MINUTES
Michigan Conference United Church of Christ
Board of Directors
Via Zoom

July 18, 2020

Present: Dan Spaulding, Ivana Barrow, Mary Anne Martin, Phil Hart (Transitional Conference Minister), Bob Heisler (Business Manager), Greg Briggs, Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Judith Booker (President), Phiwa Langeni (Moderator), Liz Larrivee, Ralph Sims, Ruth Moerdyk, Judy Furman, Akua Budu-Watkins, Karen Wheeler (Treasurer)

Absent: Helene Singer

Consent Agenda:  Moved and seconded to adopt consent agenda.  Passed.

Minutes:  Moved and seconded to adopt minutes

Treasurer’s Report:  Karen Wheeler reviewed previously distributed report


OLD BUSINESS

Immanuel Scholarship Fund
Greg Briggs, chair of the Faith Formation Mission Area Team (FFMAT) referred Board members to previously distributed language re: expanding use of the Immanuel Scholarship Fund to continuing education for authorized ministers, if funds remain after granting scholarships to Members In Discernment (MIDs).  Priority remains with scholarship support for MID expenses.

Moved and seconded to approve revisions to Immanuel Scholarship Fund description.  Passed.

UPDATES

Annual Meeting
Phiwa Langeni reviewed plans for Conference Annual Meeting in October.  Speaker will be Elivette (Elly) Mendez Angulo, Program Manager for the Franklinton Center

Search Committee
Judith Booker reported on Executive Committee’s process for forming a search committee for a settled Conference Minister.  Names for committee will be affirmed at Annual Meeting.  Executive Committee will name chair of search committee.

Camp Talahi
Bob Heisler reported that a contract has been signed for an appraisal of the Camp Talahi property.
Discussion of appraisal and possible sale of property followed. Phil Hart suggested that any appraisal include the possibility of “piecing out” parts of the property to provide options in any sales negotiations. After discussion, next steps seemed to be:

- Completed appraisal will come to both Board and its Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.
- Negotiations will move forward once Board establishes parameters for negotiation
- Following that, the goal is to return to negotiations
- Assuming an agreement is reached, the Board will have a meeting to approve an agreement

**Transitional Conference Minister**

Phil Hart noted:

- An experimental online program for youth over the summer, put together by Jenn Ringgold, was successful. It drew 180 participants from 18-20 churches in the Conference.
- He hopes to talk to staff about feedback they are receiving from local churches in an attempt to learn how best to help churches abide during this time.

He also described areas of Conference functioning that need some assessment and possible ‘tuning up’ in terms of structure and intention:

- Financial processes and decision-making
- Personnel roles and responsibilities
- How the Board functions in, and on behalf of, the Conference and its ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Moerdyk
Secretary

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 19, 2020