

Ohio Conference Board of Directors

February 5, 2016

Minutes

Present: Mindy Quellhorst, Tim Smith, Bob Tussing, Phil Hart, Pam Brown, Kevan Franklin, Kathryn Anadein, Jay McMillen, Mike Castle, Jim Meyer, Nicole Havelka, Morgan Wickizer, Becky Erb-Strang, Jeff Roeger, Janine Wilson, Ken Daniel, Jill Glass, Sam Buehrer, Cathy Green, Rita Root, Cynthia Tyson

Opening

- *Call to Order* *Mindy Quellhorst*
- *Devotions* *Kevan Franklin*
- *Community Building* *Mindy Quellhorst*
- *Consensus Items (Agenda, Previous Minutes. December 4, 2015)* *Accepted by Consensus.*
- *Reports (Handed Out)*

Financial Report (see the written and balance sheet with Treasurers Report)

1. **OCWM Income.** At yearend, the OCWM income was \$687,376.58. This reflects a 4.81% decrease from the prior year, a decrease of \$34,746. Adjusted for a one-time donation of \$10,000 for the current year, the actual decrease in OCWM was 6.19%. The good news is that the decrease is not Conference wide.
2. **OCUCC Expenses** At yearend, the expenses were \$689,658.72 compared with budgeted expenses of \$652,940. This overage was not unexpected because of the staffing changes that were made after the original budget was put into place.
3. **Outdoor Ministries:** At yearend, we had a deficit of \$62,901.40 (Not including depreciation) compared to the deficit last year at this time of \$228,822.11.
4. **Reserves & Cash Flow: For cash flow purposes;** in 2015 we drew only \$39,208 from the Reserve Funds compared to a draw of \$180,000 the previous year. Our current cash position is \$79,434 compared with a cash position last year of \$41,507.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report for Audit. Moved by Tim Smith, Jay McMillan

Conference Minister's Report: Meeting with the Collegium; This was brought about for discussion concerning retention rates between Associations and the Ohio Conference. It was brought forth that there should be a larger discussion group: including...Rev. John Dorhauer, Rev. Ben Guess, the Ohio Conference Minister, the Association Ministers and two representatives from the Governing bodies of the Conference and the Associations. A mediator (Not Consultant) would also be a part of this. April is a possible first meeting. We are considering setting aside up to \$30,000 for this Mediator.

Motion: That the Conference set aside up to \$30,000 for a Mediator for these discussions. Moved by Becky Erb-Strang, seconded by Ken Daniel.

Motion: Carries

Camp Update:

- 1. Currently camp finances have stabilized and are a bit more positive than a year ago.**
- 2. Camp Sales Discernment:** Since we are no longer in “crises mode” for camps and finances, the Discernment Group suggests a few more options, like selling other parcels of land around Pilgrim Hills property. All possible decisions would come back to the Conference Board for final decisions.

Motion: *The Board authorizes the Conference Minister to explore other options to sell portions of either Camp so as to not interfere with our Camping Programs. Moved by Jim Meyer, seconded by Jay McMillen.*

Motion Carries

Rita Root mentioned that Affirm Camp is in discussions and discernment with some Associations concerning the use of Pilgrim Hills for various Association ministries. This is noted as a FYI to all concerned.

Then, the discussion centered around just which camp should we be selling, if and when one camp is sold. The answer is complex with many considerations. We continue to wait for any firm offers but we still have to wait for this offer. It was suggested that we put on paper, both pluses and minuses for selling either of these camps. (Just to have this on file). Also this idea of a Capital Campaign for the camps is to be considered after many other issues are addressed.

Other matters: Phil Hart would like to meet with each Association Council in the coming months.

There are discussions about the ministry of Nicole Havelka. Her ministry could be shared and paid in part by the National offices for use of her expertise in Outdoor Ministry, Faith Formation and Communication. (A sharing of her work and salary)

Phil Hart will be in Indiana-Kentucky on Friday and Ohio Conference on Saturday for the June 10, 11 Annual Gatherings of the two Conferences.

Nicole Havelka submitted a report. Her calling to the Ohio Conference continues to evolve. Updates on the website were noted (and thanks to Pam Brown)

Pam Brown: Summer Camp Registration will open on February 8.

Annual Gathering at Otterbein University for Friday and Saturday June 10, 11, 2016

Executive Sessionas required.

Lunch

Letters received by the Ohio Conference UCC from Associations:

A Letter was read from CSE Association Council concerning recent Board Meetings.

A Letter was read from EOA/Western Reserve Associations Councils concerning recent Board Meetings. There is the question of the work and job description of the Ohio Conference Meeting. New Conference Minister should have prior Conference Minister experience...on an Interim Basis...relation-building among churches, Associations....Conference Minister should work with delegates to Annual Gathering...improved relations among Boards and Associations....plan of action for Associations to discuss, not just listening sessions. There is hope for the future within the churches of Ohio and their ministries.

Search Committee for an Interim Conference Minister: Moderator Mindy Quellhorst has noted that the National Office is ready to provide possibilities for Interim Conference Meetings once we have that Committee. It was suggested that

- One Representative from the Board from each Association and one from the Executive Committee be on the Search Committee.
- There is consensus that we need an **Interim Conference Minister** and that it should be full time Interim. There is no set time for the Interim though Phil noted that it could be a year or two before or if a Full Time Settled Conference Minister is hired.
- We need to design a job description: Conflict resolution is a key. There will be the issue of the sale of camp property. We are thinking that we are moving towards something positive. Mediation skills and Community Building are needed by this person.
- **Search Committee for Interim Conference Minister**
 1. Mindy Quellhorst Executive Committee
 2. Jeff Roeger EOA
 3. Sam Buehrer NWOA
 4. Jay McMillan SONKA
 5. Jim Meyer WRA
 6. Cynthia Tyson CSE

Moved by Mike Castle, seconded by Becky Erb-Strang to accept the previously named people as the Search Committee.

Motion Passes

Mission First will be addressed at the next Board Meeting. It was noted that several other issues need to be addressed before proceeding.

Church Sale. Sam Buehrer brought up the issue of a WRA church closing. Henrietta UCC Church. The question is to where the assets of the sale of the property should go, and, who has liability. Rita noted that the church was informed that assets must go to the Ohio Conference. The Council of the church wants the assets to go to WRA. Rita is working with them and wants the Ohio Conference to accept the property. A vote is needed by the Ohio Conference UCC.

Motion: That the Ohio Conference UCC accept the property and assets of Henrietta United Church of Christ of Wakeman, Ohio. (Motion by Mike Castle. Seconded by Jay McMillen)

Motion Passes

09-Jun-2016

There are continuing discussions as to what to do with this property. Appraisal, wishes of the congregation etc. We will move quickly to resolve the issues.

Next Meeting April 22, 2016 Dublin Community Church

Meetings: June 11, 2016 Ohio Conference Annual Gathering (Place TBD) (BOD meeting afterwards)

August 27, 2016 (Saturday) Dublin Community Church

October 21, 2016 Dublin Community Church

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Tussing, Secretary, Ohio Conference UCC Board of Directors