

**Minutes: Michigan Conference UCC
BOD Meeting
Saturday, July 20, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Hybrid**

Welcome

- *Hybrid meeting called to order by Rev. Liz Larrivee, President @10:11. In-person meeting held at Douglas Congregational UCC/Douglas, MI.*

Devotions/Prayer/Meditation

- *Opening prayer/Meditation by Jeff Rhodes*

Attendance (Excused and Absent)

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - *Motion made to approve the agenda - moved, seconded, and approved.*
- All board members (15) were present Liz, Lillian, Antoinette, Ashley, Cheryl, Diane, Jeff, Jonathan, Lawrence, Peter, Shane, Shawnthea, Sue
- Not present: Abbie, Stephen, Mary Ann
- Approval of May 18, 2024, Minutes – *moved, seconded, and approved. Shane proposed removing the specifics of the deal from the last minutes*

Financial Report

- Rev. Shane Montoya, Treasurer, provided an update. *Refer to the google drive, May Finance folder.*

Business Items

- **Resolution Changing Association Boundaries: EA & DMA**
 - Rev. Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister, *provided update on challenges in the EA and the decision to merge with DMA. EA called a special meeting on July 24 to vote on the change. There is one church in EA that wants to move to the Covenant Association.*
- **Conference Resolution on Changing Association Boundaries: EA & DMA**
 - Rev. Liz Larrivee, Chair & President, *advised that with the merger of the two associations, the makeup of our board will need to change. An EA position may possibly change to an At-Large position.*
- **Psychedelics Resolution**
 - Rev. Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister, provided an update.
 - *Jonathan suggested we consider how we consider how to present this resolution at the annual meeting. The term “psychedelics” may spark feelings.*
 - *Dialogue had about “psychedelics.” Shane shared the following from the Senate Resolution: "Entheogenic plant or fungus" means a plant or fungus of any species in which there is naturally occurring any of the following substances listed in section 7212(1)(c), including any mixture or preparation thereof, or any other natural material containing an indole amine, tryptamine, or phenethylamine compound:26 (i)*

*Dimethyltryptamine.27 (ii) Ibogaine.28 (iii) Mescaline.29 (iv) Psilocybin.
;LEP 04139'231 (v) Psilocyn.2 (b) "Marihuana plant"*

- *Motion to approve resolution moved, seconded, and approved.*

- **BOD Committee Updates**

- Rev. Dr. Diane Baker, Moderator, Chair Annual Meeting Planning Team Committee, provided update. *Call to meeting went out. Finalizing details.*
- Rev. Shane Montoya, Treasurer, Chair Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee, provided *update on state of budget preparation for next year.*
- Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Rhodes, Chair, Personnel Committee, provided updates. *Preparing document to allow Lillian to provide updates on what she has been doing in advance of her review. Meeting w/Lillian on 9/6 and 9/27.*
- Rev. Liz Larrivee for Stephen Johnson, Chair Nominating Committee, provided updates. *Looking for candidates for one at-large position, as well as for the at-large EA position. Following, they will start looking for delegates for the next general synod.*
- Rev. Liz Larrivee, Chair MI Conference Strategic Plan Committee, provided updates.
 - Sarah Drummond (Yale Divinity School) Strategic Planning Consulting Proposal: Mission, Vision, Values; *will be present at our 2025 retreat.*
 - MI Conf Website BOD Page Info due August 25, 2024, to Jenn Ringold

- **BOD Liaison Updates**

- Covenant: Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
- Grand West Association: Peter Mueller
- Southwest Association: Rev. Susan Greenwood
- United Northern Association: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Rhodes. *Report on google drive.*

- **Staff Updates**

- Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel. *Refer to report on google drive.*
- Associate Conference Minister of Church Vitality and Transitions: Rev. Lawrence Richardson. *Refer to report on google drive.*
- Associate Conference Minister of Clergy Care & Formation: Rev. Cheryl Burke

- **Looking Ahead**

- September 21, 2024: Hybrid Meeting Location: Cong Church of Birmingham UCC, Bloomfield Hills – Host: Shane
- October 31 – Nov 2, 2024: Annual Meeting Location: Crystal Mountain Thompsonville
- January 18, 2025 – Staff retreat

Closing Prayer/Meditation/Benediction

- Meeting adjourned at 12:22 with a closing prayer by Liz Larivee.

Next BOD Meeting: September 21, 2024, Hybrid Meeting, Congregational Church of Birmingham UCC, Bloomfield Hills (Shane Montoya)