Owens

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.