

2023 Annual Celebration Minutes

(Draft For Approval at Annual Celebration 2024)

Together: Annual Celebration 2023

Hybrid Meeting | June 15-17, 2023

All events required per-registration no later than June 12, 2023

Condensed Agenda

Thursday June 15, 2023 SESSION ONE: Together We Gather

- 4:30-5:30 Reception
- 5:15 Welcome and Gathering
- 5:30-6:45 Dinner
- 6:45-7:15 Call to Order
- 7:30-8:30 Opening Worship (Rev. Laura Everett Preached)
- 8:30-9 Social Time

Friday June 16, 2023 SESSION TWO: Together we Discern

- 9:00-9:30 Grounding in faith
- 9:30-4:30 Resolutions
 - Eco-Justice
 - Termination of Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott
 - Bylaws

Friday June 16, 2023 SESSION THREE: Together we support

- 4:30-5:30 What we supported in the past year
 - In the Mud: Stories from the field
 - Tributary Grants: Stories from the emerging future
 - CWCOM
 - Anti-Racism

Friday June 16, 2023 SESSION FOUR: Together we Celebrate First Congregational Church

- 6:30-8:00 Dinner/Banquet/Church Trivia

Saturday June 17, 2023 SESSION FIVE: Together we Covenant

- 9:15-10:30 Budget
- 10:30-11:45 Nominations
- 11:45-1:25 Closing Worship

Business Meeting Thursday June 15, 2023 Session One

Meeting Called to Order

Conference Moderator Ken Ingram (hereafter “Ken”) called the 49th Annual Celebration of the Rocky Mountain Conference called the meeting to order at 5:27PM.

Laura Gurney confirmed that we had a Quorum given the threshold is a third of all churches, that is 24 churches and we had 45 churches represented.

Ken explained that the primary purpose of this first session of our annual celebration was to provide an orientation to the meeting. We had 5 items of business to cover during the AC 2023.

Ken introduced Rev. Derek Ritenour as our Parliamentarian.

Rev. Derek Ritenour provided a 15 minute orientation to Robert’s Rules of Order.

Ken introduced the Consent Agenda which was published on 5/12/2023 and includes:

- Standing Rules for the 2023 Annual Meeting (published 4/13/2023, and republished 6/2/2023)
- 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes (published 5/12/2023)
- Grant Voice with Vote to new church starts:
 - Community Spirit UCC, Montrose, CO
 - OMO House, Denver, CO
- Grant Voice without Vote to all guests
- Appointment of Derek Ritenour as Parliamentarian
- Appointment of Mark Dutell as Time Keeper”

Phil Campbell rose in objection to Standing Rule 11.

Motion: (BOD) To accept the Consent Agenda without the Standing Rules.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

The issue of Standing Rule 11 was discussed:

Motion: (Phil Campbell/seconded) To accept the Standing Rules with Rule 11 suspended.

Vote: two thirds majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. FAILED

The issue of Rule 7 was raised and discussed.

Motion: (moved/seconded) To accept the Standing Rules with Rule 7 suspended.

Vote: two thirds majority: In person - raised voting cards; online – poll. PASSED

Nominating Committee Report

Ken invite Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson to speak to the Nominating Committee Report.

After presenting the process the committee used to prepare the slate the floor was opened.

Rev Phil Campbell as Moderator of the MDA nominated Rev Deborah Conrad as the MDA Board Association Rep.

Motion: (Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson/Rev Jenny Boteler) To close nominations.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Ken recessed the meeting at 7:27PM Thursday June 15, 2023

Business Meeting Friday 16, 2023 Session Two

Ken reconvened the meeting at 9:30 AM Friday June 16, 2023.

Resolution 1: Eco-Justice

Ken invited Rev. Logan Bennett to speak to the first resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, hybrid meeting (in person and virtual video conferencing) under the non-profit meeting voting guidelines of the State of Colorado, on Saturday, June, 16, 2023, shall increase the size of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference by one, with that person given a portfolio of awareness and advocacy related to climate justice and eco-justice concerns, providing leadership on the Board about how the RMC UCC can most genuinely “be the church” in this time of great ecological and social justice crises.

In 2023, the nominating committee of the Board of Directors will appoint an individual to fill this position for a one year term. In 2024, delegates will vote on a nominee to a full two-year term (which shall be considered a second term if the same person continues in this role). It is expected that this will be an ongoing role in the Board of Directors.

A discussion followed and an amendment was proposed.

Amendment: (moved/seconded) add the words “knowing that climate change intersects with, complicates, and exacerbates virtually ever other struggle for justice, especially regarding race and class” after “justice and eco-justice concerns” in the first paragraph.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online poll. PASSED

An additional amendment arose.

Amendment: (moved/seconded) add the word “disabilities” to the list of those affected.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Discussion resumed on the amended resolution.

Motion: (BOD) The delegates of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, hybrid meeting (in person and virtual video conferencing) under the non-profit meeting voting guidelines of the State of Colorado, on Saturday, June, 16, 2023, shall increase the size of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference by one, with that person given a portfolio of awareness and advocacy related to climate justice and eco-justice concerns, knowing that climate change intersects with, complicates, and exacerbates virtually ever other struggle for justice, especially regarding race, class, and disabilities, providing leadership on the Board about how the RMC UCC can most genuinely “be the church” in this time of great ecological and social justice crises.

In 2023, the nominating committee of the Board of Directors will appoint an individual to fill this position for a one year term. In 2024, delegates will vote on a nominee to a full two-year term (which shall be considered a second term if the same person continues in this role). It is expected that this will be an ongoing role in the Board of Directors.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Resolution 2: Justice for the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott's Termination

Ken invited Rev. Jenny Witcher to speak to the second resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, hybrid meeting (in person and virtual video conferencing) under the non-profit meeting voting guidelines of the State of Colorado, on Saturday, June, 17, 2023, shall:

apologize to the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott for his unjust termination and confess our complicity in that injustice.

offer the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott our grateful appreciation for the good work he accomplished among us as Associate Conference Minister.

offer the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott re-instatement to his Call to be our Associate Conference Minister, with full back pay and benefits, and reimbursement for any financial loss he incurred as a result of his termination.

instruct the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference, United Church of Christ, that if the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott declines our offer of reinstatement, we will accept his resignation with grateful appreciation for the work he accomplished among us during his ministry with us, and provide him a just severance to include payment of all back pay and benefits from the date of his termination to present, and reimbursement for any financial loss he incurred as a result of his termination. Such severance shall not be subject to a non-disclosure agreement or other requirements or infringements on Rev. Dr. Scott's rights and freedoms.

After a brief introduction an amendment was proposed.

Amendment: (Rev. Jenny Witcher/seconded) To strike the phrase beginning "offer the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott re-instatement" and the phrase "that if the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott declines ... his ministry with us and"

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

An additional amendment arose.

Amendment: (Rev. Jenny Witcher/seconded) To add words "in the total amount of \$68,000" after the phrase "as a result of his termination".

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Discussion resumed on the amended resolution.

Motion: (BOD) The delegates of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, hybrid meeting (in person and virtual video conferencing) under the non-profit meeting voting guidelines of the State of Colorado, on Saturday, June, 17, 2023, shall:

apologize to the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott for his unjust termination and confess our complicity in that injustice.

offer the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott our grateful appreciation for the good work he accomplished among us as Associate Conference Minister.

instruct the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference, United Church of Christ, to provide him a just severance to include payment of all back pay and benefits from the date of his termination to present, and reimbursement for any financial loss he incurred as a result of his termination in the total amount of \$68,000. Such severance shall not be subject to a non-disclosure agreement or other requirements or infringements on Rev. Dr. Scott's rights and freedoms.

Vote: Simple majority: In person – paper ballot; online - eballot. PASSED

RMC Constitution and Bylaws

Ken invited David Bristow as the chair of the Bylaws committee to speak to the proposed changes.

Motion: (BOD) To approve the proposed RMC Constitution and Bylaws changes as published on 5/12/2023 on the RMC AC2023 web page.

Vote: two thirds majority: In person - raised voting cards; online – poll. PASSED

Ken recessed the meeting at 5:27PM Friday June 16, 2023

Business Meeting Saturday June 17, 2023 Session Five

Ken reconvened the meeting at 9:30AM Friday June 16, 2023.

2023-2024 Budget

Ken invited Mark Long to speak to the budget.

After Mark presented the proposed budget and responded to multiple questions discussion ensued. Laura Gurney moved:

We refer the budget to committee, the Committee being the Board, in cooperation with the Finance Committee, and ask the committee present a re-worked budget at a special-called meeting in three (3) months alongside a 1-year plan regarding strategies the Board will employ for the 2024-2025 budget cycle and process. In this interim period, we direct the Conference to continue to pay all regular expenses.

Amendment: (Laura Gurney/seconded) To change the time a special called meeting from three (3) to five (5) months.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Amendment: (Laura Gurney/seconded) added the words “including the one made to Rev. Dr. Scott this weekend” to the end of the amended motion.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Motion: (Laura Gurney/seconded) To refer the budget to committee, the Committee being the Board, in cooperation with the Finance Committee, and ask the committee present a re-worked budget at a special-called meeting in five (5) months alongside a 1-year plan regarding strategies the Board will employ for the 2024-2025 budget cycle and process. In this interim period, we direct the Conference to continue to pay all regular expenses current commitments, including the one made to Rev. Dr. Scott this weekend.

Vote: Simple majority: In person - raised voting cards; online - poll. PASSED

Election of Members

Ken invited Mark Dutell to speak to the election of officers.

Mark Dutell reminded the group of the overview the nominating committee had given Friday night and confirmed the 5 positions requiring elections and the balance of the slate being one affirmation. Some discussion followed.

Motion: (Nominating Committee) Elect a slate of officers from the Nominating Committee Report.

Vote: Simple majority: In person – paper ballot; online – eballot. Results:

Moderator – Rev. Dr. Sarah Linn

Vice Moderator - Mary Ellen Beltracchi

Treasurer - Rev. Kari Collins

Board Lay Leader Liaison - Laura Gurney

New Ministry Mentorship - Eleanor Downey

Worship

The 2023 Annual Celebration closed at 1:32PM June 17, 2023.