

Southern Association Fall Meeting

Sunday, October 6, 2024 – 3:00pm

Mission Hills United Church of Christ/Zoom

Churches Present (14): Pilgrim, Christian Fellowship, Chula Vista, Corona del Mar, Kensington, Laguna Niguel, La Jolla, La Mesa, Mission Hills, Pioneer Ocean View, Poway, Ramona, UCUC and United Church of the Valley.

Delegates Present: 35

Moderator Bruce Ramet greeted all the attendees, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and was with an opening prayer by the Rev. David Bahr.

Greetings from the Conference: Rev. Rachel Pryor

- Updated that the Conference Board is in transition to be in a Strategic Mode rather than a Conflict Mode.
- The board is developing strategies and has plans to get up full staff.
- Her installation will be on January 11, 2025, at Montebello UCC.
- Provided an update on properties and assets.
- In the process of building great relationships around the Conference and encouraging all to look to the future.

Business Meeting

- A quorum was established with 14 churches and 35 delegates in attendance.
- The minutes from the Association Meeting on March 3, 2024, were approved as distributed, **MSC**.
- Clergy Anniversary Recognition:
 - 15 years – Mauren Gates
 - 20 years – Terry LePage
 - 25 years – Mary Sue Brookshire
 - 35 years – C. Dennis Alger
 - Art Cribbs, Jr.

45 years – Marianna Kirwan
Madison Shockley

50 years – Arch Aitcheson

60 years – Steve Leong

- Ministerial Transfers – Art Cribbs and Ray Jordan, **MSC**
- Moderator's Report – Bruce Ramet
Reported that Dr. Monica Corsaro has been appointed as a new Member-at-Large.
- Covenantal Church on Ministry Report – Rev. Ellis Arnold, Associate Conference Minister – see attached.

The CCOM is comprised of members from all our associations and organized into four specialized teams. The teams attend to all of the formal processes within the UCC that support and nurture candidates, clergy, and congregations that have Standing with the United Church of Christ. You can find all sorts of information on the conference website.

There are two new ecclesial statuses:

Artcel Ruiz (Mission Hills) is a Member of Discernment

Brandon Kertson (Poway) is seeking Privilege of Call

Currently we have 25 who are in the process of discernment towards authorization in the UCC.

Clergy, just a reminder that your continuing education hours will be due when you fill out your Annual Information review in January 2025.

CCOM Team 3 is working to connect with Local Churches and in particular Local Church lay leaders. The goal is to deepen relationships and avenues of support and connection for congregations.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara Barefield – see attached report.

MSC to adopt the proposed 2025 budget as presented.

The Association Offering collected will go to the MID Scholarship fund.

Program: Ecclesiastical Council for Ken Jensen and Barbara Christensen

Papers and information were submitted by email with the call to the meeting. Each one gave an oral presentation defending their papers.

The Southern Association affirms the decision of the Covenanting Committee on Ministry and affirms that **Ken Jensen** is ready for ordination in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ pending receipt of a call, **MSC**.

The Southern Association affirms the decision of the Covenanting Committee on Ministry and affirms that **Barbara Christensen** is ready for ordination and on behalf of the United Church of Christ pending receipt of a call.

Announcements:

1. Barbara Christensen's Ordination will be on February 2, 2025.
2. Today is the last day to register for Family Camp and Apple Pie Sunday next weekend.
3. There was an article in the Union Tribune on the Blessing of the Animals in the Park done by Rev. David Bahr.
4. Community Church of Poway will be hosting a showing of the movie "1946" on October 12.
5. Chula Vista Community Church will be doing a Blessing of the Animals on October 13.
6. Bruce Ramet thanked the Tech team of Mission Hills for everything they did for today's hybrid Zoom meeting.

Closing Prayer was given by Rev. Rachel Pryor.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Patricia Whitacre
Registrar