

Johnson City District Conference
September 18, 2011
Cherokee UMC
Minutes

Welcome and Opening Prayer led by District Superintendent Randy Frye.

Hymn "Rise Up Oh Men of God

Devotion led by Bishop Richard Looney.

Election of Secretary Rev. Joe Manis nominated Betty Barton as secretary. Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Approval of 2010 Minutes There being no changes to the minutes Rev. Garland James made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the Book of Reports. Rev. Ken Lytton seconded. Motion carried.

Recognition of 5 Star Churches Dr. Frye read the names of the churches that achieved Five Star status in 2010, and asked the laity and clergy from those churches to stand. They were congratulated with a round of applause.

Recognition of Churches of Excellence in Evangelism Dr. Frye recognized the churches of Excellence in Evangelism asking the Gold Medal churches to stand. He commented that all the churches listed should be commended for the excellent work done toward evangelism. If we are going to be serious about the Call to Action, then every one of the 66 churches of the district should be listed on this page next year.

Tornado Recovery Dr. Frye reminded the gathering of the Wednesday night in April when tornados ripped through our area. Many of our churches were affected. Members were lost. Since the end of April a lot of good work has been done. He asked Rev. Stephen Burkhart, Johnson City District Disaster Coordinator, to come forward and report on tornado recovery. Rev. Burkhart spoke of individuals and families that are still living in tool sheds, travel trailers, and any other shelter they can find. Funds and volunteers are still needed to assist these people. 100% of the money donated to Aidnet and South Central Community Disaster Relief goes to materials to rebuild homes. We need volunteers – no matter your skills. Even if it is offering a listening ear to give people a chance to tell their story.

Czech Partnership Mr. Sam Barnett reported we have sent nine teams this summer. One team is there today. Two more are going before the end of year. Perhaps the most exciting thing happening is the new English-Speaking UMC in Prague. Mr. Barnett reminded the group of the story in Exodus 17 of Joshua fighting the Amalekites. Moses stood on a hill holding a rod. As long as his arms were raised, Joshua's army was winning. When he became tired and lowered his arms, they began to lose. Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and helped to prop his arms up. Our job is not to be Moses. There are many faithful people in the Czech Republic who need us to stand alongside and support them.

Mr. Barnett shared that he has seen some amazing things this year. When he first went to Vimperk three years ago, the church was meeting in rented space in a hotel with 15 folks. In three years the church has grown to over 50 and the praise band is made up of kids introduced to Christ on the softball field. In Tachov they didn't want us to come this year. Our VBS over the last three years has grown them to the point they have started their own Royal Rangers group. The thing we need to do is get out of pew, walk out the door and serve.

A video about our Czech Partnership was shown, detailing what it means to be In Mission Together, and celebrating the work that has been done this year. The video is available on the District Website.

We then made a Skype video call to Rev. Michelle McKinnon-Young and Mr. Gary Young, who moved to the Czech Republic in June to begin the new English-Speaking United Methodist Church in Prague. Rev. McKinnon-Young shared a little of what they've been doing since they arrived: At Bishop Streiff's request they have been visiting all of the other English-Speaking churches in Prague. Rev. McKinnon-Young has been meeting with pastors of these congregations, and they are making connections with English-speaking people through various groups and venues. Mr. Young is taking courses in Teaching English as a Second Language, which will certify him to teach, opening up even more avenues to meet business people of all nationalities living in Prague. Rev. McKinnon-Young shared that every day they learn of new rooms in the facility that will be available to the church. A team from Pennsylvania arrived today with a gift of paraments for the church. Next month a team will come from Frisco, TX that will spend part of their time working to clear debris from a tunnel that will connect the café and sanctuary area to additional rooms that can be used for ministry. A team from the Johnson City District will come in December to assist with renovations. Dr. Frye asked Rev. Brian Taylor to offer a prayer of blessing on their ministry.

A Wish List was distributed with the Book of Reports of items needed for ministry and expenses that individuals and groups can assist with. It is also posted on the district website. Dr. Frye acknowledged that not every church can become a covenant church, but you may have groups in your church that can adopt a project from this list. Rev. Rick Clowers asked

the question – “How will we get everything there?” Dr. Frye answered that in most cases it would be best to donate the funds so that the items can be purchased there.

The conference then took an offering to benefit the ESUMC Prague. The total offering was \$603.

Election of Officers Dr. Frye directed the body to the slate of officers listed in book of reports, and opened the floor for nominations. There being no further nominations, the body voted to receive report as printed in the Book of Reports and elect these persons.

At the invitation of Dr. Frye, Rev. James Bennington offered a word of prayer for those persons elected.

At-Large Lay Member Election Dr. Frye advised that only laity will be voting, and that we will be electing 11 persons. Bios of the nominees are printed in the Book of Reports. Ballots were distributed, and then Dr. Frye opened the floor for additional nominations. Rev. Brian Taylor nominated Marjorie Wilson (Munsey Memorial). Rev. Ken Lytton nominated Ron McCoy and Jim McLain (both from Boones Creek).

There being no further nominations from the floor, Rev. Ken Lytton moved that we close nominations; Mr. Joe Hommel seconded the motion. Motion carried. The laity were directed to mark their ballots. The results will be reported on the District website and those elected will be notified. Elected were (in order of votes received): Betty Barton (Cherokee), Lynice Broyles (Sulphur Springs), David Frost (Gray), Valerie Moore (Mt. Carmel), Justin Digby (First, Elizabethton), Nancy Hopson (First, Johnson City), Marjorie Wilson (Munsey Memorial), Gary Ihfe (Wesley Memorial), Ron McCoy (Boones Creek), Margaret Wallace (Telford), Mark Cutshall (Telford). Alternates in order of election are: Joe Hommel (Mt. Wesley), Troy Arnold (Telford), Carla McLain (Telford), Hugh Wallace (Telford), Phillip McLain (Telford), Ken Cohen (Greenwood), Julia Cohen (Greenwood), Jim McLain (Boones Creek).

Finance Report Rev. Ken Lytton directed the conference to the proposed 2012 budget. He stated that the Finance Committee has met several times this year to monitor district finances. This committee sends to the District Conference the proposed budget. The total budget remains the same, with some internal adjustments.

Rev. Lon Tobin asked if there are any significant cuts in some areas to make up for increases in others. Rev. Lytton stated that the PAUMCS 2011 Annual Conference line item (\$400) was removed. Church Revitalization was decreased by \$1000.

Rev. Tobin expressed concern that nothing like the Czech Partnership or other missions and outreach was removed from the budget. Dr. Frye advised that the Czech Partnership was removed from the budget two years ago in favor of raising funds through special offerings. Mr. Tommy Vanover called for the question. Rev. Brian Taylor seconded.

Dr. Frye gave Rev. Lytton the opportunity to make any closing remarks regarding the budget. Rev. Lytton stated that the fair share apportionment is very important to fund the budget. When churches cannot pay their apportionment, it is the missions and outreach areas that are hurt.

The 2012 budget, as printed in the Book of Reports and with zero change in bottom line was adopted by voice vote.

Rev. Lytton then presented the proposed Fair Share Apportionment formula as printed in the Book of Reports. He stated that last year we adopted a formula of 1.9% of Line 67 (Undesignated Receipts) from the 2009 Year End Reports to fund the 2011 budget. The Finance Committee found that 1.9% will not fully fund the 2012 budget and proposes a change to 2.05% of line 67. He pointed out that \$175,937 is more than needed to fund the budget. However, we historically have not received more than 90% of the Fair Share Apportionments. If we improve that to 93% in 2012 we will still not be able to fund the budget at 100%.

Mr. Joe Hommel stated that if churches don't have money coming in, they cannot give 100%. Rev. Lytton reiterated that the Fair Share Apportionment is based on undesignated receipts – what each church reports they have received.

The body adopted the apportionment formula and apportionments list in the Book of Reports by voice vote.

Announcements The ETSU Wesley Foundation BBQ and Auction will be held on Saturday, September 24. This is THE significant fundraiser for the Wesley Foundation and all are invited to be a part of this event next Saturday afternoon. On Thursday, September 29 at Sulphur Springs we will have the Senior Adult Fall Rally. Bill Carter will be guest speaker.

District Conference Resolution Dr. Frye directed those present to the District Conference Resolution as printed in the agenda. This resolution gives the District Discipleship Team the authority to make decisions during the year between District Conferences. This resolution was passed by voice vote.

Hymn “Go Make of All Disciples”.

Benediction led by Dr. Frye