

Living Water Association of Ohio NorthEast
(Living Water ONE)
Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 12, 2022
Hybrid Meeting: in-person and via Zoom

1. Welcome and moment of centering led by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay and Rev. Peter Wiley
2. Keynote message from Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, a recording will be posted on the LWA YouTube page
 - a. 5 categories of changing assumptions/paradigm shifts, 3 assumptions going forward
 - i. Expertise
 1. Age of post-modernity, haven't labeled the next age
 2. The next generation doesn't believe in "the expert in the room" paradigm
 3. A sermon/monologue isn't drawing the next generation in, they feel they have something to share about how the word has impacted them through their own life experiences
 4. Our architecture also reinforces the paradigm of the expert
 5. White, male, hetero-normative "experts"
 - ii. Loyalty
 1. Future members came from current members, maintaining family history and loyalty
 2. OCWM = loyalty giving
 3. Mid-20th century - loyalty to institutions changed
 4. What do you have to offer me that is of value at a price I can afford? Is the new paradigm
 5. Our UCC identity means a lot to us but we can't assume that's enough to propagate/evangelize the membership that will be loyal to the institution.
 - iii. Membership
 1. As evangelists, we're looking to grow our membership base
 2. Membership matters. You don't know whether or not people are attached unless they declare membership to the body. Constitutions and bylaws are needed to lay out the qualifications and responsibilities of those members.
 3. Post-moderns aren't going to be members. It's not in their field of thought. It assumes monogamy. I can't be a member of two places and have voting rights. The new paradigm is sampling. May be looking to spiritual guides from many places and are on a seeking journey of the sacred.
 4. Membership isn't always based on geography.

5. Assumptions of where membership is coming from must shift in our post-COVID world
 - iv. Geography
 1. Shifting to the online space transformed engagement. College students, snowbirds, and others from around the world were engaging in different spaces. Many were maintaining connection to their home church without being able to physically be present.
 - v. Architecture
 1. Book: Repitching the Tent by Richard Giles
 2. Difference between a tent and a temple? Mobility
 3. Theology influences architecture
 - a. "This didn't feel right to me"
 4. Temple suggests that God shows up in the place where God dwells, a tent suggests that God goes with us
 5. Example: pulpit suggests expert in the room and the listener cannot share the knowledge they hold, the pew withholds the ability for dialogue and separates you from others in worship, a circle of seats suggest a different theology where you can't tell who is "special" and you can look others in the eyes through a time of discussion
 - b. 3 non-negotiables for post-modern worshippers
 - i. Desirers of authentic encounters with the Sacred
 - ii. An engagement of participants in the community where you gather (mission) using gifts, talents, and treasures to make a difference in the world
 - iii. A genuine articulation of a community of trust, can be in physical and/or virtual spaces, it's a both/and
 - c. Q&A followed
3. Reports were accepted by consensus
 4. Where is the Spirit guiding us next? Nayiri Karjian
 - a. Reminisced on her last 5 years of ministry with the Living Water Association
 - b. 2022: Transformation of NEOSOM into SPIRE Center
 - i. The association's ministry is to resource the local church to aid them in doing good ministry
 - ii. 10 programs this year, 321 registrants, 225 in attendance, represented 45-50 associations (congregations?)
 - c. 2022: COVID, war in Ukraine, "the great resignation"
 - i. Many pastors are retiring early

- ii. Creativity, adaptability, trust, compassion
 - 1. Crisis to Creativity
 - 2. Nostalgia to Adaptability
 - 3. Anxiety to Trust
 - 4. Weariness to Compassion
 - iii. The SPIRE Center will be a resource of opportunities for how to move through these concepts in the coming year
 - iv. Church vitality = church health and well-being
 - 1. Size does not equal vitality
 - 2. There is a page on church health and vitality on the LWA website under the ministries tab.
- d. Bellweather Farm - January 2023, pastor's retreat, sign-up available on LWA website
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejf0p9ooe91ccc3b&llr=k6ugxclab>
- 5. Video shared about partnership with Back Bay Mission
- 6. What is happening in Faith in Action Ministry? Michael A Howard
 - a. Highlighted the work of faith in action happening throughout the association and through partnership with the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church
 - b. June 2022: postcard campaign opposing HB 616 led by a local UCC and UMC church, highlighted the good work of the local church and encourage churches to share their ministries to spread the work across many settings
 - c. Other involvements and events: pilgrimage, Cleveland International Film Festival
 - d. Our Nature series: collaborated with regional resources and churches about creation care
- 7. Video shared about mission partnership with Uplands Village
- 8. A word from Heartland Conference UCC David Long-Higgins
 - a. "We are all midwives of ministry."
 - b. Ministry networks and partnership buttons at the bottom of heartlanducc.org
 - c. Generosity Network: Thursday, November 17 at 4pm on Zoom "Philanthropy Day Event" featuring Rev. John Dorhauer
 - d. Disaster Response Network: hygiene kits in buckets are heading to Florida for recovery from the recent hurricanes, disaster tool trailer is currently in use for recovery from tornados in (Kentucky?)
 - e. Faith Formation Network: curriculum workshop coming soon
 - f. American Camping Association has accredited Tempel Hills
 - g. Weekly newsletter: *Fast Five*

9. Action Items

- a. Affirming congregations who have completed their ministry
 - i. This motion comes from committee and does not require a second. Motion carries and affirms the closure of 89 Hartford UCC of Medina
- b. 2022 Proposed plan for Resourcing the Association's Ministry
 - i. Financial documents from the shared meeting documents were shared and introduced by Rev. David Brown
 - ii. This motion comes from committee and does not require a second. Motion carries and accepts the resourcing plan for 2022 as presented.
- c. Electing new leadership and installing them for their tasks
 - i. This motion comes from committee and does not require a second. Motion carries and accepts the nominating committee recommendations as outlined on the Nominating Committee Report
 - ii. Newly elected persons were duly installed

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fuhrmann
Association Council Secretary