

Rocky Mountain Conference
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20th, 2025 - 4 PM

Present: Peter Sawtell, MDA; Laura Gurney, LLL; Ian Wrisley, RJ; Eleanor Downey, NMM; Sarah Linn, Mod; Brent Gundlah, IMA; Allyson Stauffer, CJL; MaryEllen Beltrachi, Vice Mod; Erin Gilmore, TCM; Karen Caton, WA; and Allison Radomski (here to take notes).

Absent: Adam McCoy, Pers; Hunter Baker, Treas; Marta Fioriti, PVA; Emerson Hauber, SEA

4:02 PM – Declaration of quorum, call to order - Sarah

4:03 PM – Centering meditation and prayer from Brent. Reflecting on “job” versus “calling.”

4:05 PM – **Overview AC 2025 Planning Process**

- Habakkuk 2 (esp. vv. 1-3) are guiding scripture for AC 2025.
- Cameron Trimble will present. Additional speakers are in the works.
- Seeking a worship leader, ideally from PVA.
- Peter Sawtell will be Tech Wizard again.
- Providing offerings throughout that are of practical use to our churches and leaders.
- Standing Rules and Resolution Forms:
 - Board **approves** Resolution Form.
 - Board authorizes Sarah to check with parliamentarian Lola Fehr re: updates.

Pending parliamentarian acceptance, Board approves 2025 Standing Rules.

4:19 PM – **Erin’s TCM update**

- Working with RMC Treasurer, Hunter Baker and having many fruitful conversations re: RMC budget and finance matters. Erin hopes to synthesize them into written form to inform RMC.
- Leslie Etheredge is doing good work and allowing Erin to focus on other essential matters. Leslie report to the Board next month on streamlined COM structure. ● Sarah will solicit feedback from MID’s and COM members re: value of having PT COM ACM or something similar, moving forward.
- Preliminary CM Transition Path: If we plan to have candidates to nominate in 2027, we’ll need to have a conference profile written and commission a search team at the 2026 AC. This means starting the foundational profile work this year.
 - The profile will be a narrative about who we are, what we’re doing, and our vision

for the future. To start forming that narrative, we could create teams in each association and provide conversation guides. They'll visit every congregation and engage in "appreciative inquiry" and discernment. We could commission those teams at AC this year.

- Teams would gather information through the rest of 2025, meet at La Foret in March 2026 to share and synthesize data, then begin drafting a conference profile (for RMC approval at AC 2026). This process will help us determine CM staffing structure (how many full-time? How many part-time?)
- Brianna is providing a seminar for Treasurers (two opportunities) this spring. She saw the need and was proactive about making it happen.
- Discussion: Supporting churches/RMC as we all try to help immigrants and other marginalized communities facing acute danger as a result of government revocation of DEI support, etc. For agility/responsiveness, we might need a resolution at the AC re welcoming immigrants and/or allowing the RMC CM to speak to media re certain issues. In light of our polity, we can invite members to sign onto public statements, rather than have the conference speak for members, but how do we do that efficiently?
- Considering having a conference-wide book reading/discussion to help center us before AC. It would be great if someone other than Erin could lead this.

5:06 PM – **Treasurer's report** (Sarah): Spreadsheet looks like we're where we expected to be. No questions here.

5:09 PM – **Discussion about Reconsidering BOD structure.**

- If the RMC is all about supporting/networking local churches, how might the Board structure itself to facilitate that purpose? How might we streamline functions?
- Discussed value of association representation on Board and perhaps combining association representation with another area of focus (like justice or youth or generosity, etc). How can we build in flexibility and adaptability in this bizarre historical moment?
- Perhaps it's a matter of setting expectations for Board members? Structure adjustments might be minimal. No decisions now or any time soon; discussions to continue.

5:46 PM – **Motion** to approve minutes from previous BOD meeting and special meeting on 1/30. Do we approve the corrections? **Approved.**

5:53 PM – **Motion** to approve a correction in minutes from December 2024 meeting. No objection.

5:56 PM – Discussion re: BOD meeting minutes. Consensus: Provide notes for Board members' reference (only), but publish official minutes that outline what the Board decided/acted on, not what members said.

6:06 PM – Benediction: Brent

Next meeting: Thursday, March 20th at 4 PM. Ian will center us.