

# Heartland Conference Board of Directors

## Minutes - 5.21.2021

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***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.

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Stated Date: May 21, 2021 – Feast Day of Sts. Timothy, Polius & Eutychius

Stated Time: 9:00am

### **Attendance**

#### Voting Members Attending (12)

Rev. 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  
Rev. David Plant, Moderator Heartland Conference UCC  
Rev. Adrian Sunday, NWOA Representative  
Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative

#### Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending (5)

Ms. Rebecca Hoskins, Heartland Conference Executive Administrator  
Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Living Water ONE Association Minister  
Rev. David Long-Higgins, Heartland Conference Transitional Conference Minister  
Ms. Jill Frey, Heartland Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries  
Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

#### Voting Members Not Attending (4)

Mx. MK O'Haver, CSEOA Representative  
Rev. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative

Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative  
Faith Solon, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending (2)

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister

- **9:06 Welcome, Introductions and Covenantal Prayer**

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 beloved community 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.

- **9:10 Approval of Minutes/Agenda Items**

- [April 16, 2021](#)
- **Action Item: Approval of minutes**
  - Moved: Tom
  - Second: David B
  - **Motion passed unanimously**
- **Action Item: Approval of agenda**
  - Moved: Marty
  - Second: Diane
  - **Motion passed unanimously**

- **9:15 - Personnel/Human Resources**

- [TCM Report](#) - Video for Synod - See Below
  - Dave LH referenced his report
    - He added:
      - A mention of being intentional in connecting the Spiritual Directors and the Faith Formation work in the conference
      - Dave was invited to the synod of the Westphalian church last year which has been moved a few times but will take place virtually next weekend
        - At a pre-conference event Dave LH, John Dorhauer and Sigrid Rother will represent the UCC at this pre-conference meeting
        - Cathy asked how we could "participate"
        - Dave LH will send a registration link
      - We previously voted to send \$2500.00 in support of General Synod. We will get a 30-minute spot to show who we are. He referenced the "script" for the spot (Exhibit A

below). He asked that we all record this script and send it to Becca by June 1<sup>st</sup>

- TCM Evaluation - Report of the Evaluation Committee
  - Pam stated that the evaluation was overwhelmingly positive and that the review team represented the many constituent groups with which Dave LH works
    - Tom further stated that the team used the 2018 Vision Report as a benchmark and stated that Dave LH's performance has been exemplary in reflection of the 2018 goals. They named a few goals and Dave LH provided a goals and objective sheet to move the work forward. The team also felt strongly that the Board should move forward in securing Dave LH in a long-term/settled call as the Conference Minister
- **9:24 am Report of the Executive Committee**
  - [Background and Proposal for Conference Minister Position](#)
  - [Conference Minister Job Description](#)
    - David P referenced the two reports above and gave a summary of the process utilized to come up with those two documents
    - David P mentioned the 2018 Vision Report and the caveat that the report included a stipulation about the evaluation of whether there was a need to have a conference minister going forward. It is his (and our collective) thought there is still a need to have a conference minister.
      - David P asked if anyone wanted to comment:
        - David B asked about the language of hiring as opposed to call
        - Cathy mentioned that in the way Dave was "employed" after an annual meeting that he was hired
        - Terry stated that we are beginning to discuss issues that should be discussed and are we going to go into executive session
          - David P stated the Dave LH wanted to have this as an open discussion before we enter into the executive session
          - Terry stated that he and others were troubled back in 2018 with the "Transitional" terminology and was happy with the direction of this conversation. He wants to be sure that we move forward with language of calling giving the settled Conference Minister authority to make certain executive decisions, etc. Terry thanked the executive committee for bringing this forward
      - Dave LH offered that he wanted everyone to feel that executive session could begin whenever it

made sense and that his entire ordained ministry has been his “calling”

- David P asked if there were any questions before the BOD goes into executive session
- Executive Session
  - The BOD went into executive session at 9:38
  - **Action Item:**
  - Motion to end executive session
    - Moved: Tom
    - Second: Martin
    - **Motion passed unanimously**
  - The executive session ended at 10:04
  - **Action Item:**
  - Motion to accept the reports (Background/Conference Minister Job Description)
    - Dan D reported some of the discussion of the Executive session wanted to see the bullet point #7 (Honor, promote, ...) be moved to bullet point #2 so as to highlight the need to address diversity across the conference
      - Moved: Pam
      - Second: Cathy
      - **Motion passed unanimously**
    - **Action Item:**
    - Motion to nominate The Rev David Long-Higgins to be called by the Heartland Conference as their settled Conference Minister
      - Moved: Terry
      - Second: Tom
      - **Motion passed unanimously**
    - Dave LH thanked the Bod for their trust in nominating him to be the Conference Minister
- **10:12 General Synod Update**
  - Registration Update
    - Dave LH mentioned that the issue of voting will be explained in an upcoming video conference
    - The tri-conversation that Dave LH has with Illinois South and IKC will take up two resolutions per week in their online discussions
  - Orientation Update - Conference Delegation Orientation
- **10:17 Outdoor Ministry - Jill Frey**
  - [General Report - Summer Camp/Templed Hills](#)
    - Jill referenced her report (above)
    - The architect has been
    - Pam stated that rather than having a nurse they had a paramedic
      - Jill stated yes, this could be as well as rn, emt, etc. can be utilized

- Jill has posted this need on all the local “job” boards, etc.
    - Skipper accessible restroom is moving forward
      - Cathy suggested that we take a formal action since we now the actual dollar amount
      - **Action Item:**
        - Moved to
          - Motion: Cathy
          - Second: Marty
          - Jill pointed out that the number does not include some hourly fees that are yet to be assessed
      - Cathy stated that she would withdraw her motion above and asked Marty to offer his motion
      - **Action Item:**
        - Moved to accept architectural firm and authorize them to move ahead with this project with the terms that they have offered to us the letter/estimate given to Jill
          - Motion: Marty
          - Second: Cathy
          - **Motion passed unanimously**
    - Jill also stated that there is some need for boiler repair in Skipper. This will be accomplished in the manner in which the boiler works in Memorial
      - This will cost around \$3,000.00
      - There is money left in the \$10,000.00 already authorized by the BOD for Jill to use at her discretion and she will use it for this repair
        - Since this deals with already authorized monies for Jill, no BOD action was taken
- **10:00 Treasurer’s Report - Jim Henry**
  - 2020 Financials
    - Jim stated that we are making significant progress on this matter
- **10:15 Nominating Committee - Cathy Green**
  - By next month there should be a full slate with bios to present to the BOD
- **10:20 Annual Gathering - Tom Hathaway**
  - Tom reported:
    - Through the efforts of Nikki Shaw, a logo for the Annual Gathering is in the final stages of development and approval. With the new logo, efforts promoting the Annual Gathering should swing into high gear.
    - The committee will conduct a site survey of First Community on Friday afternoon. We hope to identify the areas we will use for the breakout rooms and areas for support functions. Additionally, while the 2020 Annual Gathering was made a success through the efforts of First Community, it did

not happen without a few technical glitches that were probably not known except to those of us behind the scenes. We will discuss ways to avoid these in 2021.

· With regard to the virtual meeting arrangements, the committee is evaluating another vendor, Hopin, which specializes in creating virtual formats for meetings and events. There are some enhancements of Hopin that Zoom does not offer. We have our next meeting on Monday.

- **10:25 DOC Ohio Regional Board Report - Terry Williams**
  - Terry reported that Dr. Alecia Evans-Hayes will be the new representative to the HC BOD
  - The DOC Board is dealing with the same intricacies of the pandemic as we have
    - Camping, going forward as a denomination, etc.
- **Thank You Letters Received - DMP Awardees & other thank you's**
  - [Defiance College](#)
  - [UCH](#)
  - [Emmaus Homes](#)
  - [Keith M. Haithcock](#)
  - David P encouraged the BOD to read the above letters
- **Next Meeting Date - June 18, 2021**
  - **BOD Meeting Dates going forward**
    - July 16, 2021
  - **Upcoming Dates**
    - **Annual Gathering - September 24-25 and October BOD Retreat - October 15-16**
- Dave LH closed the meeting with prayer
- With no further business to take up and having exhausting the published/approved agenda, the meeting adjourned at 10:39

## Exhibit A

"We are the Heartland Conference - 330 Congregations in four associations! Empowered by the Holy Spirit 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. Yes! Yes! Yes!

**Directions:** Please hold your phone in the **horizontal position** and stand in a space that is both quiet and with a fairly plain background. **Speak with energy, but not too fast**, recording the following script:

**When Completed:** Please send to Becca Hoskins at [becca@heartlanducc.org](mailto:becca@heartlanducc.org) or text to 614-406-5137.

**Please send by June 1st. We really need your contribution and appreciate your partnership!**