

Southern Association Fall Meeting

October 22, 2023 by Zoom

Moderator Rev. Nerice Kaufman greeted all the attendees and opened the meeting at 2:00pm with a prayer and grace.

Greetings from the Conference: Rev. Kris Bergstrom and Rev. Ellis Arnold

- There are a number of churches in transition
- The search for a Conference Minister is ongoing
- Northern, Eastern and Central Church and Ministry committees have combined to form the CCOM
- Virginia Arroyo is away on medical leave
- Kris asked for continual prayers for the Conference and all of the staff

The program for the afternoon was “A Season of Change” given by Rev. Tara Barber from (M.E.S.A. – Ministerial Excellence Support and Authorization)

- Nobody is at their best in this post pandemic world but we keep going.
- Some have sense of isolation
- New season of Reformation
- Stop and attend to the grief that is being felt, be open to what God is doing and what might be new.
- Chat blast – Choose to do one good thing
- Working together makes things possible and we will change the world
- Trust what is around the bend and the season will shift and change
- Don't give up, you are not alone and you matter
- God is Still Speaking

Business Meeting: Rev. Nerice Kaufman, Moderator

- A quorum was established with 17 churches (Alpine, Carlsbad, Christian Fellowship, Chula Vista, Escondido, Irvine, Kensington, La Jolla, La Mesa, Mission Hills, Neighborhood, Pioneer Ocean View, Poway, Ramona, Shepherd of the Hills, UCUC, United Church of the Valley) and 40 delegates in attendance.
- The February 2023 Winter Association meeting minutes were approved, **MSC.**
- Rev. Tim Seery recognized clergy anniversaries starting with 10 years, 15 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years, 45 years, 50 years, 60 years and 70 years for 16 clergy and a total of 525 years of service.
- Moderator Nerice took a poll for future possible meeting options. Result was Sundays are still preferred and continue to have them by Zoom.
- Church and Ministry Chair Tim Seery gave an updated report and review of C&M's business done during the past year.
 - The Ordination for Jude Johnson was on August 5, 2023 and the Installation of Brandon Duran was on September 24, 2023.
 - Section A has reviewed portfolios for 7 MIDs and also formed policies for the MIDs to be aligned with MOM.
 - Section B provided support and accountability to UCC clergy with Standing. The Section also suspended one pastor's standing for failure to complete ministerial standing requirements.
 - The Committee of the Whole reviewed a redacted case study and referred it to the Ethics Committee for Fitness Review.
 - Section C is starting to support all of the local churches and form a long term relationship with them.
- Association Treasurer Ron Kaelberer reviewed the Annual Financial Report, Dedicated Funds Report and the proposed budget for 2024 (see attached).
MSC to increase member dues to \$5.00 instead of \$4.75 that is proposed in the budget.
MSC to approve the 2024 budget as amended with a dues increase to \$5.00.

Announcements

- There was a request for donations to Pilgrim Pines.
- Ramona has received a Lilly grant for a pop-up event for 20 local businesses that combine a spiritual and service experience.
- Rev. Madison Shockley from Carlsbad announced an information seminar will occur on October 26th from Heroes of the Moment.

The Meeting was closed with prayer by Past Moderator Iona Dickinson.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm

Submitted February 26, 2024 by
Patricia Whitacre, Registrar