

## **MINUTES**

### **Michigan Conference United Church of Christ ~ Board of Directors November 17, 2018**

*Present:* Campbell Lovett (Conference Minister), Judith Booker (President), Greg Briggs (Vice-president—via Zoom), Coni Simon, Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Ralph Sims, Vaughn Peterson, Bob Heisler (Business Manager), Karen Wheeler (treasurer), Judy Furman, Ruth Moerdyk (Secretary), Ivana Barrow, Akua Badu-Watkins, George Bozanich (Moderator)

*Absence excused:* Dan Spaulding

*Opening prayer offered by George Bozanich*

*Consent Agenda passed*

*September 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes passed*

*Review of 2018 Conference Annual Meeting*

- Judy Furman distributed thoughts from Mary England of Lakeview UCC (see attached)
- General comments followed re:
  - follow-up to events
  - take-aways from plenaries and workshops
  - general timeliness of topic
  - appreciation for special musician and worships
  - renewing connection to Olivet College
  - challenge of ‘onboarding’ Saturday arrivals re: Friday content
  - youth participation and programming
  - expanding participation beyond clergy and delegates
  - extending special welcome to first-timers

*Board Development*

- Campbell Lovett walked through a powerpoint re: 2017 Statistical Profile of the UCC
  - Will send out the link to presentation
- Campbell posed the question of how does this help us understand the role and mission of Michigan Conference? Responses included:
  - Who are we? What is our identity? Do we need conversation about who we are together as Michigan Conference ?
  - How to resource small towns, establish liberal/progressive presence in small towns?
  - Can numbers re: reduction of congregations be drilled down to assess numbers of mergers, closures, leaving denomination, etc?
  - Challenges are held in common with other denominations and across the board in UCC, not just in Michigan
  - Challenges navigating changes in US demographics
  - Challenges navigating changes in approaches to religion, church, spirituality, and trust in institutions

### *Financial Report*

- Treasurer's Report
  - Bob Heisler reviewed the previously distributed report
- OCWM Review
  - Bob Heisler reviewed the previously distributed OCWM report
- Budget and Finance & Investment Committee Updates
  - Karen Wheeler reviewed previously distributed report
    - Provided clarification related to previous Board discussion. Budget and Finance Committee role in major property decisions would be to advise Board and any ad hoc property committee re: financial ramifications of property decisions

### *Nominating Committee*

- Moderator
  - Greg Briggs noted that George Bozanich is leaving as moderator; Board needs to fill position until it can be confirmed at next Annual Meeting. Hopes to have candidate for Moderator by January Board meeting.
- Election of Board President, Vice President and Secretary (*Per bylaws Article VI, Sec. A.*)
  - All present in those positions will continue, as bylaws have no term limits to these positions on Board

### *Report of the Personnel Committee*

- Judith Booker reported meeting with Judy Furman and Dan Spaulding as Personnel Committee to review Campbell's position and performance. All responsibilities being tended to very well. Some discussion focused on tending to adequate self-care.

### *Lunch Break*

*Judith Booker offered a word and gift of thanks to George Bozanich as he leaves his position as Moderator of the Conference.*

### *New Business –*

- Vote on 2018 Version of Conference Minister Fitness Review Guidelines
  - Moved and seconded to approve previously distributed Conference Minister Fitness Review Guidelines. Passed.
- Mission Area Team updates
  - Prophetic Integrity (Campbell reporting)
    - Reviewed resolution passed at Annual Meeting re: follow-up for implementation.
    - Oversight for two resolutions to forward to Synod for consideration
  - Vital Growth (Judy reporting)
    - Minutes from last meeting previously distributed
    - Cheryl noted that Young Fenix Fellowship may not continue.
    - New info: Church of the Good Shepherd will host Vitality Day

- Faith Formation (Greg reporting)
  - Discussion about untapped resources for Faith Formation.
  - Conversation about adult faith formation and what that could look like and how to better be an asset to local congregations
  - General conversation about what Faith Formation looks like now
- Compassionate Generosity (Karen reporting)
  - Began planning for major events next year
  - Began having discussion re: Friends of the Conference
  - Some conversation re: OCWM giving

#### *Conference Minister Update*

- Written report previously distributed
- Looking at hiring “very” part-time youth coordinator to help communication, plan youth-related events (4/year). Begin to build on momentum begun.
- Staffing “architecture” reviewed. May need to examine and restructure some things. Current arrangements unsustainable. More discussion upcoming.
  - Need to be clear that staff look at this as a management issue.
  - Need to be clear from beginning of this discussion that Board, with Associations, need to be clearly identified as leaders in looking at this as a governance issue.

#### *Adjournment*

Next Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Location TBD