

Black Hills Association Meeting  
April 30, 2017

The meeting was held at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, Rapid City. Rev. Susan Huffman and Rev. Kathleen Batchelder opened with worship and communion.

A quorum was established with seven out of ten churches represented.

A short report was given by a church representative. Susan Huffman reported for 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational. They are putting a new family bathroom in, it is part of the capital campaign. They are winding down the year in Sunday school and youth group. They are looking ahead to VBS and a fall adventure at Placerville. They are in a second series of exploring religion.

Melinda Williams reported for South Park. They have a community garden. Kerry and Sharla Steever are in charge of "Sparks" on Monday nights. The neighborhood kids come to this. They have pre-school through high school attending. They send the leftover food home with the neighborhood kids. They will be having confirmation on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Their rummage sale will be May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with soup and pie being served.

Paul Nettinga reported for Custer. Rev. Dustin Bartlett has been with them for eight months. They are impressed with him. They have three bible studies, two ladies groups and a men's group. They are going to start a morning bible study this summer. Attendance has improved. Younger families are attending. \$10,000 was raised for a family in need.

John Daum reported for Spearfish. They have had positive changes, younger members, children's sermon, Sunday school, and 13 to 14 new members. They have lost 20 members due to death or moving. They have an average attendance of about 70. They had a Seder service this year.

Del Neumeister reported for Belle Fourche. They had Lenten studies. They have had two baptisms in the last six months. They had a soup supper instead of the Harvest Dinner. Christmas and Easter services were well attended and were sing-alongs. There have been some "hiccups," Pastor Del was called to another

church, but things happened and he did not go. The church is looking at this as an opportunity to renew themselves.

Del Neumeister also reported for St. Onge. They just finished their soup and pie dinner. They have had several baptisms. Easter and Christmas were well attended. They can seat 70 in the sanctuary and had about 50. They put in a new front door. One that is more handicap accessible for motorized wheel chairs. The church is handicap accessible now.

Alan Bishop reported for Hermosa. They are talking about getting a lift or elevator. Attendance has been good.

Jill Kundtz gave a report for Rapid City Regional. It is growing. They are working on an underground parking garage. The Board of Directors voted full confidence for Brett Phillips. May 2 rehab is going to move across the street and down the way.

Dustin Bartlett asked what the Association uses its money for Placerville. Al Schaefer said we have used it to help Ben and Dee Anderson, Placerville and other needs around the Black Hills area. Dustin asked if the money could be used to help the youth go to National Youth Event. He was told to ask closer to time of going.

Bruce Herrboldt moved to pay \$300 to help the Association appointed person to the board of Directors go to conference. Ben Anderson seconded. Motion did not pass. Bruce Herrboldt moved to reimburse the Associations appointed person to the Board of Directors, when going to conference, by having all receipts turned in. Ben Anderson seconded. Motion passed.

Dustin Bartlett moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Jill Kundtz seconded. Passed

Dustin Bartlett moved to approve the minutes. Ben Anderson seconded. Passed

Al Schaefer gave the financial report. There is \$6,630.81 in the checking account. Del Neumeister moved to accept the financial report. Ben Anderson seconded. Passed

Alan Bishop gave the Conference report. Continued prayers were asked for Kristi McLaughlin and Walt Geiszler.

The New Joy Church in Sioux Falls has closed.

LeRoy Bobtail Bear has concluded his ministry at Green Grass. Louie Blue Coat is now serving as pastor at Green Grass and Virgin Creek/LaPlant.

The first quarter of 2017 there were 16 churches in transition. Now there are 10 churches in transition.

Plans are going well for Conference in Brookings June 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. The Placerville Praise Band will be in the opening worship and Rev. Chris Davies will be the keynote speaker. Please get registered for the Annual Meeting.

General Synod will be in Baltimore June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. If interested in the resolutions go to <http://synod.uccpages.org/>. One new aspect of Synod will be the South Dakota Delegates will be caucusing with the delegates from Nebraska and Iowa.

The Tri-Conference Executive Committee has changed their name to Tri-Conference Board. They have been working on incorporation, a budget and an Executive Conference Minister position description for the Search Committee. Dustin Bartlett, Mary Edelen and Lorah Houser-Jankord serve on the Board from South Dakota.

The Executive Conference Minister Search Committee has developed a profile of the three Conferences. The position has been posted and profiles are being received. The deadline for profiles is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Then they hope to start interviews in May. They hope to have a final candidate in the summer. The candidate will then be presented to the Boards of Directors of all three conferences, then to Special Conference meetings in all three conferences in the fall. Alexander Haines, Louie Blue Coat and Jean Morrow serve on the Search Committee.

Instead of an Emerging Ministries Summit we will be having a Special Conference Meeting. Going on at this meeting will be electing the Executive Conference Minister Candidate to serve as Conference Minister of South Dakota and approving a 2018 Conference Budget.

Melinda Williams gave the Board of Directors report. They just met and had a speaker talk about working through changes. The board of Directors will need to take on some tasks done by the Conference office. Gordon Rankin, our Conference Minister, has applied to be the Tri-Conference minister. Carmen will be retiring in January. Karen will still be part of the Tri-Conference. Conference in 2018 may be moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May. The 2018 Conference will be in Yankton. Sacred conversations are on hold, they are in need of new funding. Boundary training will be held in the fall. The Conference has a new logo. Dow Rummel is expanding. Prayer support is asked for the Keystone Pipeline. The pipeline will run through Bridger. Change to Authorized Ministries is being talked about. At the National level South Dakota will have three representatives.

Del Neumeister gave the Committee on Ministry report. There is a new church profile. Three of the questions are: Who are we? Who are our neighbors? Who are we being call to be? There are some churches in transition.

Dee Anderson gave the Communication report. Send her your information and she will post it on the web page. If you look at the web page you will find information about conference and other things.

Dustin Bartlett gave a Placerville report. They are ahead \$10,000 from the camps held last year. This year marks Kerry's 20<sup>th</sup> year of being at Placerville.

Melinda Williams gave the Conference Deacons report. Melinda has preached in Keystone. The Conference Deacons are on hold because of the Tri-Conference needing attention.

Ben Anderson reported that First Congregational UCC in Rapid City received a \$12,000 Genesis Grant (in conjunction with Break Through Inc) from the UCC home office for disability education. He ( through First Congregational and Break Through) will use this money to visit churches in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. Ben needs to put together a booklet on the topic of disabilities. His web page is <http://bendanderson.com/> and his e-mail is [by@bendanderson.com](mailto:by@bendanderson.com).

Old Business: 1<sup>st</sup> Interstate bank has branches in other towns and no fee for the checking account. Dee Anderson moved to change the Associations bank from Wells Fargo to 1<sup>st</sup> Interstate. Melinda Williams seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: Election of officers. Jill Kundtz is the new moderator. Dee Anderson is the moderator elect. Sue Neumeister is still the registrar. Al Schaefer is still treasurer. Jeri Behringer and Del Neumeister will be the Auditors. The Advisory Board will consist of all officers.

Ray Schatz's memorial service will be at Placerville on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

Ben and Dee Anderson attended The South Dakota Faith and Public Life conference. They said all denominations attended. The theme was, "Love your neighbor, no exceptions."

Melinda Williams said Satyagraha Institute will be held at Placerville August 3<sup>rd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$500. That includes all meals and room.

Jeri Behringer moved to give the offering at the next meeting in October to the Disability task force. Kathleen Batchelder seconded. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be October 1, in Belle Fourche.

The meeting was adjourned and a meal shared by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Neumeister, Registrar