

**Rocky Mountain Conference UCC
Regular Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
April 28, 2021**

Board Members Present: Sue Artt, Judy Baillie, Deborah Barnard, Lee Berg, David Bristow, Shelly Dunham, Mark Dutell, Ken Ingram, Wendy Kidd, Ben Konecny, Mark Long

Board Members Absent: Andy Nielsen

Others Present: Erin Gilmore, Martha Jones, Daryl Schreiber (for presentation of RMC app)

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Rocky Mountain Conference UCC was called to order by Moderator Judy Baillie at 9:43 am on April 28, 2021. Ken provided a reflection. The agenda was accepted. The minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 2021 were accepted as written. The agenda was approved. Check in followed.

Archway Housing and Services, Inc. Bylaws

The Board of Archway Housing and Services, Inc. has requested approval of updated bylaws of the organization. As there was no summary of the changes, Lee explained the need for updating the bylaws.

ACTION: Upon motion and second, the Board voted (7 in favor, 4 opposed) to accept the proposed bylaws revisions for Archway Housing and Services, Inc.. The Board requested a summary of the changes.

La Foret Board Member Appointment

The Board reviewed the resumé of proposed La Foret board member, Noelle Cochran, a civil engineer and member of First Plymouth. Sue described the unique expertise she would bring to the La Foret Board of Directors.

ACTION: Upon motion and second, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Noelle Cochran to the La Foret Board of Directors.

BREAK

2021 Tributary Fund Grant Proposal

Lee informed the Board of the process for evaluating applications for grants from the Tributary Fund and the recommendations of the evaluation committee, composed of Lee, Mark Dutell, Shelley and each association representative on the Board. Sue noted that the proposed awards are disbursed throughout the conference and address a variety of different types of ministries. Lee explained the process for notifying applicants and establishing an ongoing relationship with each recipient. Sue noted that a few of the applicants not selected for the grant were encouraged to apply for In the Mud grants. Shelley said the selection group needs to meet with grantees to develop accountability metrics, reporting requirements and timelines. The distribution of funds was discussed: the second payments are contingent on receipt of additional funds from the sale

of Christ Congregational. Each grantee will be invited to attend the Annual Celebration and describe their program in 3-5 minutes. Judy expressed appreciation to the committee and noted that their work can serve as a model for future initiatives.

Approved grants are as follows

	Payment #1	Potential Payment #2	Total Awarded
Juniper (MDA)	20,000	5,000	25,000
Rock Center (MDA)	10,000	5,000	15,000
Makerspace (MDA)	7,000	1,000	8,000
New Jerusalem (IMA)	10,000	10,000	20,000
Jesus...Building (SEA)	13,000	2,000	15,000
TOTAL	60,000	23,000	83,000

The Rock Center & New Jerusalem ministries serve children and youth. Maker Space & Jesus Has Left the Building, and Juniper Formation are proposals of what new churches might look like or model a new way of doing church.

ACTION: Upon motion and second, the Board unanimously approve disbursement of the initial \$60,000 of Tributary Funds to the five projects presented, effective upon receipt of a milestones and measurement plan from each which has been approved by Lee Berg, chair of the selection committee. The disbursement of the 2nd tier of funds is subject to the following contingencies: (1) Board approval of an evaluation of milestones and measurements and (2) availability of funds.

Financials

Shelley reviewed several financial reports, including the balance sheet as of 12/31/2020, a P&L comparison of 2019 and 2020, and the P&L budget report for 2020.

She informed the Board that the conference has applied for forgiveness of the PPP loan, which will come off liabilities when approved. She indicated the Finance Committee is still evaluating some of the designated funds on the balance sheet. The projected income from the sale of Christ Congregational Church is included on the P&L. Net would have been a negative \$32,000 for the year without that addition.

She then presented a proposed budget for 18 months (1 year and 6 months) to account for a proposed change in the fiscal year to July 1-June 30, and noted new line items: Tributary Funds, Anti-racism Cultural Shift.

Shelley reviewed categories and items in the budget and answered questions. She noted that the staff line includes the addition of the new Associate Conference Minister position. She discussed the source of funds used to balance the budget.

ACTION: Upon motion and second, the Board unanimously approved forwarding the budget, as presented, for approval at the business meeting during the Annual Celebration.

Bylaws Revision

David reviewed proposed changes in the bylaws. Highlights include the following:

- Change the fiscal year of the conference from January-December to July-June
- Clarify procedures around conducting electronic meetings
- Add “Wider Ministries” and clarify structure for Wider Ministries, Ministry Teams, and Task Forces
- Clarify responsibilities of the Finance & Personnel Committees
- Grant authority to the Conference Minister to create Task Forces
- Change the language of options for naming an immediate replacement in the event of a vacancy in the Conference Minister position

ACTION: Upon motion and second, the Board approved recommending changes in the bylaws as presented for approval at the Annual Celebration.

Association Representatives Guidelines

David shared guidelines for their duties as developed by the Association Representatives. The Board accepted the report and will retain the guidelines in a standing rules document of the Board.

LUNCH BREAK AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY

Redefined Board Positions

The Board discussed the addition or redefinition of Board positions. Shelley and Sue discussed the need for a person whose portfolio would include strategic alignment of the conference assets and vision and discussed Mark Dutell as an ideal candidate for this position.

Sue also recommended that Mark Long’s portfolio be changed to liaison to the moderator group, possibly developing other leadership support groups and that Lee Berg will assume mentorship of the Tributary Fund recipients.

ACTION: By motion and second, the Board approved a new position on the Board with the portfolio of strategic alignment of conference assets and vision. Mark Dutell will be proposed for this new position. Mark Long’s portfolio would be redefined as lay leader liaison and Lee Berg will assume mentorship of Tributary Fund recipients as part of his current new ministry development portfolio.

Nominating Committee Report

Ken presented the report from the Nominating Committee with proposed positions, which will go to the Annual Celebration for approval. There are a few positions are still to be filled.

Conference Survey

Judy reported that seventy responses to the survey were received, equally divided between clergy and lay. The survey committee will review the results and summarize for the Board for future discussion.

Annual Celebration

Sue and Erin shared the timeframe and details for the Annual Celebration June 7 – 13. Sue discussed the notifications and promotion going to churches, a minimal registration fee of \$100 per church for unlimited participation.

Sue Updates

Sue updated the Board on several items:

- Disposal of former Christ Church furnishings, all income of which will go to In the Mud grants
- The status of the sale of Christ Church and some recent complications that have arisen. A separate group from the Board will be formed to discuss options in greater depth.
- Update on other property issues.
- Sue updated the Board on the status of the Associate Conference Minister search. She described the pool of candidates and the process of selection. While Sue has authority to hire for staff positions per the bylaws, she has sought consultation from a subcommittee of the Board in the process. She expects to have a candidate hired and announced shortly, with the person selected attending and participating in the annual meeting.
- Sue informed that Board that changes by The Insurance Board in churches' liability for coverage related to COVID is being reviewed by national UCC counsel and there will be further clarification for churches forthcoming.
- The conference is not eligible for 2nd PPP, as 2020 revenues did not drop to the threshold established (a drop of 25%).

At this time, Daryl joined the meeting to introduce the Board to the new RMC app, a product of Tithely. She described the numerous features of the app, which will serve as new communication platform for conference activities. She also thinks this app would be a good communication alternative for our churches as well and hopes to demo the platform for churches and give them inspiration to pursue this themselves. The plan is to roll this out for annual meeting.

Conferencewide Committee on Ministry

Erin updated the Board on the status of a proposed trial of a conferencewide Committee on Ministry. She provided background on this initiative, which began in our conference with discussions among the association leadership at a retreat four years ago. She explained that in the UCC bylaws, associations are charged with the standing and formation of ministers and standing of churches. In thirteen conferences, associations have delegated this responsibility to their conferences. She discussed the challenges of having a Committee on Ministry in each association. At the time of this meeting, two associations have met to discuss the proposal –

Platte Valley and Intermountain have approved, with wide support and deep discussion. Erin expects the remaining associations will have meetings to discuss prior to the Annual Celebration. This will be a two-year experiment, to be evaluated as we approach the end of the time. She discussed the importance of Committees on Ministry: the work they do is on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ and they have the responsibility to do this work with the greatest integrity and has power to shape the future of the church.

Moderator's Report

Judy discussed a “mocumentary” of Board members, which will be shown at the Annual Celebration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be on June 7, 10:00 am, via Zoom, during the Annual Celebration. Following prayer the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Jones, Scribe