

MINUTES – Corrected & Approved
Michigan Conference United Church of Christ ~ Board of Directors
January 19, 2019

Due to weather, meeting was held via Zoom videoconferencing

Present: Ivana Barrows, Ruth Moerdyk (secretary), Greg Briggs (vice-president), Campbell Lovett (Conference Minister), Vaughn Peters, Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Bob Heisler (business manager), Judy Furman, Mary Ann Martin, Ralph Sims

Excused absences: Judith Booker (president), Coni Simon, Karen Wheeler, Akua Badu-Watkins, Dan Spaulding

Greg Briggs reported that he is waiting to hear from a person he has asked to serve as Moderator.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Conflict of Interest Policy: Any necessary explanations and signing of conflict of interest documents postponed

Consent agenda adopted

November 2018 Board Meeting Minutes adopted

Financial Report

- Karen Wheeler noted that 2018 financials were not complete, but that it appeared that 2018 OCWM receipts could be down as much as \$42,000 from 2017
- Karen also noted that the Finance Committee is in the process of meeting with different financial consultants re: handling investments in the future

Special Mission Relationship with United Church Homes/Pilgrim Manor

- Moved and seconded to establish a special mission relationship between United Church Homes/Pilgrim Manor and Michigan Conference of the UCC.
 - Passed

Approval of clergy housing allowances at 2018 level

- Moved and seconded to approve 2019 clergy housing allowances for Conference staff at the same level as 2018.
 - Passed

2020 Vision Updates (conversation led by Ruth Moerdyk)

- Development and content of previously distributed 2020 Vision Plan, updated with progress so far, briefly reviewed
- Intent of item was to determine plan priorities for 2019. Given scatteredness of conversation, lack of face-to-face communication, and number of absences, that determination was not reached. There was, however, good conversation and a general

consensus that main points of the conversation should be included in minutes in order to help with discussion at next Board meeting. Points and comments in discussion included:

- Remarks on major changes since 2020 Vision was first developed
 - Staffing challenges
 - Changes at national offices and in the denomination's structure
 - New Manual on Ministry
 - Substantial changes in national political climate
- The need to focus somehow on what is most important in Conference, when a number of needs and potential priorities exist
- Remarks about the number of areas that have seen progress since the document was written in 2016
- A general sense that five broad areas need attention, but no clear sense of how best to approach them. The areas mentioned most are:
 - Communications and connection within Conference
 - Challenges named in this area included dealing with an overloaded media environment, a lack of awareness about communication vehicles Conference already uses, need to communicate across vast age diversity (five generations), and developing clear, consistent messaging
 - Finances and property
 - Staffing challenges and need to look at new staff "architecture"
 - Clergy support
 - Revitalization of congregations
- There also was some conversation about how to solicit input for future strategic planning

Mission Area Team Updates (PIMAT, VGMAT, FFMAT, CGMAT)

- Prophetic Integrity: continued work re: bringing Michigan Resolution to 2019 Synod
- Vital Growth: written report distributed
- Faith Formation: almost ready to hire (Very Part-Time) youth ministry program associate
- Compassionate Generosity: looking ahead and also trying to understand potential changes to denominational funding models in next few years

Conference Minister Report

- Campbell Lovett offered brief remarks on his previously distributed report

Moved and seconded to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Moerdyk, Secretary