

Ohio Conference Board of Directors

December 8, 2017

Minutes

Present: Mindy Quellhorst, Bob Tussing, Nicole Havelka, Sam Buehrer, Cathy Green, Dan Busch, John Gantt, Donna Overholt, Pam Linderson, Adrian Sunday, David Plant, Cynthia Tyson, Mark Frey, Adam Sharp, Joyce Oyler, Kurt Weiser, Pam Brown, Terry Williams, Jay McMillen, Morgan Wickizer, Carl Robinson

Opening

- *Call to Order* *Cathy Green*
- *Devotions* *John Gantt*
- *Community Building - Introductions*
- *Consensus Items. Agenda & 10/6/17 To be Moved by & Seconded at the December 2017 meeting .*
Accepted by Consensus.

Finances

Sam Buehrer

Treasurer's Report

- **OCWM Income:** As of the end of October, the OCWM income was \$308,984 compared with 2016 income of \$374,804. This is a 17.6% drop over last year. Given what we have seen for income for the first ten months of 2017, we are on target for a double digit percentage drop in OCWM at the end of the year over last year. We will continue to watch the income very closely. (Very Serious Concern) **Note that we are now reporting investment income (\$92,500) that we use for scholarships and grants as Other/Misc. Income.** Since we were not reporting this in this way last year, our income appears significantly higher than last year even though OCWM is down significantly from last year. This is only a reporting change, not an income change.
- **OCUCC Expenses:** Through October, the expenses were \$516,474 compared to \$477,866 in 2016. As noted above, this is largely due to a change in reporting method. Once adjusted for that change and an adjustment in OCWM, our expenses are running 9.2% below that of last year. This is a good sign but it does not make up for the large drop in income. (Very Serious Concern)
- **Outdoor Ministries:** Through October, our registration revenue was \$166,046 compared to \$160,081 for last year. This is a 3.6% growth. Since we increased fees approximately 6.25% over 2016, this is effectively a 2.65% decline in revenue to date. Expenses are \$332,417 compared to \$282,460 in 2016. The disparity here is partly driven by the cost of adding the depreciation at Templd Hills in the expenses this year and the work that is being currently being done related to the capital improvements at Templd Hills. **Regarding the camper numbers for the Summer & Labor Day camp program, in 2017 there were 500 campers versus 510 in 2016. This is a 1.96% decrease over 2016.**
- **Reserves & Cash Flow:** We currently have cash on hand to cover approximately .75 months of expenses. This cash position is very tight. Usually we see a cash increase in November but this does not appear to be a normal year. (Major Concern)

- Other: A. Pilgrim Hills Sales: The closing at the agreed price of 2.5 million was Nov. 22. After expenses and once the debt of \$256,851 was paid, the net became \$2,124,224. We then disbursed \$216,000 to the Pilgrim Preserve owners. The final net was \$1,908,224.62. Per the motion in August, 1 million is being placed in endowment to support Faith Formation and \$121,000 is being added to the funds for maintenance & improvement at Temple Hills. A motion has been prepared for the board to consider what to do with the remaining \$787,225. B. Temple Hills: Major improvements to the camp continue to be underway.

Prepared 12/6/2017

C. 2017 Audit: An audit committee is currently in the process of obtaining bids from audit firms for the 2017 audit. If all goes well, we will contract with a new audit firm sometime in January.

D. United Church Funds: Because of the sizable amount to be invested as a result of the sale of Pilgrim Hills, a meeting is being set up with a representative from United Church Funds to review our investments and make any changes necessary as we move forward.

E. 2018 Summer Camp Registration Fees: We are in discussion regarding the fees for the 2018 summer camp season.

There was a detailed discussion concerning the drop in overall/Ohio Conference giving via OCWM. Kurt Weiser EO/WR noted that their Associations are monitoring the downward trend in OCWM giving and are actively working to inform churches of their UCC ties and to answer their questions about Ohio Conference expenses and spending. Terry Williams of CSE mentioned his hope that all Associations will live into their OCWM pledges to the Ohio Conference UCC.

Vision Reports (Structure of the Ohio Conference) Cathy Green

There have been a couple meetings on this Vision Report. The Report has been seen by various Associations and we continue on with our three Working Groups... *Structure, Best Practices, Finance & Stewardship*. Listening Sessions will be held in many places throughout the Conference in the 1st Quarter of 2018. The reports have been seen by each Association and each of them have chosen to deal with the report in its own way.

Outdoor Ministry Business Plan

Interim Conference Minister Report

John Gantt

New Assignments and elections. Cynthia Tyson is the Moderator for the CSE. Our Camp Operations Advisory Group has proven to be a real asset for future planning

Nicole Havelka Report Written report submitted. Nicole encouraged all to respond to her learnings from the time she was here. Consider it a conversation piece for further discussion.

Joyce Oyler Report of Outdoor Ministries. There are two Listening Sessions set for the coming months. This notion of "Face to Face" conversations is very real even though information is posted online and Conference page. The Division for Outdoor Ministries has not recently been functioning at peak level and she hopes to involve others to be a part of the conversations. People who are interested should be identified. Summer Camp 2018 Schedule is being finalized by the end of 2017.

Housing Resolution Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code specifies that the amount of ministers' compensation that is designated in advance by their employer as a housing allowance is not taxable in computing federal income taxes to the extent that it is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in owning or renting a home or apartment, and, in the case of ministers who own their home, does not exceed the fair rental value and maintenance of the home; and

Whereas, Rev. John M Gantt is compensated by the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ exclusively for services as a minister; and

Whereas, the Ohio Conference does not provide Rev. John Gantt with a parsonage; therefore, it is

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Rev. John Gantt for calendar year 2018 shall be \$77,070.00 of which \$15,000 is hereby designated as a housing allowance pursuant to section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Motion Carries

The MAD committee recommends awards to each of the 19 applicants as follows:

Motion by Sam Buehrer, Seconded by Terry Williams

APPLICANT	PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION
Philippus Cincinnati	Exterior improvements	\$1700.00
Lakeview, Maineville	Intergenerational ministry	\$2000.00
St John's, Dayton	Family & Life ministry	\$2250.00
Amistad Chapel, Cleveland	Promo & art exhibit	\$1900.00
South Euclid, Euclid	Freedom school	\$1900.00
Hand of the Master	Sound system equipment	\$1130.00
Congregational, Piqua	Remove trees, waive fees	\$ 500.00
Fusion, Piqua	Building use fees	\$2000.00

First, Sandusky	Anne Frank exhibit	\$1600.00
New Vision, Canton	Support TRANS program	\$1700.00
Washington, Cincinnati	Summer program stipends	\$2000.00
UCC Vermillion	Fencing nursery program area	\$1700.00
St Paul, New Bremen	Mental health kits	\$1700.00
St John's, Reading	Staff & background checks	\$1300.00
North, Columbus	Resiliency project	\$1800.00
St Johns, Glenmont	Safe Housing project	\$1800.00
UC, Granville	Peace Village	\$2200.00
UCC, Medina	Equip live streaming project	\$1500.00
EOA/WRA Witness team	Forum re opiate crisis	\$1182.00
Total Funds available		\$31,879.34
Total Awards recommended		\$31,862.00
Balance on hand		\$ 17.34

Motion Carries for all Funding.

RICHARD AND RACHAEL WOLFF TRUST FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

02-Oct-2018

SUMMARY prepared Sept. 6, 2017 In 2001, the trust was amended to change it from a loan fund to a grant program. It states

Motion by Sam Buehrer, Seconded by Mindy Quellhorst

CURRENT GUIDELINE

“That the principal and income of all property received and accepted by the Trustees (the officers of the Board of Directors, with the Business Manager and Conference Minister serving ex officio) shall be held in trust for providing grants to seminary students of the United Church of Christ who attend one of the closely related theological schools of the United Church of Christ.... Should the recipient not serve 5 years within the United Church of Christ, the recipient will be required to repay the full amount of the grant with interest on a schedule to be determined by the conference at the time the grant is given.....”

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT

“That the principal and income of all property received and accepted by the Trustees (the officers of the Board of Directors, with the Business Manager and Conference Minister serving ex officio) shall be held in trust “... for providing grants to seminary students of the United Church of Christ with priority given to those who attend one of the closely related theological schools of the United Church of Christ. Funds may also be provided to members of the United Church of Christ in the Ohio Conference who attend a non-affiliated seminary which offers courses in UCC history and polity. Recipients are encouraged to serve within the UCC for at least five years. Should the recipient not serve 5 years within the United Church of Christ, the grant becomes a loan, and the recipient will be expected to repay the loan.

Motion Carries

Other Business

(Executive Session as mandated)

Considering the Retirement of John Gantt in the coming year and plans for the Ohio Conference Minister

02-Oct-2018

Rev. John Gantt has offered his plan for retirement in the coming year. He will serve through the end of September, 2018. He encourages the Board to find a replacement and he will vacate whenever the new Conference Minister arrives. The plan is to form a Search Committee in the very near future, January 2018. The Search will be possibly for a Transitional Conference Minister as he/she works closely with the Visioning Team to live into the future.

Motion:

That a Search Committee be formed to look for a Transitional Conference Minister for the Ohio Conference UCC. Cathy Green is to Chair this Committee, with representation from every Ohio Association of the UCC. The Committee will be formed in January 2018 as all Associations are notified.

Motion Carries

Motion: from Executive Committee.

The “remainder” mentioned in #4 (from the 8/25/17 motion on Camp-Sale proceeds) should go into the endowment but with provisions for limited withdrawals to cover deficits in Outdoor Ministry as projected by the approved business plan, and for emergency repairs at Templed Hills. The income from the endowment should be allocated between Outdoor Ministries and other Faith Formation initiatives.

The illustration below proposes that we commit \$25,000 annually to faith formation initiatives other than Outdoor Ministry and that the split be reviewed on an annual basis as our vision for faith formation becomes clearer.

A total of \$600,000 of the anticipated additional sales proceeds should be available for withdrawal from the endowment upon Board approval:

- **\$200,000 – to be added to the maintenance and improvement fund for Templed Hills**
- **\$200,000 – to be available to cover Outdoor Ministry deficits**
- **\$200,000 – to be available for emergency repairs at Templed Hills. All of these funds will remain in the endowment and generate income until such time that the Board approves their withdrawal.**

As with all board designated accounts, the Board can revise this plan at any time.

Motion Carries

Formal Request from EO and WRA for Consolidation of the Associations This was brought to the BOD for consideration. We could say “No” or say “Yes” or agree and bring it to the larger Conference. It is clear from the two Associations are aware that the Visioning Committee is still active and may or may not altar the following action in the coming years. It was also noted that the issue of representation for this new Association must be discussed and a decision made at the Conference level.

Motion: By Terry Williams. Seconded by Mindy Quellhorst

02-Oct-2018

That the Ohio Conference BOD affirms the request EO/WRA to consolidate and become one Association. The Executive Committee of the BOD would also work on the details of Constitutional Changes as a result of the consolidation and refer it to the entire Ohio Conference for final vote.

Motion Carries

Motion by John Gant

It is proposed that the Board of Directors authorize John Gantt to negotiate an agreement, if possible, with Nicole Havelka to devote up to 5 hours a week for a period of 26 weeks, three months, beginning January 2, 2018 to assist Ohio Conference with communication and social media work at the rate of \$50.00 an hour. Approximate expense will be \$6500.00.

It is further proposed that the Board of Directors authorize John Gantt to negotiate a contract with Pam Brown on an as-needed basis to work with Adam Sharp after January 1, 2018. This proposal would will be paid at the rate of \$30 per hour for not more than 8 hours a week. The transitional agreement would end by June 30, 2018, or sooner if possible. Maximum expense is \$6240.00

Motion Carries

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Motion by Committee

Benevolent Institutions Endowment Fund

Earnings only to be used at the discretion of the Benevolent Institutions Committee recommendation and approved by the Board of Directors.

At the time the Our Bold Challenge Campaign (OBC) started, it was determined that there might be emergencies throughout the campaign and that funds should be provided for those occasions. Several institutions called upon these funds. 11.8% of the income from OBC was put into this fund. At the end of the campaign, there was a balance of approximately \$256,000 left in this fund. At the November 15, 1991 meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided to set aside the balance of this portion of OBC. It is –was to be- invested in the Ohio Conference Endowment Funds and earnings made available annually for emergency needs of the institutions.

It is part of the Permanently Restricted Fund. The earnings are held in the Temporarily Restricted Fund On (DATE) the Board of Directors amended the guidelines to make earnings available annually for emerging needs, services and projects of Conference recognized institutions, and for programs and services initiated by CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Services of the United Church of Christ).

Motion Carries

Motion by Pam Linderson, Seconded by Mindy Quellhorst

HOPE HOMES Inasmuch as Hope Homes, Inc was closed in July, 2017 and the Board of Hope Homes Foundation does not desire membership in CHHSM, which is a requirement of the covenant between 02-Oct-2018

institutions and Conferences which support them, Hope Homes is removed from the roster of Benevolent Institutions of Ohio Conference. (by Board action December 8,2017)

3 proposals for Temples Hills

1 Add to previously-approved estimate for carpet in Memorial Lodge the cost of ceramic tile in 8 bathrooms and in front of 8 sinks. This treatment is recommended because of the nature of the underlying floor materials and a means of sealing the area against mold intrusion

2 Epoxy flooring in Skipper Lodge kitchen, including clear coat seal. This treatment is durable for many years, easily maintained and cleaned, is seamless, heat and chemical resistant, and easily repaired. Team asks Jim Ditzler to check references before awarding the job. Up to \$30,000 for expenses for both #1 & #2.

3 The Operations Team requests permission to seek bids for the cost of engineering, design, permits, and manufacture of a new hood and fire suppression system

Let it be recorded that the Board gives thanks for the work and faithful ministry of the Rev. Roger Miller for his many years here in the Ohio Conference UCC and the National UCC. We were blessed to have him in our midst for so many years.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Tussing, Secretary, Ohio Conference UCC Board of Directors

Next Meetings

February 23 ,2018 Dublin Community Church

May 4....Location to be determined.