

Ohio Conference Board of Directors

August 24, 2018

Minutes

Present: Bob Tussing, Jeff Nelson, Dan Busch, Dave Long-Higgins, Dan Doty, Sam Buehrer, Cathy Green, John Gantt, Donna Overholt, David Plant, Terry Williams, Adam Sharp, Joyce Oyler, Jeff Roeger, Adrian Sunday, Carl Robinson, Jay McMillan, Mark Behle, Jim Nolan, Pam Linderson, Margaret Mills, Jim Ditzler, Gene Mathews, Ed Karges, Kevin Gehres

Opening

- *Call to Order*
- *Devotions*
- *Community Building - Introductions*
- *Consensus Items. Agenda, Minutes* (Moved by Jay, seconded by Donna) **Accepted by Consensus.**
- *Acceptance of 6/23/18 minutes*

Nominations:

EOA Melody Ward, Emmanuel UCC Akron

CSEOA MK O'Haver, Bridges of Grace UCC Charleston, WV

NWOA, Donna Overholt, Trinity UCC Tiffin

SONKA, Jay McMillan, Shiloh UCC Dayton

Secretary, Dan Doty, Bath UCC

Treasurer, Jim Henry, St. Johns UCC Mansfield

Finances

Sam Buehrer

Treasurer's Report

- **OCWM Income:** We received \$226,793 through July. In 2017, we had received \$204,076. This is an 11.1% increase over last year. Although this looks very positive, it is still early in the year to draw any significant conclusions because the reporting is greatly affected by the timing of the pass throughs from the associations. (Watching Closely Concern)
- **OCUCC Expenses:** The expenses were \$533,405 through May. Once adjusted for a transfer to investments from the sale of Pilgrim Hills, the expenses were 10.5% below that of 2017. (Good News)
- **Faith Formation Ministries:** Camp event income through May totaled \$155,399 compared with \$187,866 in 2017 when we were at Pilgrim Hills. Once adjusted for the timing of receiving a rebate from UCCR, the actual decrease is 12.7%. This reduced amount has everything to do with the transition, a lower number of summer campers, the loss of several groups who are waiting to book once the improvements are further along. Although it appears that we are under

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budget with our expenses, once adjusted for some expenses related to capital improvement and timing issues, in actuality our expenses are about 4.2% over budget. We will continue to monitor this closely.

- **Reserves & Cash Flow:** We are flush with cash, \$451,509 which places us in a good cash position. We are continuing to transfer the income from the sale of Pilgrim Hills into our investment accounts so the cash position is not as inflated as it has been. There are still significant obligations outstanding due to the upgrades at Templd Hills. Once those are completed we will be in a much tighter cash position. (Some Concern)
- **Other:**

A. UCCR: They are currently in the process of actively searching for a new manager.

B. 2017 Audit: We have been meeting with the auditor and have not been able to resolve his concerns about tracking the transfer of funds in the investment accounts. That means he will not be able to issue a satisfactory opinion on the financial statements. We are working now to change procedures so that this isn't a problem for the 2018 audit. Jim Henry, the nominee for Treasurer, is a CPA and has already been brought up to date. Sam believes that Jim will be able to help us make improvements to solve the problem.

C. 2019 Draft Budget: The 2019 Budget is prepared and work is concluding on the Narrative Budget.

D. Treasurer Position: I have been in conversation and sharing reports with Jim Henry, the nominee for Treasurer, so that this should be a seamless transition.

2019 Draft Budget

Motion: (From Finance) That we accept the Budget Proposal for 2019 and move to send it to the Annual Gathering for consideration. **Motion Carries**

Motion: The Board appreciates the excellent work of Sam for all that he has done to shepherd the Conference Finances.....enthusiastic applause. **Motion Carries**

Staff Reports

- **John Gantt...**We need to continue to lift up the Global Aspects of UCC work. Historically, the UCC has been a part of much work across the globe. Permit me to introduce Mark Behle, Co-Mission Worker in Lesotho. Currently in Arizona with family. Jim Ditzler continues Disaster Response within the Ohio Conference. Disaster buckets are continually needed. The book Our Abba is a gift for each person today.
- **Joyce Oyler.** Summer camps of six weeks.. 450 campers or more, plus 75 volunteers. This is a bit down but still acceptable. Sports Camp is the largest camp with 160 campers. We mourn the death of Jeff Thompson Our thanks to John Gantt for all his work in assisting after Jeff's death. The Thompson family is doing as well as can be expected. Our thanks to Andy and Miranda who have worked here for years and who stepped in to assist after Jeff's death. They filled in with all the needed work and they deserve our sincere thanks. All in all...it was a solid Summer Season. Our thanks to Jim Ditzler who led so much renovations to the camp.

Vision Team Update

There is a proposal which is on the table. The idea of language is important as we look at this document.

Dan Doty

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The Board took some time to discuss the written document: “Gathered in Christ”

Annual Gathering Each of three groups at the Annual Gathering. Shared Practices subgroups will share the vision on Friday Afternoon. The next day, there will hopefully, be a way to share on this document and decide on the next steps. We would like the Association Ministers assist with prayers at various points of the Gathering.

Annual Gathering on September 28, 29 Westerville UCC

- **On the afternoon of 28th, we will spend time for in-depth conversations of the Vision Committee.**
- **Ken Mdema will be a part of the Annual Gathering**
- **Saturday...memories of Civil Rights era from years ago and its relevance to today’s situations.**

Operations Team Jim Ditzler summarized the works at Templed Hills. Repair of things moldy. Upgrading. **Main Meeting Building:** carpeting, chairs, furniture, painted, LED lighting, lots of bathroom work...stripped to the walls, water issues on parking lot. Fireplace inserts. Swimming pool has new mechanical system for filtration. The pool itself took concrete and ladder and paint. **Skipper Lodge:** lots of work, mainly in kitchen. Floors, lights, cooler, dishwasher, painting. New hood for range soon. Lower level rooms had walls stripped for mold and re-paneled. Baseboard electric heating. **Heritage Hall:** Foundation leaks and mold. Foundation excavation and repair. New beds. Carpeting. LED lighting. Bathrooms facelift. Paint. Many old cabins torn down. Pool house building updated. To do still: solar panels, financing options are before us. New range hood in kitchen. A total energy audit was done by a professional firm.. Possible new air conditioning.

Lunch Hour

Tour of Templed Hills by all BOD members

Discussion of Next Steps of Templed Hills

There is a Templed Hills Capital Proposal; Ropes Course, re-locating the Mobile Home, and a lot of other things on the “Wish List.” The sale of Pilgrim Hills was used to set up a Endowment Fund, Pay Camp Debts, refurbish the TH Camp itself. Is there a need to look at a Capital Campaign soon or wait a couple years? Joyce feels that there is momentum, in terms for excitement for the camp. Of course it needs to be clearly defined and then moved forward. “What is the ministry that we want to have happen here, what must we do to make that happen?” How about a solid wish list for items?

“To become fully alive.”.....is our mission.....(unofficially). Cathy will explore ideas and update us with Dave L-H and Joyce at the next meeting.

Faith Formation Update

David Plant

Defining Faith Formation... Learning deeply the Sacred Texts...(Learn, Live, Share...the Sacred Texts)
The Model was discussed at length. No answers yet but we seem to be on the right road.

2019 Clergy Compensation Guidelines

Pam Linderson

Base Salary changes 2.4% which is \$788 on the base salary. \$33,617 would be the base salary....there are considerations for the clergy’s years and the size of the church. Sick leave should also be including Authorized Ministers.

Motion: (for BOD to recommend to the Annual Gathering.) That the base salary guidelines increase by 2.4%. In addition, that in Sick Leave, the term “Ordained” should be replaced by “Authorized Ministers.”

(Moved by Pam, seconded by Adrian Sunday.)

Closing Worship

Executive Session as mandated

Motion: That we continue to employ Joyce Oyler as Transitional Outdoor Ministry Coordinator on a six-month rolling contract, beginning November 1, 2018 (to be negotiated by Cathy Green with approval by the Executive Committee)

(by David Plant of Faith Formation Team and , seconded by Adrian Sunday)

Motion Carries

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Tussing, Secretary, Ohio Conference UCC Board of Directors

Next Meetings

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

September 29...after Annual Gathering

December 7, 2018 Dublin Community Church