

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BOARD MEETING Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 4pm

Inspiring, Challenging, and Empowering Faith and Justice Communities Across the West

Via Zoom: Erin Gilmore Acting CM, Sarah B. Linn, MaryEllen Beltracchi, Kari Collins, Allyson Stauffer, Brent Gundlah, Ian Wrisley, Karen Caton, Laura Gurney, Mallory Everheart, Peter Sawtell, Teresa Campbell, Marta Fioriti

Welcome – Sarah B Linn

Recognizing IMA Rep Rev. Brent Gundlah and Platte Valley Rep Rev. Marta Fioriti

Board Action: approval by acclamation for above pending members to participate in meeting with voice and vote.

Opening Reflection – Allyson Stauffer

Approval of Minutes (Oct. 19, 2023) (Allyson/Peter)

Additions/Adjustments to Agenda;

Board Action: Approval of Agenda (Ian/Kari)

Executive Committee Reports:

Acting Conference Minister – Erin Gilmore

COM- activities in process: 3 Privilege of call, 1 church affiliation, 4 licensed lay ministers, 2 ordinations

Building sale- interest party, will see if there is an offer

Seminary Education fund—need a mechanism to guide application/recommendations, and choice of recipients, should board appoint?? Move to form task force for 2x/year Perhaps yearly about \$3000

Board Action: Motion Approved (Kari/Allyson)

That the RMC Board appoint a task force to create and oversee process for application and distribution of the RMC Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Situation: Craig has no pastor and is assessing its future. In general, there is a need for help for congregational transitions, need to use someone other than conference staff, perhaps disbursed staff has someone who can fill role. Need to develop structure/support/funding, have a task force think through essentials. Laura is interested.

Moderator/Vice Moderator – Sarah/MaryEllen

Updates from Board members to the Conference in the Friday communication...Sarah will assign random people to take turns. Would like updates to conference to come from more people, will assign unless people have ideas. Laura would like to do this week's message. Break from Board meeting in December...? We shall see!

Treasurer – Kari

See Treasurer's Report in Treasurer's Report Folder for action items (in red) and full wording of motions.

Motion Approved: United Church Fund (Laura/Karen)

Motion Approved: change authorizations to positions rather than names (____/____)

Motion Approved: Office Sale—change to Acting CM (Brent/Mallory)

Motion Approved: IRS + in agenda (Ian/Peter) Approved

The Board upholds/affirms the Finance Committee's decision to continue our Consulting relationship with CapinCrouse, aligning with the \$20,000 initially approved for consulting and review.

CapinCrouse report—a full audit is complicated by our relationships to LaForet and Archway which would need to be fully included. Need to rethink those relationships, and encourage them to comply with their requirements. Of our options, we will continue with ongoing consult with CapinCrouse.

Teresa is still cleaning up items due to lag with current bookkeeping firm. Looking at Income and Expenses and Balance—the Tributary Fund is counted twice and will be explained in November meeting. OCWM is decreasing, Finance Committee is considering solutions

Kari had two Q & A sessions via zoom and had 3 attendees. Will miss Brent on Finance, needs more members, all current members are MDA and finances are a conference wide concern.

Committee Reports:

Personnel – Adam/ Sarah presented in his absence

--bookkeeping in house not yet, will continue with her increased pay raise because of ALL she is doing. Audit/consulting has taken lots of time, bring in first quarter

--acting cm job description—in process Adam/Erin drafting, may distribute in Dec via email to board, need signed call agreement,

Kari asks—priorities will help answer questions

Karen wants listening sessions

--supporting staff, COM, responding to churches and leaders (Erin's list) purpose and functions conversations

--Doug requests help with moving expenses, Adam in discussion w/, Sarah lists concerns and need to make right, we have no requirements contractually, but what is our desire to consider a theological resolution, generous heart, hx of church, good faith,

Personnel suggests 15000 love payment with usual and customary release that this is closure.

DISCUSSION – Many feelings about the situation being different than Anthony's situation, and in light of Doug's lack of actual experience in interim work or in being a conference minister we worked with him the best we could. Need to again take it to Cleveland for responsibility

Motion approved. Kari/Allyson The RMC give Doug Wooten a love offering of \$10,000. On Doug's behalf, we will ask UCC National for an additional \$10,000.

Anti-Racism – Ian

--retreat Committee name change: “co-creating beloved community” ...pending. Budget considerations, reparations: giving money if we use spirituals,

listening sessions—how racism shows up in context of each church, field trips, training,

New Ministries Mentorship – Eleanor --no report (feel better Eleanor!)

Creation Justice League – Allyson

--working with eco-grief in green river wyo,

--Pete Turpenning to do collaboration and communication team

--worship resources,

--organizations to support 350 Colorado to stop new fracking ballot initiative

Lay Leader Liaison – Laura

--written report please refer, especially communities of practice to assist in upcoming election year, Allyson and Sarah would like to help with this. Needs connection to other churches and individuals

Association Reports:

Southeastern Association – Mallory

--coordinating to support the ordinations are both in SEA

--Anniversary of Club Q this week

Western Association – Karen

--Fall meeting prior to last month’s board meeting,

--changes in congregation—Craig, Hayden, filling spots on the board

Denver Metro Association – Peter

--written report please read, shift to conference wide com, what is purpose?

Intermountain Association – Brent

--highlights—Provo and Orem united for pride event in Provo, Holladay 70th anniversary, difficulty in holding together as an association due to geography, want to be at table for issues but also acknowledge different political and religious environments.

Platte Valley Association – Marta, no report, new to Board today—WELCOME!

Old Business:

November Special Meeting: check-in need to plan/have order and presenters for each portion

RMC listening sessions (schedule/structure/advance communication)—what do these need to be now?
Not in same place as retreat, also will be after Nov 28 meeting?????

DISCUSSION Laura placed calendar for us to determine availability for us and will provide an invite to David to post for the various listening sessions

New Business:

Developing a “process” process/time frame for this phase of interim work

--identifying and hiring consultants, graphic by Sarah, clarity for everyone->> manage expectations around Erin, imagining ways to do interim work, not falling into hx patterns

Closing Reflection – Allyson

Adjournment

Submitted (with great difficulty and a number of tech issues—so sorry!)

MaryEllen Beltracchi

Vice Moderator