

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Board of Directors Meeting| Hybrid | Saturday May 18, 2024 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

First Congregational Church 145 Capital Ave, NE, Battle Creek, Michigan

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/743446364?pwd=Vm9hbFNFU1hiMDkrS0ppMGZrUXBMUT09>

Goggle Folder Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xsw2MDxJ24HcZTV0rYq18q7M-prH1gHh?usp=sharing>

MINUTES

Taken by Lillian Daniel due to absence of AM

Welcome & Devotion/Prayer/Meditation

- Rev. Liz Larrivee, President

Attendance (Excused and Absent)

Absent excused: Shawnthea, Antoinette, Ashley

In person: Liz, Sue, JR, LR, DB, PM, LD, CB

Zoom: Jeff Rhodes, SJ, AG

- Meeting Minutes Volunteer - Lillian Daniel, humble scribe
- Adoption of Agenda - done
- Approval of January 20, 2024 Minutes - done

Financial Report

- Rev. Shane Montoya, Treasurer

Old Business

- **Robert's Rules Takeaways**
 - Liz Larrivee shared insights from Antoinette McGarvin, Secretary ex: we do not need to make formal motions for everything
- **Debrief March 23, 2024 Joint BOD/Staff Retreat**
 - Rev. Liz Larrivee &
 - Abbie Goerg - led discussion asking for BOD feedback on retreat. Summary: Quanita's gifts on team building and relational aspects were appreciated for that one retreat. Now that we have experienced that, mtg consensus was that next year we look for a presenter to take us into strategic pieces at a better time for pastors (ie: not pushing against Holy Week.)
- **East Lansing MI Conference Property Sale**
 - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel provided an update on the East Lansing Office Property, three parcels, listed for sale Jan 16, 2024.

- **BOD Committee Updates**

- Rev. Shane Montoya, Treasurer, Chair Budget and Finance Committee - see report
Over budget on mileage due to staff increased travel to churches
Shane and Investments Comm has chosen to sell fossil fuel stocks for investment draws as a way to bring us into compliance with our resolution in Oct 2023
7% growth in last 6 months, but don't count on it.
SG moved, JR second, treasurer's report approved
- Rev. Dr. Diane Baker, Moderator, Chair Annual Meeting Planning Team
Committee Nov 1-2 mtg, extra Thurs R&R Oct 31, costumes optional, - July 1 Call to mtg,
- Rev. Stephen Johnson, Vice President, Chair Nominating Committee - Still looking for our at large vacant spot, comm to reconvene, new google nominations forms by MC staff are making the process more efficient
- Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Rhodes, Chair, Personnel Committee - JR, AG & LL Current goals:
 1. rewriting 2011 MC Personnel Policy to reflect reality based on best practices of church and US Government,
 2. Rewriting the form for CM LD's review from last year to shorten
 3. Comm met with CM LD, goal to revise criteria, completion goal Sept 2024
- Rev. Liz Larrivee, President, Chair Executive Committee & Conference Bylaws Committee - has been on hold but July 3 Upcoming Wed Zoom leadership lunch on bylaws and governance opportunity for BOD to reflect
- Rev. Liz Larrivee: Chair MI Conference Strategic Plan Committee
We need one, didn't get mission, vision and values done at our more relationally focused retreat in March, looking for a consultant from outside our org
Bylaws Team currently SM, JR, DB

- **BOD Liaison Updates**

- Covenant: Rev. Dr. Shawntea Monroe - absent, printed report by LL Spring mtg creation care Brooks Brent, grants given, struggles on income side
- Detroit Metro Association: Stephen Johnson - Spring mtg topic GOTV, new moderator is Galen Fisher, increase in lay participation, DMA, lapping the MC, passed bylaw revisions
- Eastern Association: Mary Ann Martin - EA joined Covenant for Spring mtg creation care focus, Brooks Brent
- Grand West Association: Peter Meuller - Lengthy conversation re MID Midwest Min Development Assessments CB shared best/most common practice Assoc pays \$1,100, MID/or candidate for Privilege of Call pays \$600 and local church paYS \$600 each. All MC associations do this except for GWA which has been doing 1/3 split.
- Southwest Association: Rev. Susan Greenwood - Spring mtg is social, potluck picnic, food focused, topic elem age kids with leaders Jenn Ringgold & LR, SWA is seeking to vote to become ONA as an assoc. Sending ambassadors to local churches
- United Northern Association: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Rhodes - [see report](#) Mod is Vaughn Peterson, their fall mtg will be part of MC Ann Mtg, Spring Mtg 45 attended w speakers LD & Jenn Ringgold, UNA Exec Comm is looking to reach out to churches who are disconnected from UNA and MC to see why they don't attend Spring mtgs or participate

- **Staff Updates**

- Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - [report attached](#)
- Associate Conference Minister of Clergy Care & Formation: Rev. Cheryl Burke - See report, additional discussion on roles of associations and conference
- Associate Conference Minister of Church Vitality and Transitions: Rev. Lawrence Richardson see report Discussion re new emphasis on church health vs/over church growth, nostalgia for past, demographic studies that show we are all part of the same trends

New Business

- Hybrid BOD Meeting Feedback (Jan 20 The People's Church, E. Lansing & today) LL seeks feedback on hybrid nature of our BOD mtgs, is it working? Summary: Tech issues will always be with us, but zoom option is appreciated by those on zoom and it is the expectation these days.
- July 20 Hybrid BOD Meeting Douglas UCC Retreat House, Douglas, MI: Pete Mueller shared lodging info saugatuck.com, LL will look into lodging for Sat night for the many BOD members who indicated they may wish to stay overnight Friday, Pete will see if church members could offer a spare room, and he will see if the church could do a BBQ the night before if enough BOD folks were interested.
- Sept mtg somewhere in DMA, maybe at Shane's church or if that is not available, we will surprise and get to know Steve Johnson's family by switching the location to his house at the very last minute.

Additional Items

- BOD Updates - BOD photos needed for website
LL requests you email her a picture for the BOD page on MC website. If you do not wish to share your photo, Jenn will create an appropriate avatar for you, such as a squirrel, Mickey Mouse, a tiny fairy or your choice of one of four teletubbies.

Closing Prayer/Meditation/Benediction

- As the Spirit moves - It did

Meeting Adjourned 12:23 PM

- Next BOD Meeting: July 20, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Douglas UCC Douglas, MI

Lunch Today from McGonigle's Deli - thank you, Lawrence

Minutes submitted 2:23 PM, May 18, 2024 by Lillian Daniel, temporary (as in once in a lifetime) scribe.