

## Heartland Conference Board of Directors Minutes - 2.19.2021

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

***Our Calling:*** 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.

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Location: Zoom Video Conference

Stated Date: February 19, 2021 – Feast Day of Saint Odran

Stated Time: 9:00am

### **Attendance**

#### Voting Members Attending (14)

Pastor David Brown, Living Water ONE

Mr. Martin Buck, Living Water ONE Representative

Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA

Rev. Daniel Doty, Secretary

Ms. Cathy Green, Past-Moderator

Tom Hathaway, Vice Moderator

Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer

Rev. Elizabeth Leung, Living Water ONE Representative

Ms. Pam Linderson, SONKA Representative

Mx. MK O'Haver, CSEOA Representative

Rev. David Plant, Moderator Heartland Conference UCC

Rev. Adrian Sunday, NWOA Representative

Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative

Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative (arrived at 9:10)

#### Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending (8)

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister

Ms. Jill Frey, Heartland Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries  
Ms. Rebecca Hoskins, Heartland Conference Executive Administrator  
Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Living Water ONE Association Minister  
Eric Klenzman, United Church Homes (introduced as our contact there)  
Rev. David Long-Higgins, Heartland Conference Transitional Conference Minister  
Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

#### Voting Members Not Attending (2)

Faith Solon, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative  
Rev. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative

#### Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending (1)

- **9:00 Welcome, Introductions and Prayer**
  - David offered a prayer to start out our meeting
- **9:07 Approval of Minutes/Agenda Items**
  - [January 15, 2021](#)
  - **Action Item**
    - **Moved: Tom**
    - **Second: Cathy**
    - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **9:08 Executive Teams Update**
  - [Executive Teams Minutes](#)
    - Tom provided an update to the work of the team
    - David P asked where the associations are in affirming the work of the executive teams meeting (NWOA approved last November)
      - Nayiri reported that the LWA council meeting is on March 20th and it's on their agenda
    - Dave LH couldn't access the PowerPoint he created for his report in regards to what is taking place through the collaboration of the executive teams and associations (but will share later)
      - Some of the Perceived advantages to our new structure
        - Collaboration
        - Unified purpose

- Structures that allow for collaboration
- Dave LH also went on to outline some of the engagements that are taking place that are being collaboratively worked out
- Dave LH offered a saying that he ascribes to which is, “You can’t stand over a tomato and yell grow” - he celebrates the collaborative efforts that are underway even while he acknowledges the need to be patient for the fullness of our life and work together
- He invited the association ministers responses
  - Nayiri affirmed what Dave LH had said and looks forward to their continued work because it is a work in process
  - Patricia gave a hearty “Amen”!
  - Carl hopes we all remember what a fundamental change this has been - the atmosphere and the ethos has changed for the better
  - Dan B agreed and reminded the group that we are getting back to the way it had been
- Terry echoed the sentiments of the group and offered that he thinks while we might have had a vision of a “monumental” structural change but that what we have - the building of relationships and the beginning of deep collaboration - is so much better than what we expected which will now allow us to make some structural changes
- [Why, Calling, Covenant](#)
  - Dave LH shared his screen to look at the covenant statement that was created
    - This was created to make sure that as new members of boards come on that we have a centering document as to who we are
    - Dave LH went over the document
    - David P asked what the Board’s thoughts are regarding this document
      - MK O’Haver offered that CSEOA reviewed it and offered that instead of “kin-dom” we might include God’s beloved community
      - Terry also said that while there was a social justice piece in the statement itself, there didn't seem to be a reference to social justice in the litany

- CSEOA gave it a “Welsh” blessing - a “yes, it is good but ... small tweaks might make it better”
  - Cathy observed that while we are waiting for the associations to act she is ready to endorse this as an “action” plan going forward!
- **9:40 Personnel**
  - UCH Update
    - Dave LH reminded the group that Eric Klensman is “our person” at UCHomes going forward
    - Dave LH also offered hearty thanks to Becca for the work she has been doing here in just her first month
      - They meet once a week to open mail and deal with bills, etc.
      - They share a spreadsheet where everything is tracked
    - Jim affirmed the good work that is being done and believes that everything will be caught up in the coming months
    - Dave LH stated that some of the delays have affected SONKA and is grateful for the patience of their treasurer and Carl Robinson this also has been happening in NWOA as well and thanked Dan B. and Joan Davidson (NWOA)
  - TCM Evaluation - Committee Formed
    - Pam said things are moving along
      - Dave LH’s report is being circulated and the committee will meet soon to create his performance review
- **9:45 General Synod Delegates**
  - [General Synod Delegate Slate](#)
  - Vote on delegates from SONKA and CSEOA
    - **Action Item**
    - **Moved to approve slate as presented**
      - **Moved: Diane**
      - **Second: Tom**
      - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **9:50 Communications Update**
  - Website Presentation
    - Dave LH gave a brief overview of the new website
    - Dave, Becca and Niki have been working on this
    - He screen shared the new website and mentioned that it will launch this weekend
    - Dan B asked about the use of the term “Leadership Roundtable”

- Dave LH mentioned that was a good thought and asked that Becca reminded him to go through the website and make those changes
  - Cathy mentioned that some folks might go to their Association pages first and that links should be made available from those sites to the specific pieces on the Heartland site
    - Dan B mentioned that they try to link all things back to the conference site
  - Nayiri stated that they have a password protected area of their website to allow clergy, etc. have access to materials
    - Dave LH stated that that was a great idea and again asked Becca to remind him that they should look into this
  - David P asked how Dave LH wanted to receive suggestions, etc. on the website
    - Dave LH asked that all emails flow through Becca
- **10:10 Outdoor Ministry - Jill Frey**
  - [General Report - Summer Camp/Templed Hills](#)
    - Jill referenced her report but mentioned that do to some energy needs some trees have to be removed from the property
  - [Motion to Update US Savings Bank Account](#)
    - Jill offered an overview of the issues necessitating this change (as presented in the document linked and Exhibit A below)
      - No longer a branch in Bellville
      - We need as a Board to make/approve the recommendation for the changes and then Jill can appear in person to make the changes
        - Jill will continue to be the signer for now and if it is decided to continue to use the account she will come back to the board for more signers, etc. as needed
  - **Action Item**
    - **Motion to approve the recommendations in the linked document**
      - **Moved: Jim Henry, Treasurer**
      - **Second: Cathy Green, Immediate Past Moderator**
      - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **10:15 Treasurer's Report - Jim Henry**
  - [Audit Update](#)
    - Jim went over the report

- Many had problems opening up the financial report
    - It was decided that the document would be resent and review it at the next meeting
      - Jim said if there was any questions to call him directly
  - Gift from the Gay Estate -\$22,561.76
  - Monthly Tech Reimbursement for Andy - \$50.00 and Jill - \$100.00
    - Cathy asked if these amounts were included in the current budget
    - Jim said he believed they were
    - To be charged to 584611
    - **Action Item:**
      - **Motion: Jim**
      - **Second: Adrian**
      - **Motion Passed Unanimously**
  - Cathy asked when the audit would be available
    - Jim stated he believed at the end of March or beginning of April
- **10:15 Yearly Mission Plan Development**
  - David called the group's attention to this planning document
    - Adrian stated that he opened it up and printed it out and the first page printed but then only got the grid after that
- **10:20 Network Updates**
  - Anti-Racism Network - [Minutes and Updates](#)
  - Generosity Network - [Cultivating Generous Congregations](#)
  - [Faith Formation Conference - February 26-27 -](#)
    - Keynote: Rev. Dr. Velda Love
- **10:28 DOC Ohio Regional Board Report - Terry Williams**
  - Terry reported that he and Dave LH have been trying to contact their board
    - His goals are to establish communications with that board and clarify role responsibilities so that when he leaves in Sept. he can make a clean hand off
    - He asked the group to prayerfully consider who will replace him on the board
  - Cathy asked about Faith Solon's absence from our board
    - Terry mentioned that he will be looking into this
- **10:32 Annual Gathering - Beth Gedert to Chair again**
  - Not sure if it will be virtual or in-person at this point

- **Next Meeting Date** - March 19, 2021
  - **BOD Meeting Dates going forward**
    - April 16, 2021
    - May 21, 2021
  - **Tentative Dates**
    - **Annual Gathering - September 24-25**
    - **October BOD Retreat**
- **Adjournment**
  - **Moved: Tom**
  - **Second: Adrian**
  - Dave LH offered prayer and with no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36

Exhibit A

**Proposal for Heartland Conference of the UCC Concerning: USBank Account: 0 008 2030 3758** Balance as of October 1, 2020: \$7032.47 **Current name and address:**

Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ Templed Hills

6161 Busch Blvd

Columbus Oh 43229-2508

**Proposal request:**

**Change name on account to reflect current conference name:**

**Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ Change the address on account to current addresses:**

**Physical address:**

Heartland Conference UCC

Templed Hills Camp and Conference Center 5734 Durbin Rd

Bellville, Oh 44813

**Mailing address:**

Heartland Conference UCC PO Box 1230

Worthington, OH 43085

**Change of Signers:**

**Remove all existing signers on account. Add the following signer on the account:**

**Jill C. Frey, Executive Director of Outdoor Ministry**