

MODERATOR REPORT 2023 – 2024

Hubert Hirwa – Moderator Elect

The year of 2023-2024 was a year of transition, change and transformation. We began it having lost our conference minister, Bill Lyons and with a new Transition Conference Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins.

During that year our esteemed and much-loved ACM Rev. Dr. Barb Doerrer-Peacock also retired, leaving big shoes to fill and another transitional period for our board to navigate. We also lost our executive assistant.

With our wonderful personnel committee we were able to get new staff. Two temporary bridge ACM and a new executive assistant. We made sure to honor our decentering whiteness pledge as we went from a mostly white staff to a very diverse staff.

This has also been a year of transparency as the board and the conference staff have strived to make sure that we implement procedures on how we proceed in accordance with the new bylaws. We have worked tirelessly to make sure that we have documentation of all that we do.

We have been privileged, with your contributions, to offer grants to churches and organizations that do immigration work. Our Sow the Seed funds and many other grant opportunities contribute toward making our conference vibrant and alive.

We have continued to work on decentering whiteness in our conference, which is a long road that we are all travelling on together. In a time that is so challenging it has become even more important for our conference to travel together, united. Our Board, as well as our conference staff, have worked toward that.

We have signed amicus briefs to support our Native American Brethren in support of the Apache Stronghold, in accordance with our values of justice.

This year has been a year of transition and change, as in-person meetings became standard practice, once again. The Board being able to meet in-person, is a tradition I hope continues.

The board, after careful consideration, recommended Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins to be our settled conference minister and I am joyful that we can have a visionary leader who will carry our conference in the future of what modern Christianity is. After years of pandemic and transition we can look at planning and preparing for what our next 5 to 10 years may look like.

It has been the greatest pleasure to serve as moderator to this conference. With much gratitude, I thank the conference staff, my fellow board members, committee chairs and committee members, for all the work that you do. It is what keeps our conference alive. Thank you, and thank you, many times. It was a joy to work with and get to know so many of you.

I end my report by saying that I am grateful and humbled for having served as your moderator and leave you in the hands of the very capable incoming moderator, the Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith.

Thank you for everything and, as usual, like the Lord Jesus said ‘Love God with all your heart and all your mind and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Sincerely,
Hubert