

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 4pm via Zoom

Present: Sarah Linn, Laura Gurney, Karen Caton, MaryEllen Beltracchi, Brent Gundlah, Peter Sawtell, Mallory Everhart, Kari Collins, Erin Gilmore (ex-officio), Teresa Campbell (guest), Marta Fioriti, Eleanor Downey

Absent: Ian Wrisley, Adam McCoy

Welcome, Check in, and Centering

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present. Peter offered an opening reflection.

Quick Action Items

The Board moved on to the quick action items from the agenda which include approval of January meeting minutes, approval of Tricia Springer to the La Foret Board, approval of Ginger Taylor as a member-at-large to the Nominating Committee. Additionally, in November 2023 when the bylaws were updated, the following language was inadvertently dropped and should be restored to the November 2023 version of the Bylaws posted on the RMC website.

- Sentence 4 of Section 7.2(b)(3): "One at-large member shall also be elected."
- Sentence 7 of the same section: "Annually, the Board shall appoint a Board member who is ineligible for reelection to serve as an ex-officio member without vote of the Nominating Committee."

Finally, the Nominating Committee recommends that the Board approve and appoint the following people to the Committee On Ministry as listed:

- Kelly Jo Clark, Formation & Authorization
- Ralph Datema, Formation & Authorization
- Julie Huntley, Formation & Authorization
- Angie Law, Supportive Oversight
- Jesse Ophoff, Supportive Oversight
- Amy Ward, Formation & Authorization
- Craig Witcher, Formation & Authorization

Mallory moved that all quick action items be approved. Motion seconded. The motion carries.

Board Reset/Workshop, Part 2

We reviewed takeaways from our January session. The Board discussed the ongoing desire to move away from the guiding structures that uphold white supremacy culture and re-imagine the structure of the conference in a way that moves away from that.

Using MESA's Resource for Local Churches in Transition, the Executive Committee has reflected on the questions about what kind of leader is needed in this time. Though this Board has the ability to determine what's next and call our next minister, to do so would be to uphold the culture we are working to move away from. We were invited to engage in the questions from the MESA Resource in pairs and to listen for all the views that might be at the table.

Some of the themes that arose from the pairs were: how do we bring the conversation about what we need to do next to the wider Conference; need for interim consultant; value in interim work; commitment to not kicking things down the road; the importance of understanding that the Board is not in crisis, but that the larger body might be; identifying weather we're looking for stabilization (into a new thing) or disruption; a search will be required and some planning will be necessary; the feeling that not all voices have equal weight (especially true for those outside Colorado); the value of a definitive timeline and its ability to create urgency but not to squander spaciousness; who we are and who we want to be; how do we embody what we want to be instead of simply enacting it; the ability to dream differently of staffing and ministry models when there's no commitment to preserve current people or structures.

Actionable and Proactive Reports

Erin shared a written Conference Minister's Report which included updates on the following: a staff update (we have hired Allison Radomski as our Communications Specialist; search and call; nominating committee; COM; planning of the 2024 Annual Celebration; OCWM; Western Regional Youth Event; Communities of Practice. Additionally, Erin has been invited to preach the Sunrise Service at Red Rocks by the Colorado Council of Churches.

Erin asked for a decision regarding the location of Annual Celebration 2025 and suggested that we do something in Intermountain or Platte Valley. No decision was finalized.

Two offers were made on the Conference Office property at 5th Ave. We have accepted a full-price offer for \$895k and are under contract, though it may take some time to close as the buyer is using an SBA loan.

Kari and Teresa provided written reports from the Treasurer and the finance reports. Kari shared that the Finance Committee is depleted and will need additional members, especially from outside of MDA. Please send any recommendations to Kari so that she can follow up. Budgets from each group are due to Kari by March 1 and Kari has emailed folks asking for those.

Teresa shared an overview of our current financials YTD. We are grateful to Christ Church in Pueblo who made a major gift to the RMC upon their closure. Income from Conference members (especially OCWM) is down significantly year-over-year and should be of special note when reviewing the financial reports.

Kari & Teresa have been working to clean up the Balance Sheet. After offering written reasoning for their recommendations (which are available in the Google Drive) and following Board review of those reasons, Kari made the following motions:

1. Transfer funds equal to Anti-Racism Culture Shift expenses and salary, benefits, and travel/meal expenses for ACM Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott for FY 20-21, FY 21-22, and FY 22-23 from the Anti-Racism Platform Fund to Unrestricted Net Assets.
Motion seconded. Approved unanimously.
2. Transfer the balance of the Ignite Fund to Unrestricted Net Assets.
Motion seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Transfer \$1665.69 from Congregations Alive designated fund to Unrestricted Net Assets for FY 22-23 expenses.

Motion seconded. Approved unanimously.

Eleanor and MaryEllen provided a written report on Tributary Fund Grants which is in the Google Drive. The Board will need to determine how much will be allocated for the 24-25 year from Unrestricted Net Assets. The written report proposes four options to do so. This decision will be made at a later date.

Final Announcements

Our next regular business meeting will be March 21, 2024 at 4pm via Zoom. We will hold an additional conversation to continue our work around transition on Thursday, March 7 from 4-6pm via Zoom.