

**Board of Directors Meeting
Rocky Mountain Conference, United Church of Christ
Carriage House, La Foret, Colorado
August 20, 2016**

Present: David Bahr, Martha Jones, Courtney Dobbins, Rachel Oliver (new youth), Judy Baillie, Nate Miller, John Rostykus, Matt Huntington, Carol White, Erin Gilmore, Karen Winkel, Sue Artt

Absent: Gage Church on sabbatical; Tamara Boynton – on vacation

Staff: Lisa Callahan, Cory Kibler

Call to Order:

John called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Opening Prayer:

Nate offered the opening prayer.

Agenda:

The Agenda was reviewed. This meeting is about getting to know everybody and renewing our commitment to the Board of Directors.

Introductions:

John introduced Rachel Oliver, a prospective new youth representative.

Everyone then took turns giving a brief introduction that included each person's church, their role in the Conference, and what each is looking forward to in the coming year.

Minutes:

Minutes from the June 9 through 11, 2016 meetings in Utah were reviewed. Sue has a few minor grammatical changes that do not affect the content or meaning of the Minutes, and will give those changes to Lisa upon return to the office.

MOTION: Matt moved to approve the June 9 through 11, 2016 Minutes as presented, and with the changes requested by Sue. Nate seconded the Motion; Motion approved unanimously.

Reintroducing the Board:

- John reviewed our core purpose from the Vision Framework, the mission of the Board of Directors, and the list of norms. These items are all listed on the Agenda.

- The Board of Directors' mission will be revisited at the next meeting, and there will be a little work on the norms, rethinking this and making it align with our future.
- John briefly named the various teams currently in place.
- A Little History of the RMC Board of Directors was presented beginning with the 2014 Annual Meeting in Grand Junction through the 2016 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City this past June.
- Looking ahead to the coming year, the Board needs to:
 - Develop a 21st century leadership model based on the vision framework and the needs of the Conference.
 - Rethink and communicate the role of OCWM giving and overall Conference funding.
 - Decide the next steps for the mission seeds experiment.
 - Review the Constitution and Bylaws to better align them with the vision and a 21st century leadership model.

RMC Governance Intranet:

John introduced the new RMC Governance Intranet:

- The intranet can be updated and revised easily.
- John requests feedback and comments, corrections, etc.
- It does not replace Google docs. Documents will still be in Google docs, but they are linked through the intranet.
- John or Cory can add links.

Ministry Plan III Committee Report:

Judy Baillie gave a report on the Ministry Plan III Committee's progress to date:

- The purpose of this Committee is to determine what processes may not be as effective today or in the future as they were when first created.
- Looked at how to approach current and future conference leadership.
- The Committee first identified what they felt was important to the vision framework and perceived goals, keeping in mind the intention to align with the work from national.
- They looked at best practices for what is working and is effective, and how to expand the vision beyond the Conference office to churches and associations.
- Data from the Annual Meeting in June was gathered and condensed, and interpreted for meaning.
- The Committee also considered what the vision framework provides and what is needed: the skills and attitudes needed, and leadership skills and needs.
- They also discussed managing the organization and the business end of the Conference at the same time: who do we have with needed skills? Are people in the correct positions and job descriptions?
- This moves the Conference from "managing" to an expanded leadership model that is a much bigger piece, encourages wider Conference participation, and incorporates other people's knowledge and skills.
- The key is providing leadership for all the things going on, and attempting to pair the insight and experience of people with newer technology but never losing site of the "people portion."
- Ongoing staff development and training are core values. It is designed to integrate efficient collaboration.

Martha expressed her appreciation to Judy for chairing this. The Committee has worked extremely hard and has saved the Conference a lot of money by not hiring a consultant.

Future of OCWM and OCWM Funding:

Sue gave a brief presentation of the upcoming OCWM campaign:

- A personalized OCWM letter will be sent to each church, including that church's stats and the corresponding Association stats, along with some Conference information.
- Statistics for other churches will not be available.
- The purpose is to show the churches how the Conference benefits them, and attempts to put an hourly rate to what it costs for the Conference Minister to visit each church (Association). Some visits cost over \$2,000 when factoring in Sue's or Tamara's time, travel expenses (mileage/airfare, hotel, etc.).
- May need to start looking at search and call in a different way too, and perhaps charge churches who do not donate to OCWM.
- Long-term funding will be addressed once the OCWM mailing is out the door.
- Sue is working with the Office of UCC Philanthropy, who has determined that churches would benefit from kiosks for credit/debit card payments .

Finance Committee:

- RMC moved most financial tasks to an outside bookkeeper, and revised the chart of accounts at the same time. There are several items that need to be changed or corrected, so there are several problems with the reports. Matt, Jan, Sue, and Lisa have a phone conference with the bookkeeper next week to begin straightening this out and should have understandable reports for the September meeting.
- OCWM is currently about \$5,000 behind where we should be, but that is okay due to the anticipated increased funds generated by the upcoming OCWM promotion, and end of year donations are always higher.

Future Meetings:

- Dates for the next two Board meeting were chosen during the brief meeting in Salt Lake City.
- As a result of the survey conducted during Annual Meeting in June, the feedback was clear that the Board should be more present in the Conference.
- A discussion ensued regarding holding the Board meetings in other locations around the Conference. Comments include:
 - It could be complicated by additional overhead, travel restrictions due to weather, etc.
 - It is nice to have the meetings in the Conference office because everything is more readily available and the Conference office has Wifi.
 - The third Saturday of every month is when MDA meets in the Conference office , creating a conflict with the conference room.
 - There is an advantage to being in a large metropolitan area.
 - The consistency of always knowing where the meeting will be held, where to stay, how to get there, etc. is appreciated.

- Moving around at least once or twice a year aligns with the new vision that we are being more inclusive.
- Need to consider our carbon footprint if everyone needs to travel. For example, if a meeting is scheduled in Salt Lake City, it would mean having to move a lot of people, so ecologically this is a less resourceful act of stewardship.
- Due to the conflict with MDA for the next meetings in September and November, Erin will contact various churches in the Denver area to find locations for the September and November meetings.

Youth Appointment:

Rachel feels the Board and the Conference are on the right track, and she is all in.

MOTION: Matt moved to appoint Rachel Oliver (First Congregational UCC in Greeley) to fill the youth position on the Board of Directors. Karen seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Conference Minister Installation:

- Sue went over the logistics, Board roles and directions for the processional.
- The offering will be divided between victims of the Louisiana flooding and RMC church vitality.
- Ushers for the offering are: Rachel, Nate, Matt, and Erin.
- John Dorhauer and Sue will serve communion on the chancel. Platters will be passed.
- Ushers for Communion are: Karen, Courtney, David, Nate, Carol, Rachel, Matt, Erin.

Executive Session:

John Dorhauer joined the meeting and spoke informally with the Board, followed by a chance to ask questions, so the executive session was cancelled.

Closing Prayer:

Karen offered closing prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Callahan
Office Support Coordinator