

FMC Conference Minutes

November 12, 2011 - Deerhaven Campground

The Conference was called to order at 2:06pm.

Bob Watkins called the youth to come forward. Charlie Brown shared that during the morning activities the youth discussed Mission Initiatives. The youth came forward to show the posters they made – outlines of themselves decorated with the Mission Initiatives.

The Conference sung Hymn 49. The invocation was then given by Don Passeretti.

Bob Watkins presented the FMC Conference Minutes from the October 2010 Fall Conference as printed in the bulletin and gave everyone a moment to read through them. No changes were suggested. The minutes were declared approved as printed.

Bob Watkins discussed the process of presentation of the budget. A draft was first presented at the Leadership Rally in August at Deerhaven. Then a draft budget was emailed to all of the mission center pastors for review. Then the budget is presented to the Conference.

President Steve Veazey brought greetings from World Church. He announced the birth of his new grandson Peyton and brought greetings from Becky Savage and Dave Schaal of the First Presidency. President Veazey expressed his excitement to be here and to share in the ordinations during this conference.

Dennis Miller took the Chair humbly following President Veazey. Dennis read the letter of recommendation received from the First Presidency recommending Bob Watkins as Mission Center President for the coming year. Tom Hentz moved to sustain Bob Watkins. The motion was seconded; the vote carried unanimously.

Dennis Miller read the letter of recommendation from the First Presidency recommending Jane Watkins as Mission Center Financial Officer for the coming year. Diane Miller moved to sustain Jane Watkins. The motion was seconded; the vote carried unanimously.

Dennis Miller shared that Andrea Cooper has been appointed Counselor to the Mission Center President by Bob Watkins, Tom Hentz has been appointed Counselor to the Mission Center Financial Officer by Jane Watkins and Brenda Cummins has been appointed to serve as Missionary Coordinator. Dennis then called for a motion to sustain these three individuals in their appointed roles. Joni Gencarelli moved to sustain all three positions. The motion was seconded; the vote carried unanimously.

Bob Watkins took the Chair and called Tom Hentz, Andrea Cooper and Brenda Cummins to take a chair up front so they could be set apart. Andrea Cooper was then set apart by Bob Watkins and Nanette Dizney. Tom Hentz was set apart by Jane Watkins and Don Passeretti. Brenda Cummins was set apart by Charlie Brown and Linda Booth.

Andrea Cooper took the Chair to present the 2012 Mission Council members selected by Bob Watkins to serve the mission center. The names were presented as printed in the bulletin and the members were asked to stand. John Noble moved to sustain the council members presented for 2012. The motion was seconded; the vote carried unanimously.

Jane Watkins took the Chair to share offertory comments. She showed a video clip called "The Plate" showing how the offering helps fund mission. The offering was collected.

Bob Watkins took the Chair and called for reports. Bob thanked those Counselors and Council Members who served in 2011 and stepped down for others to serve in 2012. The Mission Center President's report was presented as printed in the conference bulletin. The Youth Camping Committee report was submitted by Amy Cleveland and presented as printed in the bulletin. Amy & Dave Cleveland have stepped down from directing Senior High Camp. Betty Yoder and Kathy Turner have stepped down from directorship of Junior Camp. Bob Watkins pledged to include Mission Initiatives and living out Enduring Principles in the camping program so that youth can learn and carry these principles out into their lives. New Members in the mission center were welcomed and presented as printed in the bulletin. Two Cents a Meal recipients for the year 2011 were presented also as printed in the bulletin.

Bob then read a statement printed in the Agenda for the conference. The Conference sang hymn 441.

Nanette Dizney took the Chair and asked the conference to consider the priesthood call of Jan Slauter to the office of High Priest Evangelist. Peter Smith moved to approve the call, the motion was seconded. Jan Slauter spoke to her calling and the importance she feels about her relationships in Florida. She accepts this call with a deep sense of calling and humbleness to help others find a connection with Christ. She thanked everyone for their support. Linda Booth stood to share her testimony of Jan's call to serve as Evangelist. Linda prays daily for those who serve on the Council of Twelve and their spouses and one morning as she was praying she sensed Jan's call. Rick James approached her to present his sense of God's calling to Jan and this confirmed Linda's experience before she presented Jan's call to the First Presidency. Linda also shared her confirmation of Jim Slauter's call to Evangelist. Members of the conference spoke to Jan's call: Diane Miller, Bob Watkins, Andrea Henson, Andrea Cooper, Claribelle Walker, Karen Palko. Nanette Dizney called for a vote and the motion to approve Jan's call to Evangelist carried.

Nanette Dizney than asked the Conference to consider the priesthood call of Debbie Hogan. Tom Hentz moved to approve the call of Debbie Hogan to the office of Elder. The motion was seconded. Debbie Hogan spoke to her sense of calling and how she has felt the Spirit and the support of the mission center as she has been working in New Port Richey. She expressed her acceptance and humility in accepting this call. Bob Watkins spoke in support of Debbie's calling and to her ability to invite and reach out to others and her enthusiasm in pastoring a congregation. The Conference spoke in support of Debbie's call: Linda Booth recognized Debbie's call as a missionary Elder, Sydney Hesterhagen shared her love for Ms. Debbie, Brenda Cummins, Lillian Postlethwait, and Jane Watkins also shared support. Nanette called for a vote to approve the call; the vote carried unanimously.

Jim Slauter's call to Evangelist was presented to the Conference. The call was already approved in Independence. Jim shared his testimony of calling. Twenty-three years ago in this room he accepted the challenge to serve as the leader of the Florida region and was loved and nurtured by the people of Florida. He grew and was blessed again as he served in the ministry of Apostle. His decision to end his

full-time employment with the church was difficult but made with support so that he could help with his grandson Matthew. So he begins a new journey and recognizes the opportunity and the cyclical nature of life. Members of the Conference spoke in support of Jim's call, including Tom Hentz, Brenda Cummins, Claribelle Crawford, Jim Cooper, and Leonard Dantzler. President Steve Veazey shared his understanding of the tug of love of a grandchild. The Council of Twelve and the First Presidency and all Jim's colleagues hold him in high esteem. President Veazey had a strong spiritual experience that Jim was called to evangelist and that the ministry will allow him to continue his apostolic witness. Steve also spoke to the sense of Jan's call and that the call was definitely a partnership calling. Linda Booth reiterated the love and support of all the colleagues in the Council of Twelve and expressed that they are with Jim in spirit as he is ordained.

Bob Watkins took the Chair and expressed his words of support for Jim. Bob shared stories about people that he has been talking with in the mission center who are engaging in sharing the gospel with kids, interested in starting a church plant, or who are getting excited and involved again and otherwise engaging in mission. Bob challenged the conference to respond now.

The Conference sang verse 1 of Hymn 484. Jim Slauter was then ordained to the office of Evangelist by President Steve Veazey and Apostle Linda Booth.

The Conference sang verse 2 of Hymn 484. Jan Slauter was then ordained to the office of Evangelist by Apostle Linda Booth and Evangelist Jim Slauter

The Conference sang verse 3 of Hymn 484. Debbie Hogan was then ordained to the office of Elder by Apostle Linda Booth and High Priest Bob Watkins

The Conference was alerted that Claribelle Crawford was in medical distress and an ambulance was on its way. Ginger Robertson offered a special prayer over Claribelle.

Nanette Dizney took the Chair and called for a motion to consider the 2012 Budget. Steve Robinson so moved, the motion was seconded. Jane Watkins took the Chair to present the Golden Budget Awards. At the end of 2010 the Mission Center gave 41% World Tithes and 59% Local Tithes. The following congregations were closer to 50/50 giving: Ocala (43% World/57% Local), Gainesville (44% World/56% Local), Tallahassee (47% World/53% Local), Deerhaven (51% World/49% Local), and West Palm Beach (51% World/49% Local). Ft. Myers gets the Global Mindset Award in recognition for outstanding giving to World Mission Tithes (61% World/39% Local). Jane thanked the Congregational Financial officers for their service to the finances of the congregations. She also thanked Betty Wood for three years of service as a counselor. Jane thanked Don Passeretti and Bob Beers for their special help during the past year.

This will be the last year we will consider a budget based on membership. Next year the budget will be based on the generosity of congregations. A team will begin visiting congregations as early as next February to present some budget alternatives for congregations to consider. Then congregations will provide input into what they want to give to support the mission center. The new 2013 budget will also reflect the Mission Initiatives. Jane Watkins urged the conference to invite everyone to get involved in this process so the budget can truly reflect the desires of the people.

Jane presented the Affiliated Investment Pool account (AIP) as printed in the bulletin. As of Dec 31st the Congregational Pooled account will be dissolved in keeping with the trend toward generosity-based funding of the mission center budget. The \$18k currently budgeted as a transfer from this account in 2012 is already in the account waiting to be transferred for next year. Any interest gains during the last half of 2011 will be returned to the congregations. The congregations who invested in this pooled account will get their money back in one of three ways: the money will be transferred into your existing individual Pool A account, the money will be used to set up a new congregational Pool A account, or the amount will be returned to the congregation in the form of a check.

Jane Watkins then presented the 2012 proposed congregational assessments as printed in the bulletin. The Conference reviewed the current income that has been received. Congregational support as of 9/30/11 was at 53%, down from the 75% which is expected by the end of September. End of year support is anticipated by congregations that give quarterly or yearly. Increased contributions helped to cover increased expenses at the Leadership Rally. A new line item for the 2012 budget is for the support of the Florida Council of Churches. The Council works to help families, migrant workers, and other marginalized populations in Florida as well as address issues that may be politically fueled. Internet expenses are up slightly as the Mission Center has partnered with the Orlando congregation to provide internet for FMC functions.

The cost for the website has been reduced because we have not used the money budgeted in the past few years to update the website. Discussion ensued in support of updating the website to bring it current and make it useful as a tool for outreach and communication. Ideas were presented that perhaps we could work with a school to have some young adult students create an updated site for a reduced fee. Jane suggested people keep ideas coming to her and if we have people that can take on this project then she will find the money to support it.

Bank charges are up and so the 2012 budget has been increased to reflect this. No further questions were presented about the budget. A vote was called to accept the budget as presented by Jane Watkins. The vote carried.

Bob Watkins took the Chair and called for other business. Denny Miller reminded the Conference of the Deerhaven Workday scheduled for next Saturday, November 19th. Denny stated that even if you are not physically able to do much, we will find a job for you, even if it means just promoting the workday in your congregation!

Linda Booth took the Chair and challenged everyone to pay attention to the Spirit. God is connecting dots and providing information and direction and we just need to pay attention. God is reaching out to people all around you.

The Conference sang hymn 466. The Conference adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Bartlett