

MINUTES

Michigan Conference United Church of Christ ~ Board of Directors

Conference Office

November 18, 2017

Present: Greg Briggs, Ralph Sims, Dan Spaulding, Campbell Lovett (Conference Minister), Bob Heisler (Business Manager), Karen Wheeler (Treasurer), Judith Furman, George Bozanich (Moderator), Vaughn Peterson, Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Ruth Moerdyk (Secretary), Ivana Burrows, Akua Budu-Watkins, Coni Simons

Absent: Dennis Green

Devotions

Welcome of New Board Members

Broke into conversation in pairs in order to get better acquainted

Orientation Presentation

Formal orientation in January. Informal sharing of what it's important to remember as we serve on Board.

Election of Officers

- Moved and seconded to elect Judith Booker as President. Passed.
- Moved and seconded to elect Greg Briggs as Vice-President. Passed.
- Moved and seconded to elect Ruth Moerdyk as Secretary. Passed.

Attendance (Excused and Absent).

- Dennis Green's absence excused

Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Moved and seconded to adopt consent agenda. Passed.

Approval of September Minutes

- Moved and seconded to approve minutes of September meeting. Passed.

Old Business

- Friends of the Conference Letter. Compassionate Generosity MAT distributed letter at Annual Meeting. Formal letter sent recently to 300-400 people. Board members encouraged to contribute; goal is 100% participation.
- 2020 Vision. Distributed. Board encouraged to read and review before January meeting.

Financial Report

- Previously distributed reports reviewed
- Grace UCC Action Item. Campbell Lovett provided info for January meeting. He cited Conference Gift Receipt Policy passed by Board in July 2017. Grace UCC was in DMA and requested that their assets at closing go to Conference for church development funds for new church starts in Detroit area. Campbell suggested that Board should review

policy and consider directing some of this money to OCWM, given large amount of staff time dedicated to helping Grace with closing process.

Annual Meeting Review

- Evaluations. Discussion
- Resolution follow-ups. Discussion about resolution re: Stewardship of Display Space. Woodside Church in Flint moving forward with taking resolution to Synod, with some adjustments to language. Other conversation about possible demands upon staff time generated by resolutions passed.

Lunch

New Business

- Racial Justice Training. Campbell Lovett described Conference efforts to continue and expand training; this includes an effort to train trainers. Next date for trainings not yet set. Hope is to have six trainers in Michigan.
- Unified Fitness Review Committee. Five of six associations have so far approved formation of Unified Fitness Review Committee that would address all fitness reviews for the Conference. Reasons for forming this group briefly reviewed. Final, and sixth association, to vote on this soon.
- Mission Area Team (MAT) Updates
 - Prophetic Integrity MAT. Worked on resolution follow-ups.
 - Vital Growth MAT. Innovation awards discussed. Holland new church start getting paperwork in place to ask for full affiliation with UCC. Worship services have begun at Joy Like a River in Grand Rapids (former Nueva Vida location, former Burlingame UCC location). Cheryl noted the idea of mentioned at Still ReForming conference re: “fail and fail often” in order to truly develop new ministries.
 - Faith Formation MAT. Ongoing activities reviewed, especially scholarships.
 - Compassionate Generosity MAT. Note renewed interest in serving on this MAT, as well as others. Stewardship Day being planned for 2018.

Conference Minister Update

- Question re: self-care and making up missed sabbatical time. Will report on that in January.
- Pointed out possible changes in church settings related to pending tax laws.
- Some comments on changes at national level and potential impacts at Conference level
- General conversation re: responses and trainings related to gun violence

Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 20th, 2018 – Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Moerdyk
Secretary