

Ohio Conference Board of Directors

February 23, 2018

Minutes

Present: Mindy Quellhorst, Bob Tussing, Sam Buehrer, Cathy Green, John Gantt, Donna Overholt, David Plant, Adam Sharp, Joyce Oyler, Terry Williams, Morgan Wickizer, Carolyn Willis, Nayiri Karjian

Opening

- *Call to Order* Cathy Green
- *Devotions* John Gantt
- *Community Building - Introductions*
- *Consensus Items. Agenda & 12/8/17* **Accepted by Consensus.**
- *Acceptance of 8/25/17 & 9/16/17 minutes*

Finances

Sam Buehrer

Treasurer's Report

- **1. OCWM Income:** At Year-end, the OCWM income was \$423,355 compared with 2016 income of \$578,677. This is a 26.8% drop over last year. This is significant. In 2015, the OCWM income was 687,376. Overall in Ohio in the past two years, we have seen a 19.7% decline. To put this in perspective, the decline over the past 5 years was 24%. (*Very serious concern!*)
- **2. OCUCC Expenses:** At Year-end, the expenses were \$741,091 compared to \$666,447 in 2016. As noted last month, the difference is largely due to a change in reporting method. Once adjusted for that change, our expenses were 7.7% below that of last year. This is a good sign but it does not make up for the 26.8% drop in income. (*Very Serious Concern*)
- **3. Outdoor Ministries:** At Year-end, our registration revenue was \$159,145 compared to \$179,351 for last year. This year we wrote off unpaid registrations for the past 3 years. Taking that into consideration, we actually experienced a 2.4% decline in revenue. Expenses are \$392,797 compared to \$298,457 in 2016. The disparity here is partly driven by the cost of adding the depreciation at TH, capital improvements to TH, and shifting utilities for TH to UCCR. Once those adjustments are made, we were fairly comparable to the prior year. (*Some concern on the revenue side but fairly good news on the expense side.*)
- **4. Reserves/Cash Flow/Investments:** During 2017, we drew 20,000 from reserves for cash flow purposes and the remaining 240,000 drawn from reserves was for capital improvements at Temple Hills. Although we are flush with cash, 1.72 million, we will be transferring 1.85 million to investments as a result of the sale of Pilgrim Hills. This effectively puts us in a negative cash position of \$135,000 once the investments are made. This negative position will be covered by a draw from our liquidity fund. This negative position was largely driven by the declining OCWM (*Major Concern*) Balance Sheet: total Assets are now 6.65 million versus that of 6.13 million in 2016. This change in asset value was largely driven by the income from the sale of PH as well as the resulting drop in accumulated depreciation for PH.

5. Other:

02-Oct-2018

- **Templed Hills:** Major improvements to the camp continue to be underway. As of December 31, we have either spent or transferred to UCCR from investment funds a total of \$177,000 for capital improvement at TH.
- **2017 Audit:** A contract has been signed and the audit is expected to begin in early April. We expect a savings of almost \$10,000 over the cost of the audit in 2016.
- **United Church Funds (UCF):** A meeting is set for March 1 with a representative from UCF to review and make recommendations regarding the investment funds a total of \$177,000 for capital improvements at TH.
- **2018 Summer Camp Registration Fees:** A cost of living increase of 2.2% was applied to the camping fees for the 2018 summer camp season. We are now in a position that all of the UCCR fees for meals and lodging are now covered by the registration fees for each respective camp.
- **Investment Funds Guidelines Manual & Gift Acceptance Policy:** We have updated the Investment Funds Guidelines Manual and created a Gift Acceptance Policy. We are preparing both for Board consideration.
- **Investment Funds:** We consolidated a few more funds having to do with Faith Formation. Prepared 12/6/2017

Monies Available for Major Maintenance. We looked over the costs for upgrading Templed Hills by using the funds from the sale of Pilgrim Hills. This is after setting aside the one million for the endowment.

There are detailed expenditures for all of the upgrades and hoped for upgrades. A detailed sheet would assist people who wish to make monetary donations.

Motion: That we accept the Year End Financials and the Treasurers Report and the 2018 Revised Budget. Motion by Mindy. Seconded by Terry Williams.

Motion Carries.

Vision Team Report (Structure of the Ohio Conference)

Cathy Green

There have been two meetings since our December meeting. The team established three working groups on Best Practices, Finances, and Structure. A number of listening sessions have been held across the Conference, with more to be held for a total of fifteen. We are hearing a wide variety of things concerning the Wider Church. Generally, the input has been encouraging with the overall mood being that there must and will be change but collectively we will be stronger as the larger church. Still, the attendance at the listening session is a very small percentage of UCC members in the Conference so it is difficult to anticipate the ultimate reaction to the restructuring plan.

TCM Search Committee

Cathy Green

The Search Committee has met and is moving with Reps from each Association chaired by Cathy Green. Leadership also came from the national setting. The posting has been done. Profiles will conclude at the end of March. So far, two Profiles have been submitted.

Moved: That we accept the official Posting of the TCM. (Moved by Mindy Quellhorst. Seconded by Terry Williams.

Motion Approved.

02-Oct-2018

Moved: That we accept the TCM position description. (Moved by Mindy Quellhorst. Seconded by Morgan Wickizer.) This position may or may not transition into a more permanent position and the TCM is eligible to apply for the more permanent position should that come about.

Motion Approved.

Interim Conference Minister Report

John Gantt

We are being encouraged to participate in the April 4 ACT NOW rally in Washington, DC...marking the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of ML King Jr. We are encouraging you to be a part of the March for Our Lives on March 24...both in DC and in Columbus at 11 am on that Saturday morning. Kudos to those who have participated in the Visioning discussions. I will take up responsibility for the Seminary scholarship applications. Meeting with EOA/WRA as they consider the move to one Association. Donna Overholt reported in on the topic.

Gift Acceptance Policy

Motion: That we accept the Gift Acceptance Policy as detailed in the Policy Description. Motion by Dave Plant, seconded by Terry Williams. **Motion Carries**

Motion: That we accept the Ohio Conference Investment Funds Guidelines. Motion by Terry Williams, seconded by Mindy Quellhorst. **Motion Carries**

Motion: That we establish a By Laws Committee to work with John Gantt. Motion by Terry Williams, seconded by Donna Overholt. **Motion Carries.**

There was a great discussion around Camping and Faith Formation. Morgan informed us as to the similar situation in the Disciples Church. It seems appropriate for John Gantt, Cathy Green and Cynthia Tyson to contact the Regional Minister of the Disciples of Christ.

Motion: That we empower Cathy and John to assemble a team to work on Faith Formation and Outdoor Ministries and report back on possibilities for the melding of the two. Motion by Terry Williams, second by Sam Buehrer. **Motion Carries.**

By Consensus we support the proposal to sponsor two appreciation events.

By Consensus we support the proposed use of Racial/Ethnic Empowerment earnings to underwrite an all-Conference focus on anti-racism and privilege.

By Consensus we support the proposal that Conference cover expenses for hosting youth who participate in the Columbus March for Our Lives.

Motion: The BOD endorses the use of funds from the Consultant Services account to cover fees and expenses for Annual Gathering special guest Ken Medema. **Motion Carries.**

Report of Outdoor Ministries.

Joyce Oyler

Registration is open for 2018 with nearly 80 signed on already. Grandparent, Grandchild Camp is the one filling up early. Early Registration date is April 15. April 7 is the Re-Commissioning Day. Rates increase 2.2%. Fees have been scrutinized carefully. There are five new camps this year. All Directorships covered except for one camp. We also heard a lengthy report of the moving process which was exhausting but

thorough. Kudos to Jim Ditzler. Memorial (completely overhauled! Double bunk-able beds), Skipper (lots of kitchen work and lower rooms-work. Mold Free!) and Heritage are the main three buildings which are being overhauled. Summer...challenges with the pool but it will be operational. Parker Ridge, 12 cabins will be demolished. (As should have been done long ago.) Six Cabin Hill remains the same...some small changes to the baths. Joyce is listening to the Visioning Team and working with them. Directors and Counselors will be trained soon. The Camp Film is being shown around the Conference.

Other Business

(Executive Session as mandated)

It is noted that the ministry of the Rev. Roger Miller will be honored on February 24 for his many years here in the Ohio Conference UCC and the National UCC. Blessings on his memory and in the life of his family.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Tussing, Secretary, Ohio Conference UCC Board of Directors

Next Meetings

May 18....Dublin Community Church

September 28, 29 Annual Gathering of the Ohio Conference UCC...Westerville UCC, Westerville, Ohio