

MINUTES

**Michigan Conference United Church of Christ ~ Board of Directors
Pilgrim Congregational UCC
Lansing, MI 48912
May 19, 2018**

Present: Greg Briggs (vice-president), George Bozanich, Judith Furman, Dan Spaulding, Karen Wheeler (treasurer), Ruth Moerdyk (secretary), Vaughn Peterson, Campbell Lovett (Conference Minister)

Absences (excused): Judith Booker, Akua Budu-Watkins, Ralph Sims, Coni Simons, Ivana Barrows

Greg Briggs, board vice-president, convened meeting

Resignation of Dennis Green from the Board noted

Consent Agenda: Adopted unanimously

March 17th Board Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously

Financial Report – Karen Wheeler (treasurer)

- Karen reviewed previously distributed reports
- Karen also said that budget process for 2019 has begun; noted difficulty of projecting income. Notices soon to be sent to Mission Area Teams to compile budgets. Board will need to approve budget at July meeting. She also expressed hope that budget will not use more than authorized (by approved policy) from unrestricted funds.
- Karen mentioned that perhaps Board could request more information from Vital Growth MAT re: what method of accountability they have for new church starts and what criteria determine what comprises a new church start. Campbell suggested that every MAT be invited to meet with Finance Committee re: their budgets.
- Conversation followed re: long-term issues and concerns

Building Task Force Update – Greg Briggs

- Greg reported that he, Ralph Sims, and Campbell, examined building and grounds.
- Greg also noted that “Be the Church” mission evaluation tool and conversation re: building use. Perhaps we want to think of building use not simply in terms of financial factors but as part of a larger mission.
- Conversation followed re: costs of maintaining building, pros and cons of sale, difficulties involved in sale, etc.

Association Meeting Updates

- Covenant: presentation re: “Be the Church” mission materials and assessment
- Detroit Metro: Presentation by Rev. John Martin re: church safety. Rev. Clementa Pinkney, from Benton Harbor, also discussed his experience of prosecution and prison time for challenging emergency manager actions in Benton Harbor.
- United Northern: welcomed in First Congregational Church, Cheboygan

- Eastern: Meeting in June
- Southwest: Gathering planned re: water issues on June 8.
- Grand West: Hosted a speaker, Beth Higgins-Long from United Church Homes. Talked about “aging as a team sport,” and other factors related to aging people and churches.

United Fitness Review Committee

- Campbell gave update re: committee recent training with people from national setting and membership (2 members from each association). Lacks racial diversity; at some point we may need a conversation about widening racial diversity of group.

Annual Meeting update

- Site will be First Congregational Church, Charlotte. Olivet College willing to host youth overnight for activities and also offered gospel choir for worship.

LUNCH

Mission Area Team updates

- Prophetic Integrity MAT. Focused on Poor People’s Campaign. Seven or eight churches represented at first rally and at least one participated in direct action.
- Vital Growth MAT. Meeting next week. Working on Bertha Dayton grants.
- Faith Formation MAT. No updates since last Board meeting.
- Compassionate Generosity MAT. Successful event running as we meet: “Hearts & Treasures: Creating a Culture of Generosity at Your Church.” Well-attended.

Conference Minister Update

- Campbell reviewed previously distributed report

Nominations

- Greg Briggs, vice-president, convenes nominating committee. For Annual Meeting need 10 delegates for class of 2021 General Synod. (Also need to check that all of class of 2019 can attend). Need a replacement for Dennis Green on Board. Need to clarify if any Board members or officers need to be elected at Annual Meeting.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2018 – Campbell will check about possibility of meeting at First Congregational, Charlotte.