

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – 4pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5627250899>

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

Sarah Linn, MaryEllen Beltracchi, Brent Gundlah, Erin Gilmore, Marta Fiorti, Ian!!, Peter Sawtell, Allyson Stauffer, Eleanor Downey, Teresa, Laura Gurney, Karen Caton,

1. Welcome / Centering / Housekeeping – Sarah

- poem
- MaryEllen will represent COM to the BOD
- Approval Minutes (Pete/Brent) November 16th meeting, December 7th meeting

2. Listening Sessions update/feedback - Laura

- communication, events didn't affect everyone, not having voice, feeling out of events and communication, still not moving forward in one sense and going on without resolution in another, not a large amount of participants, appreciated time to speak
- next steps...Sarah has notes, how/shall we communicate back what we heard to RMC?, Eleanor will do a meta analysis.

3. Sarah– Board Reset/Workshop (building on 11/16 Board process conversation)

- a. Overall purpose of the Board, we are functioning in the midst of all we are doing, moving forward—the finances present an opportunity to restructure, we seem to be saying the same things related to desires since 2014. TO HELP CONFERENCE TO BE WHAT IT IS CALLED TO BE. Overlay of white supremacy in expecting there to be one right way. Erin– have plan, not reactive in absence of great needs (such as personnel and finance)
- b. background/history/context (2014-2021 docs, current ACM call agreement available for review) cultivate trust, _____, work of conference, explore new models,
- c. breakout rooms (3 or 4 people) to discuss 1 or 2 questions (TBD)
but first, zoom to a new zoom room
- d. 2nd breakout, different combination of people to discuss same/similar questions
- e. Individual reflections to share: 1 or 2 high points/take-aways (extra credit, if in haiku form)

(COPIED FROM CHAT)

[Teresa](#): Connections, a resource, witness

[Peter Sawtell](#): RMC to be seen as "seeking the joy" rather than "solving the problems"

[Allyson Stauffer](#): Symbiotic, resource sharing, relationship, collective seeking the joy and solving the negative

[Laura Gurney](#): A symbiotic / Relationship for / Sharing, caring, joy

MaryEllen Beltracchi: we need to connect Local to conference, how communicate good

Brent Gundlach: Conference as resource hub.

Karen Caton: Resourcing relationships, connection - interconnectivity.

IAN! Relationships grow / like decentered spider webs / decolonizing

Sarah B. Linn: we have all the gifts - empowering each other - wisdom together

Erin Gilmore: Relationships are at the heart of why we exist

How do we live these in a way that is sustainable? Shift culture in ways that are helpful?

4. Essential Reports (*Informational items in writing in advance*)

a. ACM Update - Erin

Rebuild systems or build from new, progress being made, getting back to function
Added pieces of conference ministry work overwhelming as we find the teams to accomplish, asking to continue patience and grace as emails await response, final interviews of communication candidates, feeling hopeful to increase capacity to share info and create connections
asked to be on UCC Cornerstone board, feels necessary to contribute and would like BOARD to bless, Cornerstone is a financial resource nationally, can lend and invest. Board expressed support by consensus.

b. Financial Cmte report with a couple items to act on in February - Teresa.

statements of november 30, with a narrative, no unexpected entries
\$10,000 gift from Christ Church Pueblo, need to handle via gift policies,
December FC needs to happen later as we deal with year-end OCWM contributions
HIGHLIGHT from Kari, Cornerstone is reinvested, most important CapinCrouse report recommendations, Anti Racism ministry funding, other funds—stay & purpose, also the responsibilities related to La Foret and Archway

c. Other items we need to discuss/act on

- Eleanor added Tributary funds into board folder, if people can familiarize in order to help inform as we make budget decisions for 24-25
- Teresa, Sarah, Karen will work on risk management
- Laura draft Conflict of interest
- Need Pest Control for rodents at Conference Building

5. Final announcements –

- a. Ken's service – 11am on Saturday @ St. Paul's UCC in Laramie, WY
- b. Next Board Meeting – February 15

Closing Prayer / Adjournment

recorded by MaryEllen Beltracchi