

Rocky Mountain Conference UCC
Regular Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
May 31, 2023 – FINAL

Board Members Present: David Bristow, Eleanor Downey, Mark Dutell, Daniel Haas, Ken Ingram, Wendy Kidd, Mark Long, Adam McCoy, Diane Weible

Absent: James Fother, Gail McDougal

Others Present: Erin Gilmore, Karen Howe, Doug Wooten

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Rocky Mountain Conference UCC was called to order by Moderator Ken Ingram at 7:06 pm on May 31, 2023. A quorum was established.

Opening Prayer given by Mark Dutell

The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Concerns from UCC Counsel Heather Kimmel regarding Bylaw Revisions

David Bristow gave a report from the Bylaws Committee. They have done a lot of work and feel it should go forward without delay.

Discussion from others on presenting it at Annual Celebration so Conference delegates have all information.

Erin spoke about the bylaws not being able to fix the larger system, and needing to trust the people after giving them all the needed information.

Motion (David/Mark L): To bring bylaws forward to Annual Celebration with advice of the legal counsel for consideration by conference.

Vote: passed (6 yes; 1 abstain)

Changes to the Standing Rules

The RMC's Annual Celebration in 2023 is the first occasion when the Conference has had a hybrid meeting, with voting participants both in-person at a single site, and on-line through electronic conferencing services such as Zoom. The goal of the 2023 Annual Celebration is to have policies and procedures which serve and empower both constituencies as equally as possible.

The long tradition of in-person meetings has embodied many ways of voting, including:

- *In occasions where it is expected that the vote is relatively non-controversial* -- **Voice votes or a show of hands** (with only minimal controls to certify that only clergy/delegates are voting); discretion is given to the chair of the meeting to call the outcome of the vote (with the subjective judgment of the chair subject to challenges from the floor).
- *When the vote may be expected to be controversial, or when a voice vote is challenged* -- **Counted votes**, based on a show of hands with reasonable safeguards that only clergy/delegates are voting.
- *When a ballot for offices and committees has contested positions, when less structured votes have been contested, or when an anonymous vote has been requested from the*

floor or deemed appropriate by the chair – **Paper ballots** filled out only by clergy/delegates.

Voting in a hybrid setting will seek to mesh with these historic norms and practices.

In general, the RMC's hybrid Annual Celebration will follow the historic traditions of in-person meetings, with modifications to mesh with available practices for online voting. The parallel options for on-line voting will include:

- *For non-controversial votes* – on-line delegates will be provided with a quick and convenient way of voting, such as an on-line poll or a highly visible display of intention.
- *For controversial votes* – a method of voting will be provided which is available only to clergy/delegates, such as the use of breakout rooms where voting could be either by a “show of hands” or by person-by-person polling. The business committee will designate one person to facilitate and report the voting for each breakout room.
- *For ballots with contested positions, and/or when paper ballots will be used in-person* – The RMC business committee will select an external service specializing in on-line voting practices for use at the meeting; the service will provide strong practices to ensure that notice and access is provided exclusively and promptly to all appropriate delegates; that double-voting is not allowed; and that anonymous voting results are available in a timely way. The Rocky Mountain Conference will use reasonable diligence to ensure that all qualified voters are provided access to the on-line voting service.
- Additional procedures may be adopted to account for other circumstances, such as an on-line delegate participating only by a voice connection, who is unable to do polling or other internet-based voting. The desire for inclusion and accuracy will be balanced with the need for efficient and transparent voting practices.

Motion (Mark D./David): To approve the additions to the Standing Rules

Vote: passed (8 yes)

Business Committee Update

Discussion on concern with possible contention and how best to present the business items. Agreed that David will present the bylaws, Mark D. will present nominations, Mark L. will present the budget. Representatives will present the two resolutions. Ken will preside over voting. All agreed that giving people as much information as possible is good. Doug believes that a full investigation of what happened is needed so that everyone has the full story.

Nominating Committee

Mark D. presented the slate of those who will be put forth for vote. The committee continues to work on reaching consensus as to whom the committee would recommend for each position. The final slate will be completed by the end of the week and will be sent to all Board members. The requirement to add the position of Assistant Secretary to the board that the Bylaws permits was discussed.

Motion (Mark D./Mark L.): Board approve the position of assistant secretary with voice and vote to be appointed by the board after Annual Celebration, for a one year term.

Vote: passed (7 yes 1 abstain)

Tributary Fund

Mark D. reported that the conference had received 8 applications, with a total request of \$168,000. The Fund has a budget of \$100,000. It was decided that 2 of the requests were more appropriate for other funding, and will go to the Board after Annual Celebration. One was on anti-racism curriculum; the other was on pastoral and congregational care. The six successful proposal would be informed and asked to provide a brief presentation at the Annual Celebration.

HMR and Anti-racism Training

David proposed a motion requiring all Board members complete HMR an anti-racism as well as other training required of RMC clergy by the CWCOM. Discussion around how to follow through with requirements was had. The motion was withdrawn and tabled until next meeting.

Action (David/Wendy): To develop a detailed motion to require appropriate training for all Board members.

Old Business

Ken requested that the following motion be captured in this meetings minutes.

Motion (Mark L./Mark D.): The CM (acting, interim, or settled), Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Treasurer should be authorized signatories on the accounts held by the Cornerstone Fund, UCC.

Vote: passed by email

Meeting ended at 9:35 pm

Closing prayer given by Diane

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Howe, Scribe