

Black Hills Association Meeting  
April 22, 2018

The meeting was held at Spearfish UCC. Jill Kundtz called the meeting to order.

Rev. Gordon Higgins led worship and communion.

Roll call was taken by each church giving a report on the three most important things that have went on in their church. Seven of the ten churches were represented.

The report for Belle Fourche was given by Del Neumeister. There was one confirmand. The lift has been installed and will be paid in full with some memorial dollars and building funds. A new audio/vision system has been installed. Once again, paid in full by memorial dollars and some building funds. There will be a VBS held this year, after years of not having one.

The report for Custer was given by Dustin Bartlett. They held a congregation wide retreat at Placerville, where the congregation drafted a new mission and vision statement. The church council went on a retreat to develop a strategic plan to implement the mission and vision statement. They are raising funds to send youth to the Regional Youth Event and Placerville.

The report for Rapid City First Congregational UCC was given by Dee Anderson. Becky Fleming has been approved as a licensed lay minister and has begun serving the congregation with ministries of worship and visitation. Holy Week services were held every day, reaching a significant number of people. They are in the third year of a five year campaign to do improvements to their building. The new family restroom is serving members and guests alike. Their partnership with Break Through Inc. continues to bring disabilities education to congregations throughout the region.

The report for Hermosa was given by Alan Bishop. They have two confirmands who joined the confirmation group from South Park UCC. They have two young families, with a lot of kids, that have joined them. They have installed a lift and got a "new to them" organ.

The report for South Park UCC was given by Melinda Williams. They will have a rummage sale May 10-12. They have "SPARKS" every Monday night. There are volunteers from the church and neighborhood who make meals for 30-40 multigenerational attendees. VBS day will be at Placerville June 10, this is for all churches in the Black Hills Association. They are going to start the garden project again. They have some chimes, like bells, and have played several times during church.

The report for St. Onge was given by Del Neumeister. They had one confirmand. The soup, pie and sandwich dinner served 157 people and raised over \$2000. Sunrise services were held in 14 degree temps with 30 people attending.

The report for Spearfish UCC was given by Gordon Higgins. They have a security system installed. Cameras are installed at three doors. The Secretary can see all the screens. A door bell has been installed too so communication can take place when the door is locked. They have had an increase in attendance. Eight new members are joining in May.

The report for Rapid City Regional was given by Jill Kundtz. She has been very busy. The staff have been calling for spiritual support for the patients. Family members have also contacted her for assistance in getting pastoral visits from community clergy. It has been very rewarding. The hospital is in the midst of a building program. An Advanced Orthopedic Hospital (AOH) is being built. This hospital will provide surgical services for patients with orthopedic and neurosurgical issues. It is suppose to be opening November of 2018. They are making good progress on the new Emergency Department. When the AOH is done the old rehabilitation Center will be torn down and construction of the Cardiac Clinics building will begin. An Athletic Performance Center will be housed at the AOH. It will have Athletic Trainers, Physical Medicine Physicians and a full training facility, including a track. It will be available for High School and College athletes. Regional Health is seeking licensing for the new hospital early and anticipate utilizing a couple of pods

on the 9th floor as a Specialty Hospital within Rapid City hospital. The rationale is the team will have been built and once the AOH opens, everyone can move there with seamless care.

Del Neumeister moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ben Anderson seconded. Motion approved.

Ben Anderson moved to accept the minutes, Melinda Williams seconded. Minutes approved.

The Financial report was given by Al Schaefer. The cash balance is \$7,179.72.

Committee Reports: Board of Directors report was given by Melinda Williams. They just met in Sioux Falls April 20 and 21. IA, NE and SD were all there. The purpose was for training. They learned about some policies, legal pieces and more. They need to come up with a job description for the B.O.D. The Board is taking on more responsibilities because of the Tri-Conference. The North Sioux City church is no longer a church. They turned their monies over to the conference. The building is being sold. When this happens the profit will be split between the IA and SD conferences. They are the ones who funded it to get started.

The Dakota Association is trying to rent some land for "Simply Smiles." This program would help them grow some food. The land they want has a lien on it. The Board moved to give the Dakota Association a loan to pay off the lien. Bob Frieberg will be celebrated at the annual conference for all his work for the Conference.

Dustin Bartlett reported on the Tri-Conference. The Search committee is in place for the four associate conference ministers. Del Neumeister, Linda Sue Weidenbach, and Tim Fugman are on the committee from South Dakota.

Del Neumeister gave the report on the Committee on Ministry. They last met in Sioux Falls on April 20 and 21. The Manual on Ministry is being re-written. They expect it to be finished in September. They learned that the 1st amendment, separation of church and state, protects the church. The path to ministry is changing. A person can be licensed to the local church but if they would move around from church to church they could be ordained. If anyone would like to look at the Manual on Ministry it is all on line, make sure you see the 2017-2018 edition. There are vacancies at Yankton, Centerville/Beresford, Wessington Springs/Templeton, Aberdeen, Estelline, and Columbia. The Parkston UCC voted to leave the UCC. Scotland is having a meeting to do the same.

Dee Anderson gave the communications report. There is the web site to get info from. The E-news comes from the Tri-conference now. If you want something posted on the site, please send it to her.

Kerry Steever gave the Placerville report. The Fall youth event went very well. There were 100 kids there. They had a good year at camp. Kerry says "Thank You" to all the churches who use the camp. There will be a VBS day, all Black Hills Association churches are invited. Kerry's friend gave a donation to Placerville. Kerry is remodeling the women's bathrooms with the money. Early bird registrations for camp are due May 1. May 11-13 is work camp. They will be replacing the rails on the bridge plus other things. Fundraising for the new lodge is at a standstill. They are looking at other options but it is likely the money raised will be used for other projects. 2020 is the 100th anniversary of Placerville. They are already working with the Forest Service to get a new lease. Conference will be held at Placerville in 2020, that is also the 150th anniversary of the South Dakota conference.

Ben Anderson gave the report on the Genesis Grant. It is almost done. The first phase will be done in August. The second phase has been submitted. Should hear about it in a month. Ben was in Iowa last week. He will be doing a class at the Indian University at Crazy Horse. He will also be preaching in Nebraska.

No Old Business

New Business: Melinda Williams will be doing a lunch to raise money for the Satyagraha Institute on April 29 at South Park Church. People from all over the world come to the camp held at Placerville. They do conflict resolution etc. If anyone out there has a heart for Justice issues, please come to the camp.

Dustin Bartlett talked about the Regional Youth Event. They want to register the delegation at Association level, this will help with the chaperone situation. If any youth, 6th grade and up, wants to go, get in touch with Dustin soon. The cost is \$325 per student and chaperone. This money is only after they are there. Transportation costs are still needed. There is money that will be divided among the people going that will make the cost a little less than stated. They have a FB page and a web site ---- RYE2018.org.

Dustin Bartlett moved to give Melinda Williams \$317.40 to pay for going to conference as our Board of Directors member. John Daum seconded. Motion approved.

Election of Officers: Alan Bishop resigned his position on the Committee on Ministry. Jill Kundtz will be moderator, Dee Anderson is moderator elect, Del Neumeister will be on the Committee on Ministry, Melinda Williams will be on the Board of Directors, Jeri Behringer and Del Neumeister will be the Auditors. Melinda Williams moved to accept the nominations as presented. Gordon Higgins seconded. Motion passed.

We will not designate the offering for the October meeting ahead of time.

Melinda Williams made a motion to focus on a visioning session to determine why we exist and how we move forward at our fall meeting. Mitch Berhringer seconded. Motion passed. Dustin Bartlett will lead the meeting.

The next meeting will be October 14 at Placerville.

An offering was taken for the RYE, \$240 was collected.

Melinda Williams closed us in prayer. An exceptional meal was served and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Neumeister, Registrar