

Approved

**Rocky Mountain Conference UCC Board of Directors Meeting at La Foret
June 9, 2018 after Annual Celebration**

Present:

Kay Grice, Moderator
Gaye Bosley-Mitchell, Treasurer
Kari Collins, Finance
Mark Dutell, Personnel
Carol White, Intermountain Association Representative
David Bahr, Metro Denver Association Representative
Tracey Dawson, Southeast Association Representative
Martha Jones, Western Slope Association Representative
Sue Artt, Conference Minister

Absent:

Allyson Stauffer, Vice Moderator
Ben Konecny, Platte Valley Association Representative
Judy Baillie, So That Coordinator
Grace Ramsey, Youth
Jesslynn MacDougal, Youth

Guests:

Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister
Ron Patterson, Interim Conference Minister (during Sue's sabbatical)
Cory Kibler, Director of Communications Ministries
Daryl Gerboth, Executive Administrator
Janice Travis, Financial Associate

Opening

Kay called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Mark opened our time with prayer. Board members and guests introduced themselves. Sue introduced new staff, Daryl Gerboth and Janice Travis, and explained the present staffing configuration. Following introductions, Cory, Daryl, and Janice departed.

Review of Key Frames and Initiatives:

RMC Vision Framework

The Board reviewed the RMC Vision Framework, adopted in June 2014. Sue emphasized that in every deliberation and action, the Board should be referring back to our vision framework to determine if a decision is consistent with that framework.

On the agenda for the next meeting: determine the Board's work forward for next year.

21st Century Leadership Model

Sue gave background on the 21st Century Leadership model for the RMC, developed in 2016. The model is based on shared leadership: There is no one “Rock Star Leader” or “Hero Leader.” Sue explained how the model was translated into the current staffing model, especially reframing the Associate Conference Minister position to nurturing the vitality of our churches, especially those further from Denver. The model has led us to nurturing dispersed leadership throughout the conference with the Ignite program, as well as identification of pilot churches with whom Erin is working intensively on vitality initiatives.

Erin further explained the Ignite program, which furthered our inspirational goal of being radically connected. This program has provided a way of living into the vision of the RMC. It involves imagining new ways of leading with the leader as host, one who brings people together. Ignite was an experiment around 3 pillars: self-awareness, building relationships, and developing tools to engage people together. It spanned nine months, with two retreats at La Foret and numerous contacts between. Erin has proposed that the Board look at approving a second cohort group in the fall of 2019. There have been numerous learnings from this experience, and there will be ways to do the program more efficiently and economically next time around. Mark suggested the attendees could be a resource for our nominating committee.

The Faith & Nurture Program Associate position will continue to be revised, with the hope of developing collaborative staffing with La Foret and one or more partner denominations.

Funding

Sue discussed the initiative to take actions to better our position financially. She discussed the role of Mary Frances Kerr, the new contract Funding Associate. She and Mary Frances held two breakfasts with some of RMC’s funders, representing a mix of funding churches, both large and small, and Friends of the Conference. Funding will be a top priority in the coming year.

Vitality

Sue said that congregational vitality was one of key pieces of the job description of the Associate Conference Minister. Erin said she has been working intensively with three churches to evaluate strengths and challenges. An initial learning has been that churches need to want to do things in a new way to even be successful in getting a vitality initiative off the ground. After Sue returns from sabbatical, additional churches will be evaluated for addition to this work.

Infrastructure

Sue discussed the need to develop a cross conference Excellence in Ministry Team. This need has become clarified following discernment at recent association leaders retreats. At this time, we have five associations doing ministry authorization and Sue has observed a range of approaches and consistency in practice. An even more immediate need has been to build a team across the conference to do fitness reviews. Erin will take the lead on cross-conference authorization teams. Bringing along association leadership will be important. It has been suggested that an association leaders’ meeting in the Western part of the Conference might be beneficial to engage association leaders in visioning a new way of doing authorization.

Board Terms and Bylaws

Sue distributed a list of Board positions with incumbent names and term limits. She informed the Board that there are some bylaw changes we should consider in the next year, specifically around officer structure and the possible addition of a secretary of the Board. There may be some other areas of current bylaws we might want to review.

Sue's Sabbatical

Sue reviewed the dates of her sabbatical, which are as follows:

8/11/18	Two weeks of vacation
8/26/18	Sabbatical commences
9/1/18	Ron Patterson's service begins @ 50% of full time
11/25/18	Sabbatical concludes
11/26/18	Sue's first day back
11/30/18	Ron's service concludes

At 50% FTE, Ron Patterson will not be in the office every day. Each staff will have projects to do during the sabbatical and will report to Ron. Ron was introduced to the Board.

Motion (Tracey/Gaye) unanimously approved to grant Rev. Ron Patterson authority to attest to bills and sign payment vouchers during Rev. Sue Artt's absence, commencing 9/1/18 and concluding 11/30/18.

Board Commitments and Covenant

Kay led the Board in a discussion of the obligations of Board members: to contract with heart, commit to being in relationship, to show up, and to be present.

Future Board Meeting Dates

Wed., July 18, 2018, 11:00 – 3:00, Lakewood UCC
Wed, Sept 26, 2018, 9:00-3:00, Conference Office
Wed, Jan 23, 2019, 9:00-12:00, via Zoom
April, 2019 – to be determined at the July meeting

David Bahr closed our time with prayer.

Adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Martha Jones.