

Michigan UCC Board of Directors Minutes January 18, 2020

Present: Mary Ann Martin, Liz Larrivee, Dan Spaulding, Ruth Moerdyk, Judith Furman, Campbell Lovett (Conference Minister), Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Ralph Sims, Akua Budu-Watkins, Judith Booker (President), Phiwa Langeni, Karen Wheeler (Treasurer), Greg Briggs (*Note that because of weather several members attended via videoconference*)

Absent: Ivana Barrows, Helena Singer

Campbell Lovett opened with reflection and prayer

Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Moved and seconded to adopt consent agenda. Passed

Approval of November 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

- Moved and seconded to adopt November 2019 minutes. Passed.

Old Business

- Judith Booker noted that a letter of thanks on behalf of the Conference had been sent to Stan Dole for his many years of outstanding advice regarding Conference investments.
- Judith Booker noted that a contract for Rev. Philip Hart to serve as Transitional Conference Minister had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and signed. Moved and seconded to approve this contract. Passed.

Election of Officers

- Moved and seconded for Judith Booker to serve as Board President for 2020 and for Greg Briggs to serve as Vice-President for 2020. Passed.

Executive Committee Update

- Noted that the Executive Committee had approved staff housing allowances during conference call on 12/19/19. Request for Board approval. Moved and seconded to approve staff housing allowances for 2020. Passed.
- Noted that Grand West Association (GWA) had voted to approve the disassociation of First Congregational Church, Fremont as a congregation in the UCC. Request for Board confirmation. Moved and seconded to confirm GWA vote of disassociation from First Congregational Church, Fremont. Passed.
 - This action will be reported to national denominational offices.

Update on Camp Talahi

- Representatives from Horse Powered People and Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center joined the meeting via videoconferencing to discuss their partnership in outdoor ministry. They also reviewed a draft of an agreement re: ongoing joint uses of Talahi property and purchase of property from Conference.
 - Some discussion followed; Board generally supported direction discussion is taking
 - Dan Spaulding offered to serve as liaison between Board and Camp Talahi.

Financial Update

- Karen Wheeler reported that 2019 year-end reports were not complete, and that it appeared that OCWM giving was slightly increased from 2018
- Karen reviewed previously distributed treasurer's report.

- Process for selecting investment advisors was reviewed. Moved and seconded to support and confirm Finance Committee's choice. Passed.

Update re: Coach Training Grant

- Cheryl Burke reviewed previously distributed information re: a grant proposal she and some ecumenical partners are submitting to fund training a cohort of coaches for clergy in Michigan.
 - Some discussion followed, with general affirmation of project and its possibilities.

Conference Minister Report

- Campbell Lovett referenced previously distributed report and reviewed some details related to his departure as Conference Minister. Remaining loose ends included:
 - Naming liaisons with Michigan UCC partners in Germany. Akua Budu-Watkins and Greg Briggs volunteered for this role.
 - Formally naming a point person for racial justice training in Michigan UCC. After brief discussion it was moved and seconded to affirm and confirm Liz Miller (Edgewood UCC) in this role. Passed.

Transition and Farewell

- Members of the Board offered thanks and gratitude to Campbell for his service as Conference Minister and Judith Booker presented him with a gift from Pewabic Pottery as a token of thanks and a memento of Michigan.
- All present participated in a litany of farewell.

Adjournment, with lunch and reception for Campbell and Eileen Lovett to follow.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2020