

Michigan UCC BOD Meeting September 16, 2023

Welcome and Devotions

Meeting called to order by Judith at 10:00 am, with opening prayer by Sue.

Attendance (Excused and Absent)

All board members were present except Judy Furman (excused), Abbie Goerg, Jeffrey Rhodes,

Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Two additions were made to the agenda, Damascus Project update and ACM search status.
- Judith allowed board introductions, starting with the newest member Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe, COV Liaison.
- Motion to accept the consent agenda with modifications made by Antoinette and seconded by Akua. Approved.

Approval of May 22, 2023, and July 15, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes made by Abbie Goerg and seconded by Jonathan Riedel

Financial Report

- Introduction of new Financial Director, Jess Beurkeus (People's Church in Lansing). Reviewed previously distributed report.
- Motion made to accept report by Mary Ann and seconded by Diane. Approved.

Old Business

MI Conference By-Law Task Force deferred until 2024, to be led by Rev. Liz Larrivee.

Annual Meeting Update - Rev. Dr. Diane Baker

- Conference to be held in-person and hybrid on Saturday, October 28, in Grand Rapids
- Still in search of a parliamentarian
- Considering consolidation of association meetings
- Ridesharing was presented as a consideration for future conferences to get participants to the conference safely.
- 40 Acres Soul Kitchen will be providing food for the conference with vegan options available.
- Hybrid participants will not be able to vote.

Update on New Waves – Rev. Lillian Daniel

Shared the amendment requested by New Waves.

Nominating Committee Update - Rev. Liz Larrivee

- Shared changes on board in last year.
- Discussed demographical makeup of the board and the importance in keeping the board balanced (i.e., lay, clergy, location, gender, ethnicity, etc.)
- We presently have three openings – Judith Booker (President), Akua Budu Watkins (At-Large), Judy Furman (Grand West).
- A treasurer is still needed. Prefer a certified financial planner or CPA for this position.
- Slate reviewed to give board perspective on where everyone is at as it relates to their specific terms. Need lay, he/him, and people of color.

Mary Ann Martin provided update on the Wisconsin Damascus (Senior) Project

New Business

- Rev. Cheryl Burke provided an update on Resolution from PIMAT. We have an MID who has been incarcerated since age 19 (now 40) to a life sentence for being present at a crime, while the person who committed the crime has since been released. Would like the board to support legislation to reconsider sentencing changes. Motion made by Sue and seconded by Mary Ann to accept this resolution. Approved.
- Sue made note this is not a new issue. She suggested we read and encourage our congregations to do so too, Just Mercy by Brian Stephenson.

ACM Report - Rev. Cheryl Burke

- Update provided.

Conference Minister's Report - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel

- ACM Search going well. 17 candidates so far. Interviews underway.
- Highlighted her previously sent report.

Gratitude

Rev. Liz Larrivee offered thanks to Board Members Judy Furman, Akua Budu-Watkins, Judith Booker for their years of service to the board. Akua and Judith offered parting words to the team.

Closing Prayer by Jonathan - Meeting Adjourned at 11:52

NEXT BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2023