

WESTERN NEW YORK AREA CHURCHES IN COVENANT (WNYACIC)



2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Zion UCC, Tonawanda, NY

Sunday, November 2, 2025

12:00pm Register & Reconnect, Lunch & Levity

1:00pm Spiritual Centering

1:30pm WNYACIC Annual Business Meeting

Call to Order- 1:35pm Western Association Meeting (UCC), Dona Roll, moderator

Welcome and Opening Prayer- Land Acknowledgment and Recognition

of Saints for All Saints Day- Carl Harold Bauer-May 31, 2025

Rev. Catherine "Cathy" Rieley-Goddard- August 9, 2025

Rev. Charles Williman- September 18, 2025

Registrar's Report of Attendance and Declaration of Quorum-

Counters: Douglas Charles and Michelle Kemp

- 43 in attendance
- 24 pastors,
- 19 churches
- 39 voting representatives & 3 non-voting representatives
- A quorum was declared

CELEBRATIONS & RECOGNITIONS: Thank you Susan Belair (Conference Assistant Moderator) for attending

Amherst Community Church and Faith Williamsville Nesting- Sharing space; worshipping separately

Kenilworth and St. Stephens Bethlehem working towards being yoked (hymnals available)

Honor and thanks to Rev. Lynn Morgan for his many years of service as the area treasurer and Rev. Ted Brelsford for his many years of service on Community Ministries Committee

PRESENTATIONS: Donnell Gibson from Plymouth Crossroads- Thank us for continued support. Please join the residents on Nov. 9th @ Ismailia Shriners for a Bills watch party fundraiser.

Sarah Bohnstadt-Director of Housing @ United Church (49 Unit Apartment building for seniors)- Also thanked us for continued support

Rev. Hope Schwartz- spoke about getting into "Good Trouble" with her involvement with UCC Clergy Community of Practice and Compassion not Cruelty, a new movement to urge the compassion of Jesus in our national life. October letter writing campaigns, NO kings march, 2 prayer vigils and upcoming Nov. 5th vigil at the Unitarian Universalist church in Buffalo along with a panel of speakers after the vigil that will address the cruel actions of ICE, such as raids that traumatically separate parents and children, masked agents jumping out of unmarked cars to chase people down, and the inhumane conditions at Alligator Alcatraz.

Approval of Minutes- motion to dispense with reading the minutes of the November 9, 2024 Annual Meeting and the May 3, 2025 Spring Meeting and accept

into record- moved Pierre Albrecht-Carrié (Zion); second- Krista Ulrich (Epiphany)
– 38 yay- 0 nay- 0 abstain

New Business

Western Association

- Church and Ministry Committee Annual Report- motion to accept into record -Debbie Grine (Zion) -from a committee, no second needed- 38 yay-0 nay- 0 abstain
- Church and Ministry Committee Nominations and Election- no action needed

WNYACIC

- **Annual Reports-** motion to accept into record Angie Staniszewski (Zion)- second- Kayti Dean-Herbert (St. Matthews)- 38 yay- 0 nay- 0 abstain
- **Nominations and Election-** there are still some open opportunities- most notably we need a treasurer!! Lynn retires this year!!
- **Updated Endowment Fund Plan of Operation** (pages 14-16)- Ruth Snyder explained the changes. Section C (page 15) was the biggest change. A few notes: a.) Dunkirk Conference Center, Inc should be Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center, Inc f.) to support Senior Wishes should be to support Senior Wishes, a ministry of United Church Home Society, Inc. correction on page 14; line 47 his/hertheir should be his/her/their
Vote: Updated Endowment Fund Plan of Operation: Marianne Rathman (Pilgrim/St. Luke) made motion to accept- no second needed, came from a committee 37 yay- 0 nay- 0 abstain
- **Treasurer's Report and 2025-26 Budget Presentation:** Lynn explained three significant changes were the percentage changes in the Endowment disbursements; cost of living increases of 2.5% to the staff; increase of treasurer stipend from \$500 to \$1500
Vote: 2025-26 Budget -Lynn Morgan (treasurer) made the motion that the budget be accepted as presented. No second needed, came from a committee.
38 yay- 0 nay- 0 abstain

Installation of Officers, Department and Committee Members-see
pages 8-9 of Annual Report

Announcements – Pierre Albrecht Carrié- Network of Religious Communities:
please remember that Riefler grant is available for local congregations and religious organizations attempting new and creative community ministries

Gary Gossel- Plymouth Crossroads: Please attend the Bills watch party on November 9th - @ Ismailia Shriners - All proceeds benefit Plymouth Crossroads
- \$40 donation includes 2 drink tickets & food! - Basket Raffle & Prize Drawings!

Adjourn – 2:32 pm Go Bills!

