

Black Hills Association Minutes  
October 9, 2016

The meeting was held at the St. Onge United Church of Christ. Rev. Del Neumeister opened with worship and communion.

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

Ben D. Anderson moved to approve the agenda.

John Daum moved to accept the minutes from April 24, 2016. Jill Kundtz seconded. Motion passed.

Al Schaefer gave the financial report. He said he will soon be sending out notices for dues that are due this fall. There is \$5,193.79 in the bank account. Del Neumeister moved to accept the Financial Report, Ben D. Anderson seconded. Motion passed.

Church representatives gave a short report on what is happening in their church. Del Neumeister reported for St. Onge. They have had good attendance, and new people coming. They are the best church in town (the only one). They will have a soup and pie lunch next spring, no date has been set yet.

Gordon Higgins reported for Spearfish. He has been there for four years. They have had 23 new members since last October. They had 17 people at their fun day held at Placerville. They are doing a new directory and they have two levels of Sunday school.

Del Neumeister reported for Belle Fourche. They hosted conference in June, it went very well. They celebrated their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They did a new directory. They will have a soup and sandwich supper on November 12<sup>th</sup>. They had a picnic at Placerville with St. Onge.

Al Schaefer reported for South Park. They did not have a rummage sale this year. They will have their turkey dinner on November 12 starting at 4:00 to 6:30. Kerry and Sharla Steever are leading a kids group called "Sparks" on Monday nights. They are joining with 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational to do some things, such as going to Placerville and having a Native American Elder talk to them on Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mitch Behringer reported for 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational. The Woodchuck program is still going strong. They have a Spirituality group and a book study group. Jill Kundtz is developing a study on the End of Life issues.

Jill Kundtz gave the report for Rapid City Regional Hospital. They are under new leadership which makes everyone a little nervous. There is a building project going on. They had less patients this year during the Rally.

Gay Darrow reported for Edgemont. Pastor Tom is now a chaplain at the VA Hospital. They have a new pastor, Kory Ann Learcamp (sorry for any misspelling here). She is full of energy and lives in Hermosa. Vernis Brown and Gay Darrow attended Dustin Bartlett's installation service in Custer.

Alan Bishop gave the report for Hermosa. They are doing well. They will have a soup and pie meal on October 22. They had a Duck Race at the end of August to help with the Backpack program. They raised approximately \$2100. They have 46 kids in the program.

There was no Placerville report.

Jeri Behringer gave the Board of Directors report. The Black Hills Association has three members on the board, Jeri, Melinda Williams, and Dustin Bartlett. They met in Pierre a couple of weeks ago. South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa are talking about creating one administration for all three conferences. South Dakota and Nebraska have already voted to enter into this agreement. Iowa still has to have their meeting and vote. One third of a conference ministers time is spent dealing with the National office. They want to have one person deal with the National office and handle OCWM and money moving through the conferences. Each state would still have their own set of books and do business. There would be four associate conference ministers one in South Dakota, one in Nebraska and two in Iowa. An executive search committee has been formed. A resolution was passed to stand with the Standing Rock Reservation about the Dakota Access Pipeline. Sacred conversations on race will be held at Placerville October 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>. Giving to OCWM has improved but still not meeting the budget. Pierre, Huron and Watertown are searching for pastors. The conference is encouraging us to vote yes on Measure 21 and no on Amendment U. Conference will be held in Brookings next June 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee on Ministry report was given by Del Neumeister. They met in August and will meet again on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Aberdeen, New Joy, Centerville, Springfield, Estelline, and Sioux Falls 1<sup>st</sup> church are also searching for pastors. He helped install Dustin Bartlett in Custer. Michael Carlson will be talking to the C.O.M. at the October meeting about having dual standing. They met with Ben D. Anderson who asked to be a commissioned pastor.

There was no Conference Deacons report.

Communication was reported on by Dee Anderson. She said send things to her and she will put it on the web site.

Old Business: Conference in Belle Fourche went very well. Positive comments have been given. Nothing was known about the National Youth Event.

New Business: Ben D. Anderson moved to close our Wells Fargo account and move the Association business to another bank. Mitch Behringer seconded. Mitch amended the motion

to also say: with the discretion of the treasurer to investigate which bank would work and report back at the spring meeting. Motion passed.

An Ecclesiastical council was held for Ben D. Anderson. The C.O.M. recommended accepting Ben to be commissioned. Ben told his story and answered questions. It was voted to except Ben D. Anderson to be commissioned.

An invitation was given for Ben's installation on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational in Rapid City, lunch to follow.

Jeri Behringer moved to give the offering to Break Through ministries. Jill Kundtz seconded. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational in Rapid City.

Other Business: John Daum asked why churches don't send checks with their delegates to the Association meetings to put in the offering? It was decided to take this back to our churches. Gordon Higgins moved to give the spring offering to Placerville, John Daum seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned and a blessing said for the meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Neumeister, Registrar