54th Annual Meeting

Western North Carolina Association
Southern Conference
United Church of Christ

November 5, 2021
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING
November 5, 2021
1:00 PM

Agenda

Welcome & Greetings

WNCA President
Brenda Dalton James
WNCA Interim ACM
Rev. Warren Casiday
SOC Conference Minister
Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

Opening Worship
Rev. Jorella L. Marshall
Emerita Professor of Pastoral Theology,
Care and Counseling - Brite Divinity School

Call to Order
Establish a quorum / appoint a Parliamentarian
Recognize guests and offering voice without a vote

Approve the Agenda and Standing Rules

Approve 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Report from the President

Report from the Interim ACM

Report from the Treasurer
Vote on 2021 budget

Committee on Ministry – Stat report

Nominating Committee
Slate of Nominees & Bio’s

Election of Officers and BOD/ Installation Ceremony

Association vote on the acceptance of Exodus Church to the WNCA

Update on the WISE Project

Unison Benediction  May the spirit of God be and abide with us all  Amen
Western North Carolina Association
2021 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.

10. 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.

15. 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.
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL MEETING
Business Session Minutes
October 16, 2020

Welcome & Greetings

WNCA President Brenda James offered Welcome & Greetings to all.

WNCA ACM Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson thanked Brenda and everyone for getting caught up to speed on technology in order to participate in our virtual meeting. Rev. Meghan Young has done an OUTSTANDING job with technology, in preparing us for our virtual meetings, and also with distributing WNCA News. "Keep up the good work, You have been a Lifesaver!!"

Greetings and Thanks to our special guests today. Grace & Peace!

We give thanks for each of our board members, our COM members, our clergy, and for Stephanie and Meghan for helping all the time, and appreciate all the hard work that gets done.

It has been a challenging year, obviously, clergy this time of year during Co-Vid, using technology, going from basic/satisfactory, took a phenomenal jump / leap.

"Ain't no mountain high enough" - Clergy and tech in congregations then fit into new routines and made church work.

Rev. Dr. Davis asked Rev. Dr. Samson to select a WNCA clergy to be presented with an award.

This is someone ADMIRED. Who is not afraid to ask for help, whether it be on the phone with Rev. Samson, or colleagues, she is inclusive in making decisions in how to move forward. She is a farmer; involved in Homeschooling Association Meetings and Vice-Chairs her district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. ELIZABETH HORTON. Faithful O&A
Rev. Elizabeth Horton reads her plaque that was sent to her in the mail, along with directions not to open until directed to during today’s meeting. She thanks First Reformed Lexington for being such a wonderful congregation and leadership in the association.

SOC Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Edward Davis joins the meeting and assures us the State of the Southern Conference is good. Our Boards are stronger than before, our Committees are stronger, we have partnerships with ministries, we have come a long way, by the grace of God.

Dr. Davis speaks of plans to hire a grant writer to help with documentation, and mental health. There are so many deficiencies due to Co-Vid19. He references John Lennon’s song “Imagine”

“Imagine there’s no countries...  
...And no religion, too
Imagine all the people 
 livin’ life in Peace

...But I’m not the only one
...And the world will be as one”

“Imagine a world where healthcare can be afforded by everyone, where women and children are held in sacred trust, where church voice of society is not silent. Imagine a place where children have a place to play and grow, where there is no fighting, disease or virus. He wants to be able to realize this dream in the SOC. We have to be the church and put flesh in the gospel.

To God Be the Glory. God Bless WNCA.”

Pres. Brenda James thanks Dr. Davis for joining us via Zoom and welcomes him to stay longer.

Call to Order

Established a quorum/ Parliamentarian Appointed

Pres. Brenda James recognizes and thanks Rev. Warren Casiday for serving as Parliamentarian, and ensuring proper protocol will be followed.

Motion was made to Approve the Agenda  
82% Approved, 18% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

Motion was made to Approve the Standing Rules  
83% Approved, 17% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed
Brenda recognizes guest, offering voice without vote

Blair Trexler-Wilson - Director of Nazareth in Rockwell

First timer Representing Nazareth's Child Connection & Children's Home

Blair tells about NCH beginning in 1906, how they transformed over the years, they now have 2 offices in Davidson and Rowan Counties. They have been dealing a lot with the opioid epidemic; So thankful for the many years of support and opening doors and hearts to substance abuse and mental health needs, hopefully it will calm down soon.

She welcomes us to visit the campus / facilities, stating the kids are use to seeing volunteers, but with the pandemic, not many are coming through nowadays. Thanks for all we have done over all the years to support NCH.

Lee Syria with United Church Homes

For Abernethy Laurels, Oct 1 started the fiscal year for UCHS, Celebrating 50 years. Their doors opened at Abernethy Laurels to the first 5 residents. Today they have over 2,100. They have served over 12,000 seniors over the past 5 years. Now they have multiple locations. What began as a dream / vision back in the late 1950's is now a testimony of church in action. Brenda thanks them for all of the work that they do. We have residents at those facilities.

Ted Wilson - Executive Director of Blowing Rock Conference Center

Previously Blowing Rock Assembly Center- Still known locally as "BRAC" Hosted Women's Conference, Brenda states they are all still recuperating from such a good time they had at that event. BRAC exists so that ALL Gods people can gather and serve missions work, Due to Co-Vid, they were closed March-end of June, then at 50% capacity. They miss all the families that call it home. Hope all are staying safe, happy & healthy. They are open now if any of you, your church, or your families would like to enjoy, they are able to safely serve.

Video from Phil Hardy - Director of Johns River Valley Camp

Greetings; Spreading word of thanks to all of us. Lots of changes and challenges since the last time. Thanks to all the churches who support JRVC and their ministry. Ministers and lay ministers have uncertainty as to what our future holds. We will get stronger when working together to provide outdoor ministry to children and senior adults, in a safe environment. Our souls hunger for togetherness. All our outdoor ministries are important, offering opportunities. Wishes for a wonderful and productive meeting.

Invitation was sent to Samantha Jones - Black Lake

Samantha is getting married this month, so appreciates the invite, but unable to join.
Rev. Ken Clapp & the new President of Catawba College are in a Board of Trustees meeting, but look forward to future involvement with WNCA.

Approval of 2019 minutes

Motion was made and seconded to Approve the 2019 Minutes
85% Approved, 15% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

Report from the President

Brenda offered Congratulations to “DR” – Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson
She thanks Stephanie for leadership in WNCA office and
Meghan for everything she has taught us in technology
Thanks to Hebron UCC for a check of $15,000 last year from the sale of property
Also thanks to Men’s Fellowship of WNCA for a check of $1,855.22 sent in this year

"On behalf of the WNCA Board of Directors and your elected officers, I bring you greetings as we gather for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Yes it has been a changing year for all of us. Who would have thought we would have had to make such a huge life adjustment due to the onset of Covid 19. Along with the health pandemic of Covid 19, we have had to adjust to the wealth pandemic which has affected our families due to loss of jobs and income or in some cases short term layoffs. The education pandemic where our children are having to adjust to online education, adults are adjusting to working from home and our pastors are having to minister to their members virtually or from the parking lot. And with all of this we are having to adjust to the pandemic of Racial Injustice. Who would have thought this would be where we would be in just twelve short months, but here we are. It is my belief that by the grace of God, we will come through this better than we were before.

As we gather for this 54th Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, I am pleased to say that we have been blessed to have had great leadership from our Association staff, in the person of our ACM, The Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson and our office manager Stephanie Leichman. Thank you both for a job well done. To you Colleen a special thank you for keeping all of us on task while successfully completing your doctoral studies.

We have been blessed to have received a gift from Hebron UCC in Winston Salem, NC in the amount of $15,000. We also received a gift from the Men’s fellowship of WNCA. We have been blessed to have been able to support one of our own as she enters the Doctoral program at CTS this fall.
Before the pandemic, we were able to host our annual Education Forum in March which focused on the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supporting and Engaged) Mental Health Network on which we will vote at this meeting to become a WISE Association. You will hear more about WISE during this meeting. We are also blessed to have had most of our churches pay their annual dues at or above the recommended amount.

Your Board of Directors officers and staff have worked tirelessly on your behalf, and for me it has been a labor of love. Working virtually and by conference calls we got the work done. We joined with directors from the other associations to plan and carry out this meeting. It has not been easy but we are here.

As your President, I want to say this has been a stressful year and a challenging one but we stayed together and worked together to get the job done. And for that, I want to thank you. It has been my pleasure to work along side of you this past year and I look forward to our continued success in 2021. We will do bigger and better things on behalf of the churches and members of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

I am excited about where we are as an association and the direction we are going. I want you to know that the task ahead is great but with the help of God and His unwavering Grace and your continued support we will continue to be a strong, healthy association in every way.

May God continue to Bless us and be pleased with our work.”

Brenda Dalton James
President WNCA

Report from ACM

Rev. Dr. Samson states it has been almost 3 years since her installation as ACM of WNCA.

She has gotten to know many of us better, has open communication. Her goals are to develop and nurture leaders. It is not easy to serve as a member of the BOD or the COM. We have high expectations. She is proud of our Board of Directors for writing the Resolution and Covenant for WISE. They had a sub-committee approve, then took it to the Board of Directors- approved; and now asking for your approval today. Covid makes WISE even more important. Our board members found the resources, they found a way.

COM also has 3 sub-committees: Congregational Care; Clergy Care & MID. They try to reach out to our churches and clergy. The work of the COM often gets held up in churches in conflict and so hopefully this year we can keep in touch in a more significant way.
Rev. Dr. Samson says she could not be prouder of our clergy. She gives thanks for your work. This year has not been easy. She asks God to bless each of your ministries, and each of your congregations.

"Greetings of Grace and Peace in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I thank God for each clergyperson and layperson in the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) of the Southern Conference (SOC), United Church of Christ (UCC). The faithfulness and dedication of each person does not go unnoticed. It is by the grace of God and excellent teamwork that we are able to accomplish substantial ministry at the association level during a pandemic. To write that this year has been a challenge is to state the obvious. Without gifted and talented clergy and laypersons, our churches would seriously suffer. The amount of technological learning that has occurred and been applied during the past several months has brought us to a level that we have not seen before in the association or conference. You have accomplished so much in a short period of time, while continuing to care for one another and the communities around you. Your hard work, sleepless nights, reading of many emails, and faithful service to the ministry of Jesus Christ has brought us to this point. Some things may never return to the way they were. We have learned to function in a different atmosphere. Our world has changed.

The ministerial work of the WNCA continues to move forward. The WNCA Board of Directors (BOD) and the Committee on Ministry (COM) shine a bright light on those issues they believe need attention in both the association and the conference. The BOD divided the responsibilities of developing a plan for the WNCA to become the first association in the UCC to declare themselves Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaging (WISE) to those with mental challenges. By undertaking this initiative the BOD realizes that many people suffer unnoticed in our association with mental challenges. The BOD will oversee the WISE initiative and enable our churches to engage with the tools they need to serve those with mental challenges in their congregations. The BOD also took this season to revise our WNCA Constitution and Bylaws. The revisions bring before the body language and governance changes to keep up with changing times.

The WNCA Committee on Ministry (COM) has effectively implemented the recommended changes brought forth in the new Manual on Ministry. God is good to bring highly qualified and faithful ministerial candidates to WNCA. The COM, competently co-chaired by Rev. Jim Luck and Rev. Tamara Franks, is committed to having fully vetted candidates. The committee is divided into three sub-groups focusing on Members-in-Discernment, Congregational Care, and Clergy Care. As time permits, the COM works in these three areas to fine tune processes in the system.

The most intensive work of the COM is during church conflict and fitness reviews for ministers.
These two areas are difficult, time consuming, and stressful. The WNCA COM is willing to persistently and patiently work through hard situations looking forward to the best outcome.

The pandemic has presented a challenge for authorized ministers, churches and the association as a whole. Our meetings take place through zoom; clergy check-ins, ordinances, ecclesiastical councils, installation, and search and call have all moved to virtual meetings. As your Associate Conference Minister, I work virtually. Stephanie Leichman, the WNCA registrar and administrative assistant, works in the WNCA office when needed and virtually otherwise. This presents challenges at times, but we are always up to the task! Stephanie helps me a lot, and is greatly appreciated.

The relationship between the WNCA and the SOC experienced a disconnect. Because working together is important for both the association and the conference, it is necessary to give attention to issues on which we do not agree. The executive committee of the SOC Board of Directors met with the WNCA BOD to discuss several matters. Since that time there have been staff meetings and a staff retreat. This is a work in progress, and the WNCA BOD is aware and attentive to the concerns they brought forward.

A strength of the WNCA churches is their commitment to be in covenant with the association.

Thank you for your willingness to have congregation members serve within the WNCA.

Thank you for financially supporting the association, and thank you for your openness to serve in ministry with me as your Associate Conference Minister. We are moving in the right direction.

I am honored and blessed to serve with wonderful clergy and laypersons. Your support and our ministry together means our plumb line with God and each other is on track. I take my responsibilities as part of the Southern Conference staff seriously; always trying to do my best. Sometimes I fall short. Your grace is needed. Conference work is my calling. I am sure of that. It is only with God's help and guidance that my calling is accomplished. Fortunately, God does not call in isolation. God has called us together for this time and this place. May God bless our association and conference ministries.

Serving with you in Christ's name;

Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson
Associate Conference Minister, Western North Carolina Association

Greetings from Yvette Winn - Chair of UCC BOD at the UCC National Setting

Also member of Holy Covenant-UCC Charlotte
She spoke with Rev. John Dorheur this morning,
he sends greetings as he is preparing for General Synod upcoming works
Report from the Treasurer/ Vote on 2021 Budget

Joni Yoder - WNCA BOD Treasurer and member of Parkway UCC- Winston Salem

spoke on financials. Member dues are the main source of income for WNCA. As of this week, we are over target for 2020, some of our churches have been sending in extra dues and contributions.

Motion was made and seconded to Approve the Treasurers Report as reported
84% Approved, 16% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

Motion was made and seconded to Approve the Acceptance of Proposed Budget for 2021
85% Approved, 15% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

NOTE: All votes are actually 100% approved, None opposed; the Non-Voting Delegates are taking up the remaining percentage

Standing Committee Reports

Nominating Committee
Rev. Dale Kennedy speaks on behalf of Rev. David Crook, and Ray Costello
Presents Slate of Nominees for 2020-2021 for BOD & COM
Vote on Acceptance of Report from Nominating Committee as presented
Rev. Kennedy moves to re-elect candidates,
Brenda Kennedy asks if any nominations from the floor

Motion was accepted with corrections of mentioned, to approve re-election of candidates
Nominating Committee Report
85% Approved, 13% Not Voting Delegates, 2% Opposed

Committee On Ministry including recognition
Paul Davis presents COM Stat Report
COM has been meeting via Zoom since pandemic
Congratulations to those ministers celebrating Anniversaries

Motion was made and seconded Accept the COM Stat Report as presented
84% Approved, 16% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed
New Business

Discussion regarding revisions to WNCA Constitution and Bylaws
John Hobbs brings report of revisions on Constitution and Bylaws
John Hobbs goes through revisions, after going through all, then questions will be
brought up and vote on entire document all at same time.
Hopes everyone has had a chance to download and review.
Notes the RED are updates /cosmetic changes to By-Laws that were amended in 2015
To be reflective of current times.
Discussion was held surrounding each and every change in red

Vote on amendments to WNCA Constitution and Bylaws
Motion was moved to Accept the WNCA Constitution and Bylaws as amended
82% Approved, 13% Not Voting Delegates, 5% Opposed
through so many times to make these updates

Discussion and Vote on WISE Covenant and Resolution
Joni – BOD introduced the WISE Resolution
introduce Covenant-
Motion was moved to Accept the WISE Resolution & Covenant- as written
84% Approved, 16% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

Vote to forward WISE Resolution and Covenant to National Office of WISE

Motion was moved to Forward the WISE Resolution & Covenant to National office
84% Approved, 16% Not Voting Delegates, None Opposed

Election of Officers and BOD
Move was made and seconded to accept officers of BOD
Rev. Samson expresses thanks to all those going off the Board and Committee.
Thank you for your faithfulness and hard work. It has been a pleasure to work with you,
and you will be put on a call list to fill future spots as needed.

Installation Ceremony
Installation of new incoming members using symbolic oil

Thanks to All:
Pres. James offers thanks to all who joined, all speakers, presenters, Parliamentarian,
Meghan – Tech support; Curly Co-Chair support team member, Stephanie serving as
secretary today and to ACM Rev. Dr. Samson. ALL for being in attendance.

Benediction - Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson closed with prayer
On behalf of the WNCA Board of Directors and your elected officers, I bring you greetings as we gather for the 2021 Annual meeting. It has continued to be a challenging year for all of us. Who would have thought we would have had to make such a huge life adjustment due to the spike in the number of COVID cases. Along with the health pandemic of Covid 19, we have had to adjust to the wealth pandemic which has affected our families due to loss of jobs and income or in some cases short term lay offs. The education pandemic where our children are having to adjust the constant change from virtual learning and in person learning, adults are continuing to adjust to working from home and our pastors are still having to adjust to in person worship or virtual worship or worship from the parking lot and many combinations of style. And with all of this, we are still having to adjust to the pandemic of Racial Injustice. Who would have thought this situation would still be with us after nineteen months?

As we gather for this 54th Annual meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, I am pleased to say that we have been blessed to have had great leadership from our Association staff, in the person of our interim ACM The Rev. Dr. Warren Casiday and our office manager Stephanie Leichman. Thank you both for a job well done. To you Warren, a special thank you for stepping in and keeping all of us on task. To you Stephanie, thank you for holding down the forte and keeping everything running smooth and efficient. In March we were able to host our annual Education Forum virtually which focused on the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supporting
and Engaged) Mental Health Network which we voted on last year and are now a WISE Association. We also have worked with the conference to become a WISE Conference. We are also blessed to have had all of our churches pay their annual dues at or above the recommended amount for the second year in a row. God is really doing a great thing in our association.

Your Board of Directors, officers and staff have worked tirelessly on your behalf and for me it has been a labor of love. Working virtually and by conference calls, we got the work done. We joined with directors from the conference and the other associations to plan and carry out this meeting. It has not been easy but we are here for the second year. I want to personally thank the Rev. Meghan Young for the tech support she has provided to enabled us to have events during this time of change. Her help has been invaluable.

As your President, I want to say this has been an exciting year and a challenging one but we stayed together and worked together to get the job done. And for that I want to thank you. During this meeting, it will be my pleasure to welcome our newest congregation to the Western North Carolina Association I know the Directors, Ministers and lay members will welcome them with open arms. It has been my pleasure to work alongside you this past year and I look forward to your continued success in 2022. I know you will do bigger and better things on behalf of the churches and members of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

I am excited about where we are as an association and and the direction we are going. I want you to know that the task ahead is great but with the help of God and His unwavering Grace and your continued support you will continue to be a strong healthy association in every way. Thank you for your support over the past two years, I will be forever grateful.

May God continue to Bless you and be pleased with your work.

Brenda Dalton James
President WNCA
The Report of the
Interim Associate Conference Minister
of the
Western North Carolina Association
Southern Conference
United Church of Christ

Greeting to all the churches, ministers and laity of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

I must admit, there is nothing quite like being the “new kid on the block.” You come into the job knowing some things, but painfully aware of the fact that you really don’t know what you don’t know.

I thank God for the help and assistance I have received from Dr. Davis, Dr. Myers, Rev. Eddie Weathers, and the WNCA Office Manager, Mrs. Stephanie Leichman. They have graciously answered my questions to them. And they have confirmed what I thought I knew but was uncertain about.

And I am grateful for all that I am learning from each of the churches of the WNCA I’ve been in contact with. I am pleasantly surprised what I have learned from each of the churches I’ve been in contact with the last few months.

One of the great privileges of an Association is bringing a new church into the Association. On August 21, the Board of Directors of the WNCA voted to approve allowing Exodus Church in Hickory to become a member of the WNCA. What a joy it will be to officially welcome them into our Association on Nov. 5, 2021. Their senior pastor is the Rev. Reggie Longcier and their associate is one of our own, the Rev. Susan Smith. Exodus church is very active in social ministries in the Hickory area. Welcome Aboard!

One of the saddest times of an Association is saying our final goodbyes to ministers and friends who have gone on to their heavenly reward. The past few months, the WNCA has said goodbye to Rev. Don Flick, Rev. Jimmy Norred, and Ms. Janelle Bunn. Our hearts are both burdened and joyful at the same time. Sadden because we have lost some dear friends. Joyful because they have now received their eternal reward. We give thanks to God for these faithful servants.
And of course, the WNCA has also said “Goodbye” to many of our friends and church members over the past year. Some due to the tragedy of Covid. Some due to other tragedies. And some to simply having lived long and full lives. We miss all of them in our churches and lives. God’s speed be with your families and churches.

Congratulations to Rev. William Sowers who accepted a call to St. Matthews in Maiden, NC. We are proud for him as he begins a new call in his ministry.

Of course, that leaves another church, Hedrick’s Grove in Lexington, that will be open soon. I’ve met with their Search and Call committee and look forward to working with them to help them find another pastor.

There are currently about 11 churches open in the WNCA. Some of them are very small and some are large enough to afford a fulltime or a pastime pastor. We are praying that each of them will find their next settled pastor soon.

There are so many wonderful things going in the WNCA. God is blessing our churches and ministries despite the troubles of the last year and a half. And we are all looking forward to getting back to worshipping together face-to-face as soon as we can.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I am so grateful to be serving the Southern Conference as the Interim Associate Conference Minister of the Western North Carolina Association.

May the blessing of God be on each of us.

As Tiny Tim observed in A Christ Carol, “God bless us, Every One!”

Shalom!
H. Warren Casiday, D.Min.
# Cash Basis

**Western NC Assoc of the Southern Cont of the UCC**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2020**

## Assets

### Current Assets

- **Checking/Savings**
  - 10000 · Western NC Asso Southm Conf UCC: 28,255.65
  - 10100 · Certificate of Deposit (Cornerstone Fund): 40,704.53

**TOTAL ASSETS**: 68,960.38

## Liabilities & Equity

### Liabilities

- **Current Liabilities**
  - 20000 · Accounts Payable: 0.00

### Restricted Funds

- **2021 · Church Emergency Fund Temp Restricted**
  - no activity
  - Balance at 12-31-20: 2,400.00

- **2022 · Scholarship Funds Temp Restricted**
  - no activity
  - Balance at 12-31-20: 142.54

- **2023 · Mission Funds Temp Restricted**
  - no activity
  - Balance at 12-31-20: 2,907.46

- **2025 · Youth Events Temp Restrc**
  - no activity
  - Balance at 12-31-20: 2,100.00

**Total 2020 · Restricted Funds**: 7,550.00

**Total Liabilities & Restricted Funds**: 7,550.00

### Equity

- **30000 · Opening Balance Equity**: 33,697.95
- **32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets**: 3,580.28
- **Net Income**: 24,132.15

**Total Equity**: 61,410.38

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**: 68,960.38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Actual Jan - Dec 2020</th>
<th>Budget Jan - Dec 2021</th>
<th>Budget Jan - Dec 2022</th>
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<td>47100 · Per Capita Dues</td>
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<td>47200 · Prior Year Per Capita Dues</td>
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<td>47400 · WNCA Annual Meeting Regist/Meal</td>
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<td><strong>Total 50300 · Ministry of Justice &amp; Witness</strong></td>
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<td>Budget Jan - Dec 2021</td>
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<td><strong>Total 50500 · Association Support</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET PROFIT</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,132.15</strong></td>
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Western North Carolina Association Committee on Ministry Report

Oct 15, 2020 to Oct 30, 2021

AUTHORIZED MINISTERIAL STANDING

| ORDAINED | Holy Covenant UCC | Charlotte | Rev. Gregg Walker 12/06/2020 |
| Rev. Ted Wilkinson | Bethany UCC | Winston Salem | 3/14/2021 |

| ORDAINED AS CHAPLAIN | Sanford Medical Center | Fargo, North Dakota | Rev. Joy Johnson 12/01/2020 |
| Rev. Andrea Simmonds | Parkway UCC | Winston Salem | 12/20/2020 |

| INSTALLATIONS | Bethany UCC | Winston Salem | Rev. Ted Wilkinson 3/14/2021 |

| APPROVED FOR ORDINATION PENDING A CALL | New Emanuel UCC | Charlotte | Stephanie Wilson 10/25/2020 |
| Joy Johnson | Holy Covenant UCC | Charlotte | 10/25/2020 |
| Ted Wilkinson | Peace UCC | Greensboro | 11/15/2020 |

| GRANTED DUAL STANDING | Bethany UCC | Claremont | Rev. Kathy Naish 9/16/2021 |

| GRANTED FULL STANDING IN UCC | Trinity UCC | Concord | Rev. Ladale Benson 12/8/2020 |

| MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT | Congregational | Greensboro | Kerri Gibbs 4/25/2017 |
| Christine Hargraves | Congregational | Greensboro | 6/14/2018 |
| Beatrice Franklin | Congregational | Greensboro | 9/19/2019 |
| Kevin Watkins | Corinth | Hickory | 9/17/2020 |
| Michelle Johnson | Parkway UCC | Winston Salem | 11/19/2020 |

| SEEKING PRIVILEGE OF CALL | Southern Baptist / Parkway UCC | pending | Rev. Carol Pennick |


TRANSFER OF STANDING OUT OF WNCA

Rev. Tricia Lylte  Southeast Conference, No Associations  11/19/2020
Rev. Cindy Bovee-Kemper  Southeast Conference, No Associations  11/19/2020
Rev. John Barnett  Florida Conference, No Associations  11/19/2020
Rev. Joy Johnson  Minnesota Conference  2/18/2021

RETIREMENTS

Rev. Dr. Colleen Samson  ACM WNCA  03/13/2021
Rev. Mark Burns  Mt. Zion  China Grove  2/14/2021
Rev. Nancy Seheasted  Circle of Mercy  Asheville  8/29/2021

DEATHS

Rev. Donald Flick  Peace UCC  Hickory  7/24/2021
Rev. Jimmy Norred  New Jerusalem  Lexington  8/19/2021

DEATHS (not previously reported)

Rev. Gail O'Day  Wake Forest University School of Divinity  9/22/2018

CHURCHES TO BE BROUGHT INTO FULL STANDING WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Exodus Missionary Outreach - Hickory  Rev. Susan Smith & Rev. Reggie Longcier

TO BE VOTED ON AT THIS ANNUAL MEETING ON 11/5/2021

YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DATES  (25 & 50 YEARS)

50  Rev. Lucy A. Austin  1971
50  Rev. Christopher P. Burr  6/01/1971
50  Rev. James L. Clark  10/10/1971
50  Rev. Harry D. Griffin  1/20/1971
50  Rev. John F. Gundlach III  6/20/1971
50  Rev. Henry L. McDowell  9/26/1971
50  Rev. Randall Mishoe  5/16/1971
50  Rev. John J. Syster  1971
50  Rev. Thomas Ronald Vaughan  6/01/1971
25  Rev. Dr. Betty Graves  10/27/1996
25  Rev. Robin Keating  11/19/1995

2021 SIGNIFICANT CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES  (Multiples of 25 years)

100  First United Church of Christ  Liberty  1921
125  First United Church of Christ  Salisbury  1896
125  First Congregational UCC  Asheboro  1896
125  Grays Chapel  Statesville  1896
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term Ending</th>
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<tr>
<td>Catawba Program District</td>
<td>Dr. Bruce Carlton</td>
<td>retired veteran @ Corinth Reformed - Hickory</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan Program District</td>
<td>Rev. Cheri Dennis</td>
<td>Interim Pastor @ Holy Covenant – Charlotte</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford / Randolph Program District</td>
<td>Ms. Ernestine Purnell</td>
<td>member @ St. Stephens – Greensboro</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson / Forsyth Program District</td>
<td>Rev. Gary Phaup</td>
<td>pastor @ Zion UCC – Thomasville</td>
<td>2023</td>
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Southern Conference Nominating Committee:

- WNCA Representative for SOC Nominating Committee is Rev. Ed Holloway pastor @ First Congregational - Concord (Rowan District)
### 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rev. Dale Kennedy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ms. Ava Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ms. JoAnn Jellison</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ms. Joni Yoder</td>
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<td>Catawba</td>
<td>Ms. Yolanda Adams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rev. Curly Stumb</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. David Abernethy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davidson/Forsyth</td>
<td>Rev. David Crook</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Rev. Steve Monroe</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Rick Swaim</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guilford/Randolph</td>
<td>Ms. Thelma Copeland</td>
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<td>Rev. Thelma Flowers</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Rev. Gary Owens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Mr. Kenneth Crawford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rev. Ed Holloway</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Ed Vickery</td>
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#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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<td>Mr. Wade &quot;Hamp&quot; Shuford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davidson/Forsyth</td>
<td>Rev. Elizabeth Horton</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Ann Mealor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Nan Parrish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guilford/Randolph</td>
<td>Rev. Paul Davis</td>
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<td>Rev. Renee Griffin</td>
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<td>Ms. Coradene Rutledge</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Rev. Carol Hallman</td>
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<td>Ms. Kristen Andes</td>
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<td>Mr. Henry McQueen</td>
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#### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Catawba</td>
<td>Dr. Bruce Carlton</td>
<td>retired veteran at Corinth Reformed UCC Hickory pastor at Zion UCC Thomasville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davidson/Forsyth</td>
<td>Rev. Gary Phaup</td>
<td>member of St. Stephens UCC in Greensboro Associate Pastor at Holy Covenant UCC Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford/Randolph</td>
<td>Ms. Ernestine Purnell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Rev. Cheri Dennis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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BIOS OF THE 2021 WNCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

Rev. Dale Kennedy
Retired in 2018 after 40 years of pastoral ministry.
Last parish served: Asheboro First Evangelical and Reformed UCC
Service to the wider church: various offices, including Conference delegate to General Synod in 1987 and 2009, Chair of the WNCA Church and Ministry Commission (now the Committee on Ministry), Vice President and President of the Western N.C. Association of the Southern Conference, and Vice President and President of the Southern Conference. Reside in Asheboro, NC. Blessed with a wonderful wife and life partner of 42 years, four children and six grandchildren.

Mr. David Abernethy
Member of Corinth Reformed UCC – Hickory
Member of Catawba County Election Board

Rev. David Crook
Rev. David Crook has been Interim Minister at First United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem, since 2012. He graduated from Yale University Divinity School after serving in the U.S. Army. He has served churches in Virginia and North Carolina. Rev. Crook has been active in Kiwanis for 40 years; a member of various Community Theaters for 40+ years; and served in a network of Biblical storytellers.

Rev. Steve Monroe
Stephen Monroe has served Heidelberg UCC since December, 2018. His previous UCC congregation was in Pfafftown, for 17.5 years. His Masters is from The Houston Graduate School of Theology. His interests in Thomasville include creating a warming shelter for the homeless, facilitating an annual “First Responders Day”, creating a cartoon-based devotional for Advent, writing and delivering a weekly Bible study, facilitating a streaming worship service before it became popular during the Pandemic, sharing regular devotions at Piedmont Crossing, BC, and establishing a recovery group for LGBTQ individuals in the greater community. He is the father of three children and six grandchildren.
In addition to a long career in ministry, Stephen has a background in sales training and business consulting, having spent more than 30 years in Home Building Industry.
Mr. Rick Swaim
Rick Swaim is a member of Zion United Church of Christ in Thomasville, NC, where he recently served as Consistory President. He is a Winston-Salem native, and graduated from Wake Forest University with a degree in Economics. Rick retired from Monroe Hardware, Inc., after 25 years. The last eight he was National Sales Manager.

Ms. Thelma Copeland
Thelma Deneene Smith Copeland has been a member of St. Stephen United Church of Christ and the Sanctuary Choir for 40 years. She is the co-chair of Circle 6 and a member of the Christian Education Committee. She served on the Pastoral Relations Committee and is an Executive Board Member of St. Stephen UCC and a Church Council member. Thelma served as the African American-History Coordinator and Instructor.
Other memberships include: Beta Nu Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Assistant Precinct Chairperson with the Guilford County Democratic Party. She still considers herself a student and willing to learn as much as she can. In her spare time, she enjoys water aerobics, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Women’s Group Book Club, walking and spending time with family and friends. She has been married over 50 years and the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother of four grandchildren.
Education: Norfolk State University BA. In History Ed. ,1970
Southeast Missouri State University: MA in Counseling, 1978

Rev. Ed Holloway
Since 1987, Rev. Holloway has served on just about every committee and board of the Association and Conference. Currently, pastor of First Congregational UCC, Concord and is an African American.

Mr. Ed Vickery
Ed Vickery grew up in a pastor's home and was active in the church in many different capacities. He has taught Bible, speech, drama and music. He has a Masters in Christian Education. When he moved to Charlotte, he found Holy Covenant. He is finishing a three-year term on the Consistory. He also served on the Worship & Music committee, the Nominations Committee, and is chair of the Covenant Groups.
Rev. Kathy Naish  
Pastor at Bethany UCC, Claremont  

"As a follower of Jesus, I first felt the call to congregational ministry when I was a young woman. I am grateful to God that that call led me to Bethany United Church of Christ. I came to the United Church of Christ from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and I have been delighted by both the warm welcome and the shared faith. Prior to serving at Bethany UCC, I served in three other North Carolina congregations, most recently as the pastor of First Christian Church in Lincolnton. I still live in Lincolnton with my husband of 38 years. Tim and I have a "hobby farm" with a big garden and too many chickens. We also have two adult children who live nearby and now have families of their own. Our three granddaughters are our great joy. I love to travel, but don't do it enough. I also love reading and gardening, and sometimes do both too much. I have enjoyed getting to know other UCC ministers and congregations in our Association and I look forward to knowing you better. I value cooperative ministry and we at Bethany hope to share worship and work with other congregations in the coming years."

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Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood  
Dr. Kathy Wood co-pastors Zion Reformed UCC in Lenoir, NC. She will be launching a virtual church sometime in the next few months. She has a passion for Social Justice, particularly with the LGBTQIA and elderly. She has a heart for inclusivity and is involved in many faith and non-faith based discussions in her local area. She serves on the boards of EveryAge (formerly United Church Homes and Services), Catawba Valley Interfaith Council (CVIC), and the Council on Aging with the Long-Term Care Advisory Group. She has also served on the boards of OUTright Youth and Equality NC Foothills Chapter. She has served in ministry most of her life, although not as an ordained minister until recently. Some of her ministry work includes serving as a hospital chaplain, leading services at retirement communities, and as Executive Director for the Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry.  
Rev. Wood is an Academic Program Director for the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, overseeing the master's in health administration and health sciences programs. Her research efforts include the healing nature of spirituality in healthcare. On a personal note, she has four children who are in their 20s and is a certified Holistic Cancer Educator and a certified pickleball coach. She also enjoys tennis and golf.
Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Rev. Elizabeth Horton is Pastor of First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC. She is a graduate of East Carolina and Appalachian State, and was an elementary school counselor in Winston-Salem before entering the ministry. She graduated from Wake Forest Divinity School, and has served First UCC, Winston-Salem, as Interim at Christ UCC, Lexington, stated supply at Bethany UCC, Claremont, and since 2017, as Pastor at First Reformed, Lexington.

Ms. Coradene Rutledge
Member of St. Stephens UCC in Greensboro
Resides in Greensboro

Mr. Wade "Hamp" Shuford
Resides in Conover
September 17, 2021

Peace and Grace to all:

On behalf of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) of the Southern Conference (SOC) of the United Church of Christ (UCC), please accept this letter as your official call to our Annual Meeting. The meeting format will be different this year as it was last year. The meeting will be a joint meeting with Southern Conference and the three associations together on November 5-6, 2021 hosted by the Eastern Virginia Association. Details about registration will be sent by the Southern Conference. For those attending the WNCA annual meeting only, we will send a registration form later.

As we continue to adjust to COVID 19, we will hold our meeting virtually. A virtual set up will be provided. Our meeting will begin on Friday November 5, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. We hope to end by 4:00 P.M.

Registration for our meeting will be handled by the SOC. Please follow the guidelines sent out by the conference.

The WNCA meeting will include a keynote speaker on COVID and it's effect on local churches. The business session includes a vote on the 2022 budget, new board members and new members for the Committee on Ministry. We will also vote on the newest church joining our association, along with other association items.

DELEGATE GUIDELINES FOR WNCA:

Western North Carolina delegates Rules: The voting delegates of the Association shall consist of the ordained, licensed and commissioned clergy, directors of religious Education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of the Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and two lay delegates selected by and representing each local church within the Association.

Your representatives serving on the WNCA Board of Directors thank you for your commitment to our Association and look forward to your presence and participation at our Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dalton James
President, Western North Carolina Association