

**Rocky Mountain Conference UCC
Regular Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
February 16, 2023 – FINAL**

Board Members Present: Shelly Adams, Sue Artt, David Bristow, Eleanor Downey, Mark Dutell, James Fother, Daniel Haas, Ken Ingram, Wendy Kidd, Mark Long, Adam McCoy, Gail McDougale

Others Present: Erin Gilmore, Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Karen Howe, Diane Weible, Karen Winkel, Diane Weible

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Rocky Mountain Conference UCC was called to order by Moderator Ken Ingram at 9:03 am on February 9, 2023. A quorum was established. Ken led in an opening prayer. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, Rev Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, and Rev. Karen Winkel introduced themselves to the Board.

Interim Search Committee

David reported that the committee had met with Lee Albertson of the National Church, who provided the process and responsibilities of a search committee. David had set up a Google folder accessible by the Search Committee members, which contains profiles and documents related to the interim call. Mark Dutell presented the suggestion that the Search Committee offer one or two zoom meetings to hear from conference folks. It was further suggested that if the Search Committee didn't find the candidates suitable, to not rush, but to keep looking.

Transition Authority

Mark Dutell reported that there is high interest in filling board positions and he presented the slate as of meeting's date. He stated the Nominating Committee continues to interview potential candidates.

Motion (Mark D/Mark L): To ensure the continuity of leadership, the Board now makes clear that the Bridge Conference Minister and/or the Intentional Interim Conference Minister has all the authority and responsibility of the Conference Minister as named in the Rocky Mountain Conference Constitution and Bylaws including fiscal oversight, personnel oversight, and oversight of legal matters.

Vote: passed

Motion (Mark D/ Eleanor): To provide for continuity throughout the Transition Period, the roles of bill payment and disbursement oversight have been delegated to ACM Rev. Erin Gilmore. Her new responsibilities are subject to the oversight of the Bridge Conference Minister (BCM) or Intentional Interim Conference Minister (ICM), and may be changed by the BCM/ICM at any time for any reason. The authority to pay bills does not extend to approving or authorizing programmatic endeavors for the RMC without the approval of the BCM/ICM.

Vote: passed

Discussion followed on how to create a diverse board. Erin suggested that at this point it will be in the hands of the voters and a bylaw changes can be proposed later. Mark committed to send the completed slate of nominations via email.

Annual Celebration

Erin provided an overview of the planning and work being done to set up the 49th Annual Celebration of the Rocky Mountain Conference, which will be held June 15-17, 2023 in Grand Junction, Colorado. The theme and logo "Together" was shared with the Board. It is hoped that 80-100 people will attend in person.

Sue pointed out the need for a Business Committee to be appointed in accordance with RMC Bylaws 7.2.b.4 as it is expected that there will be a number of resolutions brought to Annual Celebration, the Business Committee is a good way to get resolutions heard and consolidated, as needed. Daniel raised the concern that it will be seen as a barrier. Diane stated any resolution can be brought forward and the committee can combine similar resolutions. Sue hoped people would see that their voice was heard; keep order, rather than cacophony.

Motion (Mark D/David): Authorize Diane to hire an outside parliamentarian for Annual Celebration, and the preparation of the Annual Celebration.

Vote: passed

Real Estate

Sue reported that she had received an email from Kevin Lentz saying prospective buyers may want blueprints. Sue didn't think this was needed because it's such an old building the ideal buyer will raze the building. While Mark L agreed with Sue he suggested the potential buyer would invest in the blueprints and we would be reimbursed at closing.

Motion (Mark L/James): Allow up to \$10,000 be spent on the development of blueprints for due diligence in the sale of the property.

Vote: passed

Finance Committee

Shelly announced that she is resigning as Finance Chair and would be leaving the Board at the end of February 2023. She shared Financial spreadsheets stating the Balance Sheet shows the Conference to be in a very healthy place. Shelly indicated the spread sheets will be used to facilitate the narrative budget shared at Annual Celebration. She expressed disappointment that "missed opportunities" as a lot of the ministry we had planned has not gotten done because of discord in the Conference.

Personnel Committee

Sue reported as Adam needed to leave the meeting that the committee had reviewed a personnel complaint and the committee issued a letter to the church from which the complaint was sent. Adam will write a Board report with more details.

Tributary Fund

Mark D reported that the evaluation committee scheduled mid-year reviews with fund recipients. All six recipients who sent reviews are making good progress and are eligible for third year funding. The evaluation committee is prepared to evaluate requests for the year 2023-2024. Application process closes at the end of April.

Nominating Committee

Mark D recommended that the Board position of Strategic Alignment of Assets and Missions remain unfilled as he is willing to continue supporting the work of the Tributary Fund. He also recommended Mark L to fill the position of Treasurer with Shelly's departure.

Motion (Mark D/David): The Board accepts Mark Long to replace Shelly until Annual Celebration.

Vote: passed

The Committee wants to recognize Shelly's willingness and good service during tumultuous times. Shelly stepped up to a difficult position in a difficult time. And thank you to Mark L for filling in. Gail volunteered to write a note from the Board.

Anti-Racism Ministry Team

Eleanor reported that the team continues to meet weekly in an attitude of discernment. They are looking forward to meeting with the Board. She presented possible dates for the meeting; consensus was reached for March 1 at 3:00 with a planned time of 60 to 75 minutes. She stated there needs to be a liaison position on the Board from the Anti-Racism Team.

At the break for lunch Karen Winkel, Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Karen Howe left the meeting.

Afternoon Session

Motion (Mark D/Eleanor): The Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference re-Affirms that the decisions made at our November 17, 2022 board meeting regarding Rev. Artt's separation agreement shall be honored in full.

Vote: passed

Motion: (Mark L/David): The Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference affirms and celebrates the ministry of Rev. Sue Artt as Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference who for nearly the past ten years has been our conference minister. From her first act to work with us to save La Foret, to all the ways she has collaborated and partnered with us for the good and wholeness of the entire Conference.

Vote: passed

Motion (Mark D/David Bristow): Rev. Sue Artt continued in her work as Conference Minister through her retirement on February 28, 2023, to ensure an effective and timely transition of the conference's business and operations.

Vote: passed

Action: The conference moderator will inform the National Setting of this decision by the Board.

Broke for Executive Session at 2:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Howe, Scribe