

MINUTES

APCE CORPORATION MEETING

The annual Corporation meeting of the Association of Partners in Christian Education was called to order at 9:00 am CST at the St Louis Union Station Hotel, St Louis, Missouri on Thursday, January 26, 2024. President Kathryn Campbell opened the meeting with prayer. She greeted all participants and shared her reflections on the year with APCE. Kathryn highlighted the partner denominations of the association, including the return of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Covenant Partnership with APCE. She also noted the other groups with whom we have Memoranda of Understanding, various contracted partners and members of the PCUSA Collective. One new partnership that was emphasized was the Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Seminary which was first announced at last year's Corporate Meeting and officially launched last fall.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2023 Corporate Meeting as posted. M/S/C

Kathryn invited Renda Brinson to speak about negotiations to merger with the Christian Educators Network of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Renda shared the progress on negotiations with this group. This merger will bring members of that group into APCE and also allow us to preserve and distribute the resources they have developed over their history.

Kathryn noted that membership in APCE remains strong and urged the membership to think of colleagues and any others who would benefit from participation in APCE and tell them about APCE.

Kathryn outlined the progress that has been made by APCE's Strategic Planning Task Force. Under the leadership of Von Clemons, this group is nearing completion of its work and more information will be coming in the next six months. She urged the membership to pray for this work.

Kathryn also spoke about APCE's ongoing efforts on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and announced the establishment of our new JEDI Advisory Council on the one-year anniversary of the acceptance of the work of APCE's Diversity Task

Force. Plans continue to unfold regarding a book study recommended by the Task Force for all of APCE's leadership.

Kathryn invited moderator Communications and Resources MT Jessie Kuehner to introduce a new and exciting initiative from her team now that it incorporates the mandate of *The Advocate* publication. Jessie described the relaunch of *The Advocate* as a quarterly digital magazine, with the first issue to launch the final day of the Annual Event. She also described other resources that are being developed by the team.

Secretary Gord Brown presented the minutes of the 2023 Corporation Meeting and invited questions. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes without change.

Co-Treasurers Deb De Meester and Jim Monnett presented the financial report with appropriate visuals. They noted three goals for the current year as they have assumed their responsibilities with the new co-treasurer model:

1. To make APCE financially sustainable
2. To create financial reports that are accessible, helpful and clear, and
3. To operate financially as a single body.

Despite beginning the previous fiscal year with a deficit budget, the year ended with a significant surplus of over \$40,000. Five moves led to this blessed turnaround: contracting with two new vendors for financial services and web services; elimination of a staff position, and the efforts of the Annual Events and Endowment MTs to create a profitable event and raise substantial sums of money. According to the established policy of APCE, the surplus is allocated at 50 per cent for future annual events, 40 per cent invested as a reserve fund and 10 per cent to build up the Endowment.

We are part way through the current fiscal year (September 2023-August 2024) with a budget approved by Coordinating Council last spring. It projects revenue of approximately \$414K and expenses of \$427K. This projected deficit, pending the final accounting of the St Louis Annual Event, can easily be covered from reserve funds as necessary. The Treasurers promised to help any one wishing to delve

deeper into these figures as part of their efforts to increase transparency. This promise was reiterated to address a question from the floor on this subject.

Deb closed this portion of the meeting in prayer. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the report.

Proposed Bylaws and Operational Guidelines Changes: Kathryn called Renda to present proposed changes to the APCE By-Laws. These were posted to the APCE App for transparency. Renda presented a slide summarizing the recommended changes on behalf of the Administrative MT. The recommendation of the MT was accepted by voice vote from the floor.

Recognition of Outgoing Members of Leadership Council: Those completing their terms on Leadership Council were named and asked to stand so that they could be thanked. President-Elect-Elect Thom Cunningham was then called forward to present a thank you gift to outgoing Past President Kathryn Campbell in recognition of her service to APCE.

Installation of New Leadership Council Members: Those individuals just beginning their service on ministry teams were asked to stand as they were installed. The installation was completed with vows.

Kathryn called forward incoming President Tori Smit and incoming President Elect Thom Cunningham for their installation to these office. They were installed after the Reformed tradition of vows by the officers and by the people. Kathryn presented Tori with the symbols of office. Tori then shared her history with APCE, and her hopes and prayers for the group going into the next phase of its history.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Tori.

Gord Brown, Secretary