

Michigan Conference UCC

Board of Directors (via Zoom)

Saturday January 15 2022 (corrected)

Present: Catherine Balk, Jonathan Riedel, Ruth Moerdyk, Mary Ann Martin, Phil Hart (Transitional Conference Minister), Judith Booker (President), Greg Watling, Catherine Balk, Judy Furman, Ralph Sims, Cheryl Burke (Associate Conference Minister), Liz Larrivee, David Wheeler (Interim Moderator), Karen Wheeler (Interim Treasurer)

Absent: Akua Budu-Watkins, Ivana Pugh, Jean Winther

Welcome and Devotions: Judith Booker offered devotions.

Agenda: Added update on upcoming Annual Meeting. Moved and seconded to approve agenda as modified. Passed.

Minutes: Moved and seconded to approve minutes. Passed.

Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members

Greg Watling, Catherine Balk, Jonathan Riedel and Jean Winther introduced themselves. Previous Board members then introduced themselves.

Financial Report

- Karen Wheeler offered a brief summary of present finances, given absence of end of year financial statements. Total investments at end of year approximately \$7.9 million in market value.
- OCWM collection for 2021 will exceed the \$386,000 budgeted.
- Moved and seconded to approve financial report. Passed.

Old Business

- Search Committee Update: Judith Booker reported that two final candidates are being considered. There is one in-person interview being conducted today. A second in-person interview will be January 21-22. Board members were asked to place February 12 on calendars in order to meet the final candidate and affirm nomination. Need to schedule three

“meet and greet” events via Zoom before special meeting of Conference via Zoom on March 19 or 26 to select and call a settled Conference Minister. Start date will be June 1 or 15 or July 1. Executive Committee will set dates for “meet and greet” sessions.

- Courage Grants: Phil Hart reported that 66 churches have filled out the distribution form for Courage Grants; details still in process for disbursements. Proposed uses are varied and exciting. Discussion followed.

Moved and seconded to go into executive session. Passed.

Moved and seconded to return to regular business session. Passed.

- Camp Talahi. Moved and seconded to authorize Phil to proceed with actions and conversation regarding possibility of arranging a land contract or other arrangements concerning Camp Talahi property. Passed.
- Housing Allowance Authorization. Moved and seconded that Board affirm housing allowance for staff as approved by Executive Committee. Passed.
- COLA increases on Conference salary guidelines. Moved and seconded that 3% COLA increases to the Conference Clergy Salary Guidelines for the Michigan Conference UCC be tied to COLA increases for Conference staff (which are determined by Board). Passed.

New Business

- David Wheeler presented a couple questions regarding the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Conference. The meeting will probably be in October. Two questions: 1) should the meeting be partially or entirely in person; 2) do we want a keynote presentation of some sort? Need decisions on these questions soon. Discussion followed. Planning committee will meet and report to Board in March.
- Judith and Phil discussed need to schedule an orientation for Board members with national UCC counsel; this will possibly occur during March meeting. It might be wise to invite Association leaders the opportunity to join this portion of the meeting, given the importance of understanding general board responsibilities and roles.

Transitional Conference Minister Report

- Phil noted some recent correspondence re: “how things are going” in one local church. Described “deep transition” church is undergoing. Cautioned against “managing what we have” and encouraged Board to create time and mechanisms to creatively and deeply think about the future of this organization. Encouraged considering the metaphor of pilgrimage as helpful; this requires a different skill set than we are generally accustomed to deploying.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Moerdyk
Secretary