

WESTERN RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
OHIO CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FALL MEETING  
OCTOBER 30, 2011

The Fall Meeting of the Western Reserve Association held at Bath United Church of Christ was called to order by Olivia White, moderator, at 11:05 a.m. The agenda was accepted with the addition of a Youth Report.

**Parliamentarian/Quorum:** The Rev. Mark Thomas, parliamentarian declared that a quorum was present.

**Vision proposal of Strategic Alliance of EOA and WRA (see attached):** The Strategic Planning Task Force consisted of WRA representatives - Jim Meyer, Olivia White, and Mark Thomas; EOA representatives - Jim Ludwig, Bobbi Montenegro, Stephen Gifford and Bob Molsberry, Ohio Conference Minister. Discussion was held regarding this proposal. The proposal calls for **the equivalent of three full-time association staff to be shared equally by the two associations.** It was stated that other conferences share this type of staffing. The proposal states search for a General Minister to serve both associations will be sought with the responsibilities of being the keeper and promoter of the vision for the two associations and would be responsible for their administrative operation. That would include arranging the remaining staff to carry out the vision within budgetary restraints. Following the discussion the two motions were presented to WRA council which means that no second to the motion was needed. The EOA association will be voting on the same motions. The motions will then be presented to the two joint associations for approval.

**Motion 1:** The Western Reserve Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ accepts the recommendation of the EOA/WRA Strategic Planning Task Force.

**Vote: 109 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention.**

**Motion 2:** The Western Reserve Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ authorizes the WRA Council, in collaboration with the Eastern Ohio Association Council, to begin a search process for a General Minister of EOA/WRA Associations.

**Vote: 109 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention.**

**Budget:** Rev. Mark Thomas, chair of the Budget Committee, presented the recommended budget for 2011. Mr. Thomas thanked the WRA churches for their support of the WRA. He informed the association that the retention rate would remain at 44% the lowest in the Ohio Conference. The budget presented does not take into consideration of the votes just taken other than for the \$6,000 for the search committee. In 2010 \$21,000 was used from the Ominbus fund. The balance of this fund is \$100,000 and 5% can be used. A reduction in the Communication/ Database was decreased and the budget for the Department of Church and Ministry was increased from \$3500 to \$4500. The total of the 2011 budget was presented as \$414,278. **The Motion to accept the 2011 budget was approved.**

**Nomination Committee:** The Rev. Harry Buch, chair of the Nominating Committee thanked

the committee members for their work in fill the positions on WRA council, departments and Committees. Mr. Buch stated this is very challenge work. Mark Suriano, Moderator (2 year term), Lenore Marken, Vice-Moderator ( 2 year term), Fran Apltauer, Secretary (3 year term), and Jim Meyer, Treasurer (3 year term). Council At-Large (2 year term) - Class of 2011 - Rev. Harry Buch, Rev. Joyce Morris, Rev. Thomas Cofer; Class of 2012 - Ms Jane Blennen, Rev. Allen Grothe, Tim Kehres, Rev. Kurt Wieser. General Synod delegates, Class of 2011 - Rev. Elizabeth Terrell, Rev. Ray Deuring, Rev. Greg Coles, Ms. Leslie Oliver, Ms Tina Green, Mr. Nate Parries, Mr. Tom Milligan, Katie Vivona,. Mr. William Smith; Class of 2013 -Ms. Elizabeth Schaller Blaufuss, Rev. Brian Burke, Rev. Harry Buch, Rev. Ted Michaelson, Rev. Nozomi Ikuta. See last year report for other nominations. The motion to elected the nominated candidates was presented by the Nominating Committee and seconded by Rev. Thomas Marlin. **The motion was approved.**

**Staff and Department reports:** A motion to approve staff and departments reports was made by Rev. Brian Burke and second by Rev. Ellen Marsey. **Motion was approved.**

**Acknowledge and Celebration of Clergy and Churches Anniversary:** Recognition of 29 clergy anniversary was held and 4 churches anniversary was held.

**Covenant for Church Youth Ministries:** The covenant was presented by the Church and Education Department of EOA was presented for reviewed of WRA and in June 2011 it will be presented to the Ohio Conference. It is hoped in the future it will be sent to the General Synod for approval. It is hoped local churches will sign on to this covenant. Rev. Allen Grothe moved and Susan Johnson seconded the motion to accept the covenant to go to General Synod. **The motion was approved.**

**Closed Churches:** The following churches were closed: Buenos Nuevos -- 12/31/08; Friedens - 11/9/09; Huntsberg - 6/29/08. The National United Church of Christ will be notified of the removal these churches

**Welcoming and Passing the Banner and Gavel to the new moderator:** Olivia White passed the Moderator Banner and Gavel to the new Moderator, Rev. Mark Suriano.

**Recognition of outgoing Moderator:** Mark Suriano and Donna Brooks thanked Olivia White for her service to the WRA. A contribution to Back Bay Mission was given in honor of Ms. White.

**Sharing of the Interium Association Minister:** Rev. Donna Brooks gave an update of her work in the WRA. The offering today was \$1065 with \$700 going to WRA.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fran Apltauer, Secretary