

**OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S STATED MEETING**

Location: Dublin Community United Church of Christ
Stated Date: June 22, 2018
Stated Time: 10:00 a.m.

Voting Members Attending (12)

Ms. Cathy Green, Moderator
Rev. David Plant, Vice Moderator
Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Past Moderator
Rev. Sam Buehrer, Treasurer
Dr. Cynthia Tyson, CSEOA Representative
Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative
Ms. Donna Overholt, NWOA Representative
Rev. Adrian Sunday, NWOA Representative
Ms. Pam Linderson, SONKA Representative
Rev. Jay McMillen, SONKA Representative
Rev. Jack Sullivan Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative
Mr. Jeff Roeger, EOA Representative

Voting Members Not Attending (4)

Rev. Robert Tussing, Secretary
Rev. Jeff Nelson, EOA Representatives
Rev. Elizabeth Leung, WRA Representative
VACANT, WRA Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending (7)

Rev. John Gantt, OCUCC Conference Minister
Rev. David Long-Higgins, OCUCC Transitional Conference Minister-Elect
Ms. Joyce Oyler, OCUCC Director of Outdoor Ministries
Mr. Adam Sharp, OCUCC Executive Administrator
Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister
Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister
Mr. Tim Grant, Partner with Parns & Company, LLC (11:07 a.m. – 11:33 a.m.)

Non-Voting Members Not Attending (2)

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, EOA/WRA Association Minister
Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

Ms. Green called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. by welcoming those present including Mr. Roeger who was present via Zoom internet meeting technology.

I. Introductions (10:07 a.m.)

Attendees introduced themselves by name, local congregation, and role. Members rejoiced with Rev. McMillen at the completion of a parking lot paving project at his local congregation, Shiloh UCC in Dayton.

II. Opening Devotions (10:11 a.m.)

Rev. Long-Higgins led the meeting in singing “Spirit of the Living God,” followed by a prayer and a reflection from Ephesians with an invitation to share with one another where members have experienced God’s love in the past week. Our time of devotion was closed with singing “God is Holding Our Life,” a praise refrain from Richard Brexvoort Culligan.

III. Consensus Items: Agenda, Minutes from 5/18/18 and 6/11/18 (10:23 a.m.)

It was moved by Ms. Linderson and seconded by Rev. Quellhorst that the previously distributed agenda for the day and the minutes from May 8, 2018 and June 11, 2018 be approved as a bloc. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Ohio Conference Bylaw Changes (10:25 a.m.)

Ms. Green called upon Rev. Gantt to report on amendments to the Ohio Conference Bylaws which will be necessary to provide for the formal unification of Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association as well as changes to the Ohio Conference Board of Director’s representation allocation formula related to the new unified association. Rev. Gantt detailed his proposal that he will be presenting to a joint meeting of the leadership of Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association on June 23, 2018.

Rev. Plant described his concerns about whether these changes would be permanent given the struggles of similar actions taken in other conferences. Rev. Gantt responded that his understanding is that this proposal would be a way to move forward in the short term with the understanding of all involved that future structural changes—along with changes to governance documents—will occur.

Discussion ensued concerning future implications of decisions related to the changes to governance documents and board representation relating to the unification of Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association. After much discussion, members came to a general consensus that Rev. Gantt should be supported in going forward by meeting with the leadership of Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association and that necessary bylaw changes should be prepared to support in governance this unification of the two associations.

V. Updates on Faith Formation Initiatives (10:51 a.m.)

Rev. Gantt referred members to the faith formation section of his prepared report and asked for questions and discussion. Rev. Buehrer raised a question concerning the accounting for the newly-

established Faith Formation endowment, namely asking what guidance the board has given concerning the relationship between Outdoor Ministries and the Faith Formation Endowment.

In discussion, the board came to a consensus that it is the intention to use Faith Formation Endowment funds both for Outdoor Ministry activities and for other faith formation uses as directed by the board.

While members waited for the audit report, Ms. Linderson shared new copies of brochures from the UCC National Setting for the Three Great Loves Initiative.

Rev. Gantt updated members concerning the process for Make A Difference grants as well as other conference-level grants for funding year 2019. Rev. Gantt mentioned that formal proposals will be coming at a future meeting concerning grant request procedures for these funds.

VI. Audit Report (11:07 a.m.)

Rev. Buehrer introduced Mr. Tim Grant, a partner with Parmis & Company LCC, who distributed a draft/for-discussion-only preliminary audit report for review. Mr. Grant detailed challenges relating to his "getting acquainted" with our organization that have contributed to the delay in presenting an audit report.

Mr. Grant outlined suggestions for improving accounting efficiencies related to fund accounting and internal reporting processes relating to our organization's general ledger. Mr. Grant will work with the Finance Committee to detail suggestions and observations relating to the audit.

After fielding questions and participating in discussion, Mr. Grant concluded his report and exited the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Rev. Quellhorst requested that Rev. Buehrer plan to make himself available to the new OCUCC Treasurer who is to be nominated in the following months. Rev. Buehrer indicated his willingness to meet with whomever is selected to fulfil the Treasurer role.

Discussion ensued concerning whether it is wise to change from Rev. Buehrer's leadership at this time given the transitional nature of this season of our life together in the Ohio Conference UCC. Several members voiced concern for ensuring continuity amid tremendous change, while others indicate a desire to not make premature decisions and to allow the nominations process to proceed.

VII. Other Business (11:50 a.m.)

Seeing not additional business, Ms. Green called members' attention to the future meeting date schedule: August 24, 2018 at Temple Hills with an option to stay the night beforehand at personal cost, September 29, 2018 after the Annual Gathering at Westerville UCC, and December 7, 2018 at Dublin Community UCC with times to be announced at a date nearer to the meetings.

Rev. Sullivan gave a brief report concerning the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Ohio Region, including an announcement that Rev. John Richardson will conclude his time as the Interim Minister of

the Ohio Region Christian Church-Disciples of Christ in Fall 2018 with decisions concerning next steps for the region to be made and announced within the following months.

Rev. Buehrer reviewed briefly his most recent Treasurer's report including a double-digit projected decline in Our Church's Wider Mission giving as well as a rapid decline in all-church special offerings in the Ohio Conference UCC. Rev. Buehrer indicated that this decline, particularly of historically-stable all church offerings, is a cause for concern and a call for us all to acknowledge the changing nature of church finance and stewardship.

VIII. Adjournment (11:59 a.m.)

After seeing no further business, Ms. Green declared the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.