

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**BOARD MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, March 20, 2025 – 4pm

**Together we embody the love and justice of Jesus.**

*The RMC is a network of diverse ministries across UT, WY and CO  
equipping, supporting, and inspiring one another  
to live out our mission in our local and collective contexts.*

**PRESENT:** Erin Gilmore, Sarah Linn, Leslie Etheredge, Hunter Baker, Marta Fioriti, Ian Wrisley, Karen Caton, Brent Gundlah, MaryEllen Beltracchi, Peter Sawtell, Allyson Stauffer, Laura Gurney, Allison Radomski

**4:00 Declaration of a Quorum, Call to Order – Sarah**

**4:03 Centering Moment – Ian**

A journey through trackless desert

It is through unknowing that one experiences God

Eschew all physical representation

God as the blanket we throw over the event so that we can see the contours

**4:07 ACM UPdates – Leslie Etheredge**

- Splitting CWCOM into pre-authorization and post-authorization. Two branches, rather than three subcommittees
- Common complaint about the previous structure: folks aren't sure what they're supposed to be doing! But now, roles are clearly defined AND folks know who to ask if they happen to be confused.
- People didn't know what Annual Information Review was all about, so there's more to do for CWCOM in the future around communicating what's at stake with that
- Keep the intentions that we set around the creation of CWCOM. The goal of trainings is pastoral excellence. It's helping clergy show up as healthy as possible.

**4:35 Discussion regarding a continuing ACM position**

- There's no question that the ACM role is essential. The feedback sheet from CWCOM members indicates that Leslie's work is necessary and appreciated. We need an ACM for however many hours/for however long we can afford it.

- **APPROVED BY CONSENSUS: Adding another 6-month offer to Leslie's position.** Board approves extending Leslie's contract, per her call agreement, by 6 months from the 2025 AC and revisit an additional 6-month extension at the end of 2025 to allow for COM to stabilize and for us to assess the demands of the position. With that clarified, we will post the position and conduct a national search.

#### 4:55 TCM Updates – Erin

- Cultivating Generous Congregations course update: Unclear if we can get General funding for Andrew's visit. We will approach James Fouthier and Melissa St. Clair to present something if Andrew can't make it.
- Takeaways from Erin's CCM gathering: Lots of conferences are realizing/have realized that conferences can't maintain both associations and COMs. Even the ones that can support both aren't doing it because it's redundant. Wisconsin Conference is moving toward a "resource hub" model rather than a geographical model. This affirms what we discussed in the last meeting: having representatives from associations on the board, and fostering connections across geography based on affinity and interest in mutual resourcing.
- Cornerstone Fund meeting: CF continuing to do good work! Meeting was almost comically ecumenical, a quintessential UCC day.
- CM transition timeline/tasks (with Laura) - See Circles and Proposed Transition Teams docs: Laura and Erin have gone over job descriptions for other CMs from other Conferences. Thinking about how we can communicate the story and structure of the RMC to an outside candidate.
  - Game plan: Get listening teams together in April/May and have them visit every available church in the RMC. They ask questions: who is your church? What's your mission? What's happening for your community right now? The goal is to get to know what each congregation is involved with that brings life to their communities. This will help us understand what we need to support and staff, moving forward.
  - Discussed how to gain connection and information from churches instead/in addition to in-person visits, if needed.
  - This move helps us shift the definition of conference. Making it about the local churches, not the RMC structure.

#### 5:42 AC 2025 Update – Sarah

- Nominating Lola Fehr for Parliamentarian - **APPROVED.**
- Nominating Lizka Randall for Time Keeper - **APPROVED.**

- RMC Endowment Fund: updated policy doc and proposed By Laws amendments. Need to publish updated docs by 30-day notice (anything that gets voted on needs to be posted by then) - **TABLED** until April Board meeting.
- Block Schedule Update
- Proposed Registration Fee Template [[draft registration form here](#)]
  - Registration matrix – We’re heavily subsidizing each participant’s costs; expect to go over budget \$13,000 +, which we consider a valuable investment in our churches and leaders.
  - BOD **APPROVED** Registration matrix, with possible additional cost.

**6:00 Treasurer / Finance Committee Report – Hunter**

- Current Financials
  - Our losses for the year are projected to be about one-third to one-half what we thought they’d be.
- Preliminary Draft Budget - Hunter will track down a few details and present the final draft budget for Board approval in April or May.
- Overall giving remains challenging, and that’s something we need to account for in our long-term plan.

**6:29 Proposed RMC By Law Update – MaryEllen → **TABLED** for April meeting.**

**6:30 Motion: Approve minutes from February 20, 2025, monthly meeting  
MOTION APPROVED**

**6:30 Updates/General Announcements:**

- Next Board meeting: 4pm on April 10th. Laura Gurney will center us!

**6:31 Closing Blessing: Ian**