

Special RMC Conference Meeting

February 9, 2023

Via Zoom

Call to Order - Rev. Ken Ingram called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Rev. Sue Artt

Standing Rules for this Special Meeting were reviewed - Sue

Those helping facilitate the meeting:

- Rev. Dr. Tracey Dawson - Parliamentarian
- Rev. Wendy Kidd - Time keeper
- Mr. David Bristow
- Ms. Shelly Adams, Treasurer
- Mr. Mark Dutell, Vice Moderator
- Rev. Ken Ingram - Moderator of Board of Directors
- Rev. Sue Artt - Conference Minister
- Rev. Karen Howe - Scribe for BOD

Selection of Bridge Conference Minister - Ken

- Rev. Diane Weible has been selected to serve a 2-3 month term until the Intentional Interim Conference Minister is able to start.
- Diane introduced herself to the participants

Search for Interim Conference Minister - Ken

- Board has formed a Search Committee from Board members which includes lay and clergy, male and female, across associations

Search for a Settled Conference Minister - Ken

- Board is designing a process
- A Search Committee will be formed with representation from across the geography and demographics of the Conference
- Time frame unknown at this point

What to expect during the Transition Period - Sue

- Conference staff continuing to work
- Board's commitment to the work of the Anti-Racism Ministry continues forward; a meeting with the Anti-Racism Ministry Team is being scheduled
- This CM email will be used throughout the Transition Period: cm@rmcucc.org
- Unknown at this point if the vacant ACM position will be filled

The Rocky Mountain Conference Bylaws - Mark Dutell

- The Conference is developing a path forward with the Anti-Racism Ministry Team with proposed dates for meeting.
- Personnel matters - Mark read the motion for ratification of termination that was approved at the January meeting.

Time for Questions and Answers

- Rev. Ken Ingram asked if Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott were on the call and if he would like to make a statement - no reply.
- Gus Burkard (UCC Parker Hilltop)
Read a prepared letter
"Termination without cause"
- Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern (1st Greeley)
"Miss the mark"
"Was it an act of Christian love...?"
- Rev. Ben Konecny (1st Greeley)
"This is a 'person' matter, not just a 'personnel' matter"
"Heart matter"
This meeting was called at a request by the MDA
- Olive Hinnant
Member of the conference for 26 years
"We can use by-laws, etc. to keep us from hearing our hearts"
Bothered by the rush to move forward
How is Erin being compensated?
- Erin Gilmore (ACM)
Responded that she had advocated for herself and the Board has responded and recognized her added responsibility
- Laura Gurney (1st Greeley)
Wrongs that have shown up in the RMC
Refusing to clear his name
There was no mediation
Need to examine white supremacy structure
- Kim Brewer (Park Hill Congregational)
Communication needed
Smaller meetings for small group discussion
- Katelin Champion (Juniper Formation)
Power and freedom are antithetical
Power only protects the powerful
- Pat Dolin (Broadmoor UCC)
Could the denomination do a review?
- Kayan Cross (Vista Grande)
As Christians, how do we position ourselves in grace and humility?
Justifiable power

- Karen Trainor (1st Greeley)
 - Felt unnecessary to continue on the board
- Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson (Loveland)
 - Member of the anti-racism ministry
 - Create a team
 - Envision a comprehensive vision
 - God calls us to the work of disrupting racism
 - How do we live into this work?
- Virginia Vicente (Laramie)
 - People are racist because of our backgrounds and privilege
- Kate Norris (1st Greeley)
 - This meeting has put up as many roadblocks as possible
 - Lack of transparency
 - Need authenticity and trust
- Dave Claypool (Berkeley UCC)
 - BOD abdicated their responsibility
 - Covenant relationship
 - What is this meeting?
- Rev. Ken Ingram replied that there were stated combined reasons for this meeting.
- Deb Conrad (Parkview, Aurora)
 - Problems with honesty, trust, secrecy
 - Church is not abounding in steadfast love
 - Should be ashamed, but we're not
- Elizabeth Endicott (Loveland UCC)
 - In her professional experience, conversations of termination were private.
 - Why would we want dirty laundry aired?
- Claudia Aguilar (Park Hill UCC)
 - What financial resources did Rev. Scott have for his ministry?
 - What kind of support did he have?
 - What diversity is on the Board?
- Mallory Everhart (Vista Grande UCC)
 - We speak of radical connection
 - White supremacy culture
 - No humility from leadership
- Candace Woods (Juniper Formation)
 - Control
 - Broken trust
 - Diminishment
- Vaughn Drinen (Church of the Wildwood)
 - Let's stop to ask for guidance from the Spirit
 - Rev. Ken Ingram asked Vaughn to say a prayer
- Dr. Jesse Ophoff
- Rev. Jenny Witcher (Juniper Formation)

Provide three months severance for Rev. Dr. Scott

- Rev. Dr. Jason Hays
- Rev. Phil Campbell
Meeting is antithetical to our polity
What should we do takes precedence to what can we do
What gifts and strengths are being looked for in the interim?
- Chelsea Page (Holladay)
Serving on a board is really hard
Thank you for serving on this board
Calling to hear other voices
- Charles Wright (Salem)
Executive committee should resign
Reinstate Rev. Dr. Scott
Churches should withdraw financial resources
- Linda Sager (Church of the Wildwood)
Who has the power?
- Rev. Logan Bennett (La Foret)
Centering love and transparency
Structure has silenced voices
We are failing as church
- Kim Brewer (Park Hill, 2nd time)
What will happen after this meeting?
Could bring in an outside facilitator
Let Sue speak; let Anthony speak
- Rev. James Fother (United Church of Montbello)
We are treasure in clay jars
Pastor for Anthony
Hold Sue and Anthony in his heart

Rev. Wendy Kidd gave closing prayer

Rev. Ken Ingram ended the meeting at 8:27 pm

Board Approved at 2/16/23 RMC Board meeting - Final

By Scribe, Rev. Karen Howe