



Executive Teams Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2021

- **Welcome and Opening Prayer - 9:33**
 - David P had an emergency at his church and Tom and Dave LH will be leading the meeting for now
 - Dave LH began the meeting with a prayer
- **One Heart Working Group Report - 9:36 - Cheryl**
 - Cheryl briefly reviewed the two documents that had been sent to the group
 - Cheryl invited the subgroup that met to craft the Vision and values into a covenant statement for use across all settings of the Heartland conference to give some background
 - Dave LH spoke to this issue. He shared the work that he, Joe and Dan D undertook to craft the statements (Exhibit A)
 - The group discussed the document Heartland Conference (Values/Covenant Statement)
 - Jo Anne reflected that it was excellent to pick a part and use and share with others both individually and collectively within associations and local churches
 - Joe read the Covenant in Litany form and in the Prayer form
 - Cheryl offered a few other thoughts - to be used in the new ways mentioned above - but also used with new members to our boards/cabinet and committees to orient themselves to our collective work. Also this is a way to renew the covenant within our individual bodies (associations) without giving up our autonomy
 - It has already been presented to the NWOA cabinet meeting and it was adopted wholeheartedly
 - Dave LH asked if the Executive Team would give affirmation to the document



- The group concurred with the affirmation and its use across Heartland Conference
- What should the process be to get this out? Dave LH asked if it might be appropriate to ask the various associations councils/cabinet to affirm this within the first quarter of 2021
 - Cathy asked if it would be better to get the BOD's affirmation first and then seek affirmation from the associations
 - Dan B stated that each setting should adopt the document
 - Doug thought that the BOD affirmation might be better to take place first in order to give its overall ascent
 - Cheryl thought the timing wasn't such an issue as this wasn't done in secret and we had broad buy-in from representatives of each setting. We can and should all lead on this.
 - Melodie thought it might be better to have all the associations affirm first it would be hard to sit on the BOD if "your" association had not affirmed it (or not yet affirmed it)
 - It was decided that we'd ask the councils/cabinet of each association to affirm this before it is presented to the Heartland BOD for "final" affirmation
- Cheryl reported that the OHWG felt they had completed their immediate work but have considered that it might be helpful to gather in a year's time to do some evaluation and check-in on the status of the relationships and work of the various settings of this new covenantal Heartland Conference
- Tom followed up with his thanks to Cheryl and her excellent leadership of the OHWG. He hopes that the OHWG would be a part of the evaluative process going forward.
- **Role of the Executive Teams - 10:06** - In the Leadership Roundtable we have discussed the idea of this group meeting quarterly for at least the following purposes
 - Tom asked if there were any questions around the following ideas:



- Continue to foster relational connections necessary for strengthening collaboration and networking
- To be an incubator of the questions necessary for discernment, remembering that the questions we ask shape the direction of action and engagement.
- To be a significant listening presence for the process of discernment regarding mission and ministry direction and priorities.
- How do we listen to our stakeholders in various settings in terms of actualizing the vision and mission we have discerned both for feedback/evaluation and for discerning the new leading edge of the Spirit.
- Dave LH spoke about the meetings and collaborations behind the points listed above and then asked if anybody had any questions
 - Cathy wondered if issues came about that needed a broader conversation would it be brought to this group for discernment
 - Dave LH thanked Cathy and summarized by saying that the Leadership Roundtable needed to be vigilant in its communication of the work they undertake
 - Does a quarterly meeting schedule for the Executive Teams make sense?
 - Tom asked if we should target particular dates that might come after significant Leadership Roundtable meetings (or other bodies as well)
 - Dave LH mentioned that a doodle poll might be sent out with a couple of dates in each “quarter” as the best option to find some common dates that will work
- **Heartland Conference Logo**
 - Dave LH presented the new conference logo and the meaning behind it
 - The new logo is Exhibit B below



- **Formats for Unifying our Process**

- How do we frame the beginning of new ministry initiatives?
 - Dave LH said that this really has to do with the ongoing work of the Executive Teams as they go about

- **Other Impressions? - 10:19**

- Tom said he liked the new logo and asked Dave LH for an update on the new website
 - Dave LH February 14 is the target date to launch and offered a preview of the concept
- Dave LH also mentioned the Laureen had asked for an update on UCHomes
 - Primary person tasked with the accounting work for us has had to go on medical leave. UCHomes is about to name the replacement. Our work is being done in the interim by Richie the UCHomes VP
- Nayiri shared about the LWA ONE's Spring Festival is "Belonging, Building and Becoming" led by Patrick Duggan
 - What does it mean in this time of pandemic and not physically meeting to be the Body of Christ
 - Everyone is invited to this festival and an announcement will be coming out soon
 - The next Healthy Practices for Ministry will be on March 6 and all are invited and an invitation will be coming out soon as well
 - She asked if there were any other associations that could talk about things that all were invited to
 - Dan B mentioned that NWOA will be having a professional day with a guest who will speak on Islamic issues this will coincide with Ramadan so in April some time.



- Dave LH mentioned an OpEd that will appear in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on hunger issues in Ohio
 - Doug asked if we might make this sharing about what's happening in the associations a permanent part of our agenda
 - Dave LH concurred that this was an excellent idea
- **Meeting adjournment - 10:31**

Exhibit A

Heartland Conference (Values/Covenant Statement)

Why Statement:

Together in Christ's love, we collaborate to reconcile and restore all God's creation.

Calling Statement:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to connect, equip and support our faith communities to grow as faithful disciples and responsible stewards, following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children and creation.

Heartland Conference Covenant Statement

Answering God's call to build a just world for all, we commit in our shared life to:

- **Live the love, unity and compassion of Jesus**
 - *"I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:26)*
- **Collaborate to mutually share resources.**
 - *"...love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.^[a] **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers". (Romans 12:10-13)*
- **Communicate with openness and transparency.**
 - *"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ..." (Ephesians 4:15)*
- **Empower generous and responsible stewardship.**
 - *"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share." (1 Timothy 6:18)*



- **Honor God’s diverse gifts among us in all settings.**
 - *For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5)*

Covenant in Litany Form

Our shared journey of faith leads us to grow in mutual love
Respect each one’s place on their journey of faith
Extend an extravagant welcome to all
Nurture the unity of the One Spirit
Across all settings we offer our diverse gifts in building God’s kin-dom here and now!
We seek to promote responsible stewardship and sharing of resources
Which calls us to reach out across the Heartland and to our ecumenical partners
As we seek to extend God’s love and justice throughout all creation

Covenant Statement in Prayer form

God of Love, our common journey of faith leads us to continue to grow in mutual love. Help us respect each one’s place on the journey of faith, while we live into our commitment to be active agents of social justice. Guide us to extend an extravagant welcome to all as we ourselves are nurtured in the unity of the One Spirit across all settings. Offering our diverse gifts in building God’s kin-dom here and now, we seek to promote responsible stewardship and sharing of resources which calls us to reach out across the Heartland and to our ecumenical partners. This we seek as we embody God’s healing love throughout all creation. Amen.

Exhibit B



HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
N. KY • OH • WV