

July 2022

# BETHEL MESSENGER



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## From the Pastor

Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

### Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister, discussed the State of the Conference.

He started his talk by listing a few of the challenges we have faced due to the Pandemic.

1. Some churches have faced strong disagreements over masks and health safety protocols.
2. Shortage of Pastors.
3. Members have not returned to worship as they have replaced worship with other Sunday morning activities.

He reminded us that we are resilient explorers, courageous Apostles of Christ partnering with the Holy Spirit to create a new path. The church will live on and with a new generation it will take on new dimensions. He wants us to remember:

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Rev. Rigert spent some time discussing Conference activities and missions.

1. Creation Care : The Conference had made a resolution to take action against climate change. They offer grants to churches to make changes for reducing use of natural resources.

2. Mutual Support of Ministries: There have been 90 transitions in ministry in the last 2 years. The Conference staff helps in the Call Process. The Conference offers clergy grants and Communities of Practice.
3. Catalyst Grants are available to churches involved in developing a new ministry/mission.
4. Life Long Learning: The Lay Academy has transformed into the Damascus Project and is a cooperative program with the Minnesota Conference. The fact that is online learning there are participants from all over the country.
5. UCCI- United Church Camps Incorporated: Daycholah (Pilgrim), Moon Beach, and West Bend are the Wisconsin Conference Camps. The last two years without campers has led to a large debt. They are not sure of the way forward, but are considering options for re-creation of UCCI.

A copy of the Annual Report is available in the Narthax. Feel free to take it home and bring it back the next week.

Each year at the Annual Meeting highlights **Organizations supported by the United Church of Christ**. This year we heard from:

1. CHHSM: Council for Health and Human Services: The 431 Health and Social Services agencies have helped 2.8 million people in the last year. They also support Senior Living facilities. In Manitowoc the Valley View Apartments come under the umbrella of CHHSM.

2. Catalyst Program: Grants, up to \$5,000, from the Conference to help churches try new things.
3. Wisconsin Council of Churches: An ecumenical organization with membership of 21 denominations. Their website is: [wchurches.org](http://wchurches.org)
4. Lay Academy that has become the Damascus Project celebrates a 28 year history. A resource for Lay Leaders and now also open to clergy. Courses are now held online and there are participants from across the country.
5. Greetings from our Ministry Partners in **Germany**. They will be meeting June 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. They are also discussing the challenges to congregations, the shape of the church in the future, climate change, job changes, and Ukrainian refugees. They send us greetings and well wishes.
6. United Church Camps Incorporated. Interim Executive Director, Rev. Jim Schleif, spoke about the challenges ahead and the budget concerns. He spoke of building up our communities by going to the sacred spaces. Pilgrim Center has been renamed Daycholah which is the HoChunk name for Green Lake. The land had been a sacred place for the HoChunk people and includes a burial mound. Representatives from the HoChunk UCC Church presented Jim with a plaque celebrating the recognition of the HoChunk History of the Daycholah Center. It was beautifully framed with woodland flowers and embroidery.

This year I attended Trauma Training on Thursday, Boundary Training on Friday morning, and Friday and Saturday of the Annual Meeting. Boundary Training is required every four years for UCC clergy.

Cary Johannes attended the Annual Meeting on Saturday. She attended workshops on WISE. Information about the WISE resolution is available in the Narthex.

Bonnie Ziegler represented Lakeland University for the weekend. Bonnie was able to share information about Lakeland University with many people. Don't forget to ask Bonnie about the opportunity for UCC members to audit a class at Lakeland for \$100. She is working on the Confirmation Event for the fall at Lakeland.



## Policy

At our June Consistory Meeting we discussed our Active Shooter Policy. Here are some of the important points:

1. Call 911.
2. If the children are downstairs in the Sunday School rooms they are to evacuate through the basement door.
3. People in the Sanctuary are to leave out the South Doors. The Consistory will have the deadbolts open, but keep the doors locked from the outside. This allows for members to leave through the doors.
4. A discussion was held about locking the main doors 15 minutes after worship begins, we are able to exit the doors, but no one would be able to enter unnoticed. Please let the Consistory Members know any thoughts you have on locking the doors 15 minutes after worship starts.

We hope that this policy will never be needed, but it is good that we prepare a plan. I had heard the retired FBI Agent who prepared the Active Shooter Procedures after the Sandy Hook Shooting. She emphasizes escaping. If at all possible- escape first.

**Raffle**

Thank you to Carol Roethel for heading up our yearly Fundraising Raffle. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the Raffle. The handmade items are extraordinary. Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets. It is a fun way to raise funds and Carol puts in a great deal of work to make it happen.

**Looking Ahead**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** we will celebrate Communion.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 5<sup>th</sup>** Vacation Bible School The Story of Moses from Crocodile Dock VBS. Communion and VBS Presentation will be August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** The Next Consistory Meeting.

**Raffle Update**

Our church Raffle drawing was held on [Sunday, June 26](#). It was another huge success with ticket sales totaling \$6986.00. Thank you to all who donated prizes again this year and all who bought / sold tickets. It wouldn't be a success without all that you do. Thank you for your continued support of this Bethel UCC fundraiser.

Also thank you to my helpers at the drawing - Bob & Lisa Eckardt, Karen Regan, Hannah Ziegler, Dennis Roethel, and Consistory members Steve Blohm and Jamie Weidemann.

I'm already looking forward to next year!

Carol Roethel

**Consistory Minutes**

**June 7, 2022**

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Randy Henschel, Jamie Weidemann, Mary Johnston, Steve Blohm, Rachel Voss & Pastor Diane Cayemberg.

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.

**Regular Meeting:**

The secretary minutes from May were reviewed. There was a motion (Randy/Steve) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for May. There was a motion (Steve/Randy) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:**

- United Church Men and Women Scholarship Banquet will be held at Our Shepherd UCC in Howard's Grove on October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Vacation Bible School theme for this year will be Crocodile Dock, and the materials will focus on Moses.
- Pastor Diane has completed the Boundary Training online course and has received a certificate of completion. With this certificate of completion, she can now sign up for the in-person session at the Annual Meeting in Green Lake. She will be attending Annual Meeting sessions from Thursday-Saturday.
  - Pastor Diane reviewed the church policy on active shooter on-site. If an active shooter enters the building through the main entrance:
    - Congregation should exit the south doors in front of the church.

- Children should exit the basement doors if Sunday school is in session.

Rural Church 4 Team  
Summer Volleyball Schedule  
All games begin at 6:30pm

### Old/Unfinished Business:

- Meeting schedule: No July meeting. Next meeting will be August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- October's Consistory meeting will be Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Pastor Diane will search for additional New Century Hymnals to purchase, as requested for usage by the PowerPoint team.
- Steve will follow up on getting 1 or 2 more spare organ keys made that will be kept at church.
- Pastor Diane will discuss with the committee the possibility of the raffle drawing on June 26<sup>th</sup> being held outside, weather permitting. Members will then be advised to bring lawn chairs.

### New Business

- Long Range Plan – The consistory reviewed the existing Long-Range Plan and Pastor Diane will contact the committee for discussion and review.
- Kim will contact staff for annual reviews in the upcoming months.

There was a motion (Jamie/Mary) to adjourn at 7:48 pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Voss

June 12, 2022

Immanuel/Bethel @ St. Mark's/St. James  
Bethlehem @ Saron

June 19, 2022

St. Marks/St. James @ Bethlehem  
Saron @ Immanuel/Bethel

June 26, 2022

St. Marks/St. James @ Saron  
Bethlehem @ Immanuel/Bethel

### JULY 3rd - BYE WEEK FOR ALL TEAMS

July 10, 2022

St. Marks/St. James @ Immanuel/Bethel  
Saron @ Bethlehem

July 17, 2022

Bethlehem @ St. Marks/St. James  
Immanuel/Bethel @ Saron

July 24, 2022

Saron @ St. Marks/St. James  
Immanuel/Bethel @ Bethlehem

**Tournament date – Aug 7th, 2022  
at Immanuel at NOON**

**Coaches/captains meeting @ 11:45 a.m.**

