

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

Jottings from Joy

JOTTINGS FROM Joy

*There are no words to tell you how I love you,
There are no words to even make a start,
There are no words worthy of your sacrifice
There are no words and so, Lord, I give my Life.*

These words are not scripture but rather a song written and sung by Don Francisco. They often feed me! I worked on writing this "Jottings" now going on two week and can't seem to come up with any words! Some of the most powerful scriptures are no words:

"Jesus wept" (Luke 19:41 over Jerusalem) or few words "Stand Up" (Matt, 9:5) when he healed the crippled man or "Tis finished" When we have no words, sometimes it means "Be Still and know I am God" There are no words needed or possible! As I spent time with a friend who lost her husband of 45 years. I realize this! When she cries during a love song –there are no words! Or when tears overflow with joy! There are no words! So saying too much already, as we continue our journey together, more often as our relationships grow – I have no words just seep in the moments together and grow deeper in love and appreciation of our times together. I realize the "sacrifices", and the "giving of life" of folks for their families and church family. I realize why there are no words!

Peace and Love,
Joy



Center Brunswick United Methodist Church Flea Market

990 Hoosick Road, Troy, NY 12180

Fri. June 15th & Sat. June 16th

9am to 5pm

Plus, a Bake Sale & Yummy Food!

Vendors Wanted!!! Sell your stuff! – Clothing, toys, tools, household, furniture, and more. Excellent location, high traffic volume!

- ◆ 10x10 Spaces \$25 (Covers both days) - Bring your own table, tent & chairs to make your booth. Set up at 8am.
- ◆ Spaces are limited! Reservations required. Contact Sheila at 518-265-3079 for more information.





Error in Text of Proposed Constitutional Amendments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2018 (Updated May 11 for clarification)

Des Moines, Iowa: The Rev. Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference, announced today that an error was made in the text of a proposed Constitutional amendment as it was presented for voting, and which subsequently failed to pass. Amendment #1 of the five constitutional amendments that were approved by the 2016 General Conference included a sentence which had been removed by the legislative body. The amendment, which failed by a narrow margin, was one of two which did not pass.

Graves, who became secretary on December 1, 2016, said he was made aware of the error today and immediately began to take corrective action. Graves expressed regret that the mistake occurred and said it was simply a matter of human error. "A new ballot is being prepared for voting by annual conferences at their next meeting; however, some conferences will not meet again until 2019," said Graves. The ballot will be to revote amendment #1 only.

The proposed amendments were sent via email to bishops and annual conference secretaries by the former secretary of the General Conference, the Rev. Gere Reist, who also voiced his apologies.

The sentence that should not have been included in the amendment was removed by a vote of 746-56, but was inadvertently included in the version that was distributed. That sentence reads as follows: "The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine."

The text as approved by the General Conference should have read: "As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women's and girl's equality and well-being."

The proposed Constitutional amendment, which would have created a new paragraph focused on gender justice, was approved by 31,304 voters (66.5%), as opposed to 15,753 "no" votes. A two-thirds majority is required for passage. ###

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Church Ratifies 3 Constitutional Amendments

By Heather Hahn May 7, 2018 | CHICAGO (UMNS)

The Council of Bishops now has authority to handle complaints against fellow bishops under a newly ratified amendment to the denomination's constitution.

However, two of the **five possible amendments** — both addressing the equality of women in the church — fell short of the required support from annual conference voters.

Two amendments that contain more explicit rules around bishop and delegate elections did win the necessary vote.

To be ratified, each constitutional amendment first requires at least a two-thirds majority vote at General Conference, which happened in 2016. Then, each must win at least 66.7 percent of the total votes at annual conferences around the world. That voting took place in 2017 and early 2018.

The Council of Bishops **announced the results on May 7**. The bishops canvassed the votes behind closed doors during their meeting April 29-May 4. Bishop Bruce R. Ough, outgoing Council of Bishops president, said he and his colleagues waited to announce the results so they could be released at the same time as **a statement on behalf of the council** and **a pastoral letter from the women bishops**.



Church Ratifies 3 Constitutional Amendments (continued from pg. 2)

The breakdown of each annual conference vote can be viewed [here](#). The order of amendments on the chart corresponds with the order reported in this story.

The three that won ratification take effect immediately. The United Methodist Publishing House **has issued “Errata”** to the Book of Discipline with the new additions in red. The Discipline contains the constitution and other church policies and teachings.

The failure of two amendments dealing with gender equality disappointed many at the Council of Bishops’ meeting.

“While we are not completely clear concerning the motivation that caused them to miss the two-thirds required majority by slim margins, we want to be clear that we are unequivocal in our commitment to the equality of women and their full inclusion in our church,” the council said in a statement.

The bishops added they were recommitting themselves as individuals and as a full council to lead “the church toward the goal which Christ has given us to fully include both men and women in the life and ministry of Christ’s church.”

One of the amendments asserted that men and women are equal in God’s eyes and committed the church to ending discrimination against women and girls. The vote for this amendment was 66.5 percent — 31,304 yes and 15,753 no.

The other would have added gender, ability, age and marital status to the list of characteristics that do not bar people from membership in the church. The United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women submitted the amendment, and it also had the support of United Methodist Women, Discipleship Ministries and the DisAbility Ministries Committee. The vote for this amendment was 61.3 percent — 29,049 yes and 18,317 no.

In a pastoral letter unanimously affirmed by the Council of Bishops, the 32 active and retired women bishops noted that the amendment applied to more than women.

“The women of the Council of Bishops recognize that we have much work to do as leaders to foster inclusion in The United Methodist Church,” their letter said. “At the same time as we lament the devaluation of and discrimination against many groups of people in our world, we renew our commitment as United Methodist women bishops to ensure that all people are treated with respect, compassion and grace and that all doors of opportunity and leadership are open to them.”

BISHOPS’ OTHER ACTIONS

In other actions, the Council of Bishops:

- Elected Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who leads the North Carolina Conference, to deliver the episcopal address at the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis. With a tight schedule to deal with legislation, [the special General Conference in 2019](#) will not include an episcopal address.

- Learned in a report from the bishops’ Immigration Task Force that United Methodists raised slightly less than \$50,000 on Dec. 3 for [Global Migration Advance No. 3022144](#). People can still contribute to the effort. “We know we can do better in terms of our gifts,” said Bishop Minerva Carcaño, chair of the task force and leader of the California-Nevada Conference. “The work will continue for years to come.” She noted that the East Congo Episcopal Area, led by Bishop Gabriel Yemba Unda, was among the contributors to the Dec. 3 collection.

- Joined the top executives of the denomination’s 13 general agencies in singing “Happy Birthday” and enjoying some cake in honor of [The United Methodist Church’s 50th anniversary](#).

Two of the ratified amendments spell out rules that are already in practice in much of the denomination.

An amendment to Paragraph 34 specifies that elections of delegates to General Conference as well as jurisdictional and central conference meetings will include open nominations from the floor at annual conference sessions. The measure also calls for the election of delegates “by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.” Jurisdictions are in the United States, and central conferences are in Africa, Asia and Europe. The vote for this amendment was 90.3 percent — 42,639 yes and 4,578 no.

An amendment to Paragraph 46 states that central conferences are to elect bishops at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference “except where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.” The vote for this amendment was 92.9 percent — 43,770 yes and 3,340 no.

Potentially, the most far-reaching change voters approved relates to how the denomination handles complaints against bishops. The vote for this amendment was 81.2 percent — 38,087 yes and 8,828 no.

Currently, complaints against bishops are handled by the college of bishops within the jurisdictions or central conferences where they are elected.

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Church Ratifies 3 Constitutional Amendments (continued from pg.3)

Under an amendment to Paragraph 50, General Conference can adopt provisions for the Council of Bishops “to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

The Western Pennsylvania Conference submitted the amendment to supersede a 1980 ruling by the denomination’s top court, the Judicial Council. That ruling held that it was unconstitutional for the Council of Bishops to hold its members accountable. While the amendment only enables General Conference to pass legislation, the denomination’s lawmaking body may have done just that in 2016.

The revised **Paragraph 413.3** in the Book of Discipline sets a definitive timeline of 180 days for a college of bishops to resolve or refer a complaint. If that doesn’t happen, the paragraph says the matter moves to the Council of Bishops, which then selects a panel from their number to adjudicate the matter.

If the bishop under complaint is from the U.S., the panel has five bishops — one from each jurisdiction. If the bishop is from Africa, Asia or Europe, the panel has three bishops — one from each continent.

The paragraph also now allows the Council of Bishops — at any time in the complaint process, including after a just resolution — to



Center Brunswick United Methodist Church Strategic Planning Process

Summary to Date: The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee decided to engage in a strategic planning process to determine concerns within the church and a vision and focus for moving forward. As a result, a questionnaire was created, which received very good response from the congregation. The results of that questionnaire were tabulated, categorized and discussed by the SPPRC. Our process facilitator, Rev. Ray Stees then grouped responses question into areas for whole church discussion. We have subsequently had two such discussions; the first being a whole church discussion around the topic of worship. The second was a more formal process, where church volunteers gathered, were grouped and each group addressed either an area of church “in-reach” or outreach. This document is a verbatim compilation of the responses from that session.

The first portion of the church planning process was labeled as “Discovery”. Once we reviewed questionnaire responses, we moved into the “Dreaming” phase that created the following dreams for our church’s future focus. This document will become the resource for the next phase of the process; “Design”, where we will create the means of accomplishing our dreams. The final phase will be the “Delivery” of the programs and projects we have designed; in other words, the fulfillment of our dreams for the church’s future.

At the “Dreaming” session, groups were provided questions and told to create three dreams relating to their questions. Each group’s dreams were transferred to large poster boards that the entire group then ranked according to which they determined to be their highest priority. So as you see each dream listed below, you will note their order, designating the total number of votes that dream received in becoming a focus of the church’s effort. (In other words, the 9 dreams are listed in order of their priority (except that the first four basically tied and so they are listed randomly.)

1. **Become known as Brunswick’s Family Church; advertise what we already do and create family centered events**
2. **Making Visitors Welcome:** Greet and provide visitors with our guest card to sign. Consider having pastor greet visitors. Invite visitors to sit with you. Follow up with invitation for coffee, dinner, a phone call or note. Add a hospitality committee.

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Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

Strategic Planning Process (Continued Page 4)

3. Become known as a community that builds youth faith through action.

- A. Jubilation Station
- B. Youth Advisory Team
- C. Participation in worship and church events
- D. Creation of a Family Room in the sanctuary's anteroom.

Note: Make known that at Center Brunswick our children don't just "sit through church" but are involved, often lead worship and have are a special focus for us. We are not just tolerant, we encourage participation.

4. The church becomes a facilitator for comfort;

- A. Meeting the needs of those at home
- B. Attract elder members with a familiar atmosphere
- C. Serve as a conduit for assistance
- D. Provide transportation for elders and college students
- E. Create a Helping Committee to coordinate those with needs and those who can help

These are the top 4 priority Dreams. The following are Dreams that were identified but received a lower priority ranking.

5. Create Monthly Family Nights, publicizing well ahead

- A. Monthly pot luck suppers
- B. Dessert and coffee and games
- C. Create a committee but have 1 person in charge of each month's pot luck or dessert event.

6. Engage a college student involved in marketing to come up with a plan on how to market our church.

7. Community Ministry

- A. Prayerfully continue what we're doing
- B. Coordinate our ministry efforts with other area churches to expand the scope of our outreach
- C. Share what we're doing in other church newsletters

8. Create a Community garden on land between the parsonage and lower parking lot.

What's Next?

So far, we've engaged in the Discovery and Dreaming phases of our planning process. The next phase is to Design the ways we'll carry out those dreams. Finally, we'll Deliver; through our effort and God's help. The next step is for the church to meet to discuss the designs for our priorities. Please use this list to help you think through how we might go about establishing the items on the list, with special focus on our ability and what resources we would need. Finally, it's clear that God is with us in this process. We have moved from a very frustrated and grieving congregation, to one that is looking forward to what we can become in this part of God's Kingdom. **Please continue to pray!**



Mark Your Calendar

Fall Swiss Steak Supper - Sat., Sept. 22, 2018 4:00 PM ~ 6:00 PM

Adults \$15.00 - Children (5-10) \$6.00 - DINE IN or TAKE OUT - RESERVATION PHONE NUMBER TO FOLLOW

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Sheila Hyde at 518-265-3079
or email at sheilamariehyde1073@gmail.com

Bell Choir Tables

The bell choir purchased new tables last year and the old ones are available if anyone would be interested. There are 8 tables, 30" by 36" each with adjustable legs. Most are in decent shape but only for lighter objects (I would not put a tv on it for example). If anyone is interested in looking at them or taking 1 or more, please contact Kathy Hoffman at khoffman518@gmail.com or 518-424-6753. They are free (but any donation to the bell choir would be greatly appreciated!)

2018 Mabel and Harold Keyes Scholarship Award

Congratulations to Tyler Petersen, a graduating senior from Tamarac High School. Tyler was the recipient of the 2018 Mabel and Harold Keyes Scholarship Award at the Tamarac High School Senior Awards Ceremony on May 17. He was presented a check for \$500 to help with his college education. Tyler plans to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. He will be acknowledged on June 3 during our 9:30 church service. Congratulations Tyler.



The Angel Giving Project

The Angel Giving Project was a great success. Thank you to everyone who gave gifts to Chuck and Jean Rebhun for their new home after losing their home in a devastating fire back in December. Over \$800 in gifts were presented to the Rebhun family as well as a \$250 gift card during the Church Service on May 6.



The Ramp Dedication Ceremony

The Ramp Dedication Ceremony took place after the Church Service on Sunday, May 20, 2018. The congregation was led by Rev Joy in a dedication service, blessing the new ramp. A garden plaque was placed near the ramp saying, "This ramp is dedicated in loving memory of Alpharetta Looney, John Looney, Catherine Grogan and Eileen Stephens." We are thankful for this wonderful gift to our Church.



June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June Birthdays

02 - Bailey Ouimet
 05 - Shawn Eddy
 07 - Natalie Johnson
 10 - Michelle Godfrey
 13 - Marjorie Derrick
 14 - Stacey Fallova
 16 - Leslie Baldwin
 19 - Kyle Eddy
 20 - Gary Conn
 21 - Jim Burden
 21 - Natasha Charron
 22 - Elaine McIntyre
 24 - Dianna Parisi
 26 - Brenda Slingerland
 29 - Ethel LeVan
 30 - Jill Walton

June Anniversary

06 - Ron & Sue Hayner
 08 - Robert & Sheryl Burke
 14 - Donald & Irene Cushman
 22 - Dan & Elaine McIntyre
 29 - Ed & Helen Godfrey

Weekly Activities

Sunday - 9:30 am - Worship

- ◆ 3rd - Scholarship Sunday—The Keyes scholarship award winner will be recognized
- ◆ 10th - Graduation Sunday—All high school and college graduates will be recognized. Please give any names to Lynne Little.
- ◆ 17th - Father's Day
- ◆ 24th - Communion Sunday - this is our last Sunday together until Labor Day (Gilead will be joining us for the Labor Day Service, Sept. 2)

Choir Rehearsals will begin following the Sunday Worship Service and will resume on Tuesday evenings in September

Meetings & Programs

- ◆ **14th - Thursday - 6:30 pm** - Finance Comm. Mtg. followed by the Admin Board Fellowship Hall (We will break for the summer & meet again Sept. 13. The Finance Comm. Meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 6:30 pm all are welcome
- ◆ **15th & 16th - Friday & Saturday** - Flea Market, Bake Sale and food!
- ◆ **18th - Monday - 7:00 pm** - Staff, Pastor, Parish Committee Mtg - Fellowship Hall

Men's Group - Sept. Start Up

Tom Riston says let all the men know the men's group will regroup in the Fall. Beginning Saturday, Sept. 8th at 8 a.m. at the Country View Diner. Tom said spouses can have control of the remotes for only that time! Come all men - young men to be with the "Wise Guys" and banter together!

Summer Worship Schedule

July Worship will be held at Gilead Lutheran Church - 9:30 am or Make Your Own Sunday

August Worship will be at Center Brunswick Church - 9:30 am see guest speakers below.

- ◆ **Visitation Pastor** - Rev. Betsye Mowry
 Contact Information: Phone: 1-315-243-0233 / Address: POB 355 Grafton, NY 12082/ Email: revmowry@aol.com
- ◆ **August 5** - Rev. Bob Long
 Contact Information: Phone: 518-372-1083 / Address: 833 Oregon Avenue Niskayuna, NY 12309- / Email: BikeALong2@nycap.rr.com
- ◆ **August 12** - Rev. Ralph Marino
 Contact Information: Phone: 518-753-0442 / Address: POB 293 Valley Falls, NY 12185 / Email: ramarino@nycap.rr.com.
- ◆ **August 19** - Rev. Mark Schaefer
 Contact Information: Phone: 1-202-331-9279 / Address: 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016 / Email: Schaef@yahoo.com

- ◆ **Aug 26** - Jim Daley

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church
990 Hoosick Road
Troy, New York 12180



The World is Hugged By The Faithful Arms of a Volunteer

Looking to Lend a Helping Hand?

Scripture Readers
Greeters
Ushers

Contact Pastor Joy
for further information

If you are feeling down — unsure — unhappy — or just lost
Go Volunteer!

I promise you—the best feeling in the universe is
helping someone in need.

I believe that the quality of your life is solely
determined on the quality of your contribution to others.

When you take the time to stop thinking of yourself,
and start working to improve the life of someone else,
God steps in and improves yours.

Unsure of how to begin?
Start where you are - use what you have - and do what you can.

LeeAnne Locken

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