



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our mission is to embody a covenant of extravagant Christian love
that empowers leaders, congregations, and communities in pursuit of a just world.
Loving Community Building the Future Seeking Justice Equipping Leaders

Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Gathering 2025: “Bold Church: Making a Way Together” Hybrid Meeting (conducted in person at Claremont UCC and via Zoom)

MINUTES

Friday, May 30, 2025

Ashley Hiestand, Conference Moderator, called the meeting to order with the opening of worship.

Welcome, Approval of Agenda, & Introductions

Ashley gave announcements and reported that our registrar, Ms. Virginia Arroyo, confirms a quorum with 149 delegates present in person and 16 online for a total of 165 delegates from 73 churches and the appropriate Associations are represented.

The agenda is approved as listed with no objections.

Parliamentarian Dr. Brad Stone was introduced and thanked for his participation in the meeting.

Heather Branton, Vice-Moderator, welcomed the following ecumenical partners and guests from the national setting of the UCC:

- Matthew Wagner, Vice President for Institutional Relationships with United Church Funds
- Rev. Richie Sanchez, Regional Minister and President of the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Jack Veatch, Director of the Office of Church Relations at Chapman University’s Fish Interfaith Center
- Jess Kim, Managing Director for the Disciples Seminary Foundation
- Zach Wolgemuth and Melissa Reece with Church World Service

Keynote speakers were welcomed:

- Cole Arthur Riley, author, storyteller, and theologian.
- Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
- Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President of Pacific School of Religion

These ecumenical partners, guests, and speakers were granted voice without vote for the meeting with no objections.

The following mission partners and conference-connected ministries who provided exhibits at the meeting were welcomed:

- Inland Abundant Housing, Abundant Housing LA, and Housing California
- The Conference Accessibility Team
- Pilgrim Place
- Pilgrim Pines Camp
- Peppermint Ridge
- Octavia's Bookshelf
- Pacific School of Religion
- Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church

Approval of Minutes

The Standing Rules for Annual Gathering were reviewed, and the process for discussion and voting upon business items was introduced and explained (via voice vote for in person delegates and Zoom poll for online delegates).

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Gathering: Sarah Averette-Phillips

Motion was seconded by: Juan Sanchez

Vote: Approved

Motion to approve the amendments to the by-laws as submitted: Jude Johnson

Motion was seconded by: Don Schenk

Vote: Approved

Nominating Committee Report

The Rev. Sarah Averette-Phillips, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of nominees to be voted on tomorrow (attached below).

Treasurer's Report

Ken Roberts, Conference Treasurer, gave a summary of the 2024 budget report. He explained the proposed 2025 revised budget to be voted on tomorrow. The 2026 Budget was presented. (2025 revised budget and 2026 budget attached below)

State of the Conference

Rachael Pryor, Conference Minister, gave her report. Jude Johnson, Chair of the Board of Directors, gave their report.

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Keynote Presentation

Karen Georgia Thompson offered a keynote address.

Commissioning Synod Delegates

Ms. Cheryl Farrell offered a reflection, and Dave Pomeroy commissioned them.

Motion to approve the slate of nominated officers, board members, and committee members as presented (attached at end of minutes): Nominating Committee

No Second Needed (motion came from a committee)

Vote: Approved

Motion to approve the proposed 2025 Southern California Nevada Conference Budget Revisions (attached at end of minutes): SCNC Board of Directors

No Second Needed (motion came from a committee)

Vote: Approved (with one abstention)

(do you want a note about the questions raised about transparency and Rachael's pay?)

Motion to approve the proposed 2026 Southern California Nevada Conference Budget (attached at end of minutes): SCNC Board of Directors

No Second Needed (motion came from a committee)

Vote: Approved

Installation of Newly Elected Conference Leaders

Rachael Pryor installed our newly elected conference leaders.

Next Annual Gathering: May 29-30, 2026 at First Congregational Church, Los Angeles

Motion to adjourn meeting: Rich Fluechtling

Second: Dave Pomeroy

Vote: Approved

Minutes submitted by,



Chrissy Siva, Secretary
Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ

Slate of Nominations: Annual Gathering 2025		
Board of Directors		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Holgie Choi (S) (P)	Dave Pomeroy (E) (P)	Rev. Ailao and Mrs. Doris Tofaeono (E) (P)
Rich Fluechtling (E) (L)**	Iona Dickinson (S) (P)	Amaiah Adamiak (E) (L)
Rosario Ibarra (C) (P)**	Janie Ito (C) (P)	Robert Gabon (C) (L)
Robin Heckendorf (C) (L)	Michael Schuenemeyer (E) (P)	Patricia Henderson (C) (L)
	Heather Branton (N) (P)*	
Officers		
Moderator Class of 2026 Ashley Hiestand (C) (P)	Chair Class of 2027 Tim Seery (S) (P)	
Vice-Moderator Class of 2026 (confidential until June Board meeting)	Vice-Chair Class of 2027 Wendy Holland (N) (P)	
Secretary Class of 2026 Chrissy Siva (E) (P)	Treasurer Class of 2027 Ken Roberts (C) (L)	
Annual Gathering Planning Team		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Sam Pullen (C)(P)	Aidan Mitchell (E) (L)	Douglas Greer (C) (L)
Kyle Tade (C)(P)	Patty Little (E) (L)	Wendell Miller (C) (P)
		Craig Tyrl (S) (L)
Nominating Committee (Chair: Jude Johnson/E/P)		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Mitchell Young (C) (P)	Petra Malleis-Sternberg (C) (P)	Jeremias Lagahit (C) (P)
Jennifer Strickland (E) (P)	Lee Yates (C) (P)	Bruce Ramet (S) (L)
Team 1: Team for Ministerial Formation and Authorization		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Chris Bobo (C) (L)	Audrey Turner (E) (P)	Jeanne Miller (N) (L)
Jim Euphrat (S) (L)	Chad Tanaka Pack (C) (P)	Jerod Yates (C) (P)
John Forrest Douglas (N) (P)	Sarah Averette-Phillips (E) (P)*	Andy Schwiebert (C) (P)
Lee Tanuvasa (C) (P)		
Team 2: Team for Ministerial Support and Oversight		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Kyle Sears (C) (P)	Dennis Alger (S) (P)	Nancy Bacon (N) (P)**
Don Shenk (C) (P)	Joe Dressler (S) (P)	Mark Weber (S) (P)**
Candance Reynolds (N) (L)	Tameka Love (E) (P)	Tracy Kariya (C) (P)

Team 3: Team for Local Church Support and Accountability		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Tino Cordova (E) (P)	Jason Sisk-Provencio (N) (P)	Sam Tialavea (E) (P)**
Leitu Teofilo (LMS) (S)	Randy Ward (S) (L)	Ken Wyant (S) (P)**
Keslinn Kohfeld-Stout (N)(C)*	Ernie Reyes (P) (E)	Michael Okamura (C) (L)
Team 4: Ethics Team		
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Stephen Boyd (C) (P)	Ronda Holman (C) (L)	Ray Jordan (S) (P)
Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo (C) (P)	Yuki Schwartz (E) (P)	Katy Hyman (C) (P)
		Rita Monteiro (S) (L)
		Keith Osajima (E) (L)
General Synod Delegates		
Class of 2025	Class of 2028	Associate Delegates (2025)
Cheryl Farrell	Tameka Love	Tim Seery
Faren Eng (youth)	Craig Tyrl	Rachael Pryor
Jude Johnson	Anaya Turner (youth)	
Amiah Adamiak	Berneice Kelemete	Youth Chaperone (2025)
Heather Branton	Juan Sanchez	Aquarius Love
	Madison Shockley	
	Jim Burklo	
	Valerie Hubbard (youth)	
(L) Laity (P) Clergy (LMS) Lay Ministerial Standing	(C) Central Geographic Zone (E) Eastern Geographic Zone (N) Northern Geographic Zone (S) Southern Association	*Indicates a vacancy that is being filled **indicates serving a 2nd term

Annual Gathering 2026 Budget Report & Proposal

	January - December 2024		2025			2026
	Actual	Budget	Quarter 1 Actual	Budget	Revised Budget	Proposed Budget
Income						
OCWM Basic Support	\$329,245.24	\$400,000.00	\$80,676.70	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$425,000.00
OCWM Tithe to National (10% of SCNC receipts)	-\$32,924.52	-\$40,000.00	-\$8,067.68	-\$40,000.00	-\$40,000.00	-\$42,500.00
Per Capita OCWM	\$98,510.40	\$115,000.00	\$20,550.00	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$125,000.00
Annual Appeal	\$1,100.00	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Other Contributions to Conference	\$17,953.48	\$5,000.00	\$5,326.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Strengthen The Church (Conference Portion)	\$9,052.58	\$8,000.00	\$152.50	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Total Contributions	\$422,937.18	\$503,000.00	\$98,637.52	\$504,000.00	\$504,000.00	\$536,500.00
Annual Gathering Income & Offerings	\$31,233.97	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
Interest, Rental, Misc Income						
Rental Income (Chino)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Loan Interest (Mowery & Por Gracio)	\$49,567.36	\$71,000.00	\$11,327.10	\$50,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Mortgage Payoff Income					\$800,000.00	
Cornerstone Fund	\$176,930.95			\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
UCF "restricted" fund					\$75,000.00	
UCF Unrestricted Fund						\$100,000.00
Other Interest Income		\$13,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$201,289.17	\$1,000.00	\$113.75	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Total Misc Income	\$427,787.48	\$85,000.00	\$11,440.85	\$152,250.00	\$992,250.00	\$202,250.00
Total Income	\$881,958.63	\$613,000.00	\$110,078.37	\$683,250.00	\$1,523,250.00	\$765,750.00
Expense						
Human Resources						
Conference Ministry: All Ministry Staff	\$238,911.48	\$268,000.00	\$28,684.60	\$268,000.00		
Conference Minister salary basis					\$140,310.00	\$145,000.00
Parsonage value					-\$45,600.00	-\$46,000.00
Associate Conference Minister 1					\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00
Associate Conference Minister 2					\$75,000.00	\$120,000.00
Administrative salaries: all staff	\$124,627.49	\$103,000.00	\$22,704.04	\$103,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$110,000.00
All Benefits	\$128,535.87	\$76,292.00	\$28,933.36	\$132,811.50	\$198,275.50	\$227,752.00
Other Human Resources	\$9,922.52	\$17,000.00	\$849.04	\$22,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
Total Human Resources	\$501,997.36	\$464,292.00	\$81,171.04	\$525,811.50	\$609,985.50	\$695,752.00
Operations						
Contract Services	\$105,148.79	\$41,400.00	\$29,467.02	\$71,000.00	\$81,000.00	\$76,000.00
Programs & Meetings	\$100,400.36	\$73,800.00	\$41,044.05	\$109,800.00	\$122,800.00	\$65,800.00
Office	\$94,761.02	\$102,900.00	\$26,806.36	\$101,740.00	\$96,540.00	\$96,540.00
Ministry Staff Deployment	\$13,450.77	\$0.00	\$7,030.02	\$0.00	\$39,500.00	\$49,500.00
Relocation Expenses	\$9,680.60				\$10,000.00	
Program & Mission Expense	\$151,845.25	\$65,000.00	\$8,249.15	\$65,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00
Property Expense	\$43,278.85	\$0.00	\$10,742.29	\$24,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total Operations	\$518,565.64	\$283,100.00	\$123,338.89	\$371,540.00	\$394,840.00	\$319,840.00
Total Expenses	\$1,020,563.00	\$747,392.00	\$204,509.93	\$897,351.50	\$1,004,825.50	\$1,021,592.00
(Total Income)	\$881,958.63	\$613,000.00	\$110,078.37	\$683,250.00	\$1,523,250.00	\$765,750.00
Net Operating Income	-\$138,604.37	-\$134,392.00	-\$94,431.56	-\$214,101.50	\$518,424.50	-\$255,842.00