

## Heartland Conference Board of Directors Minutes - 8.20.2021

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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: August 20, 2021 – Feast Day of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Stated Time: 9:00am

### **Attendance**

#### Voting Members Attending (10)

Rev. David Brown, Living Water ONE

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. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative

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

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister

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

#### Voting Members Not Attending (6)

Mr. Martin Buck, Living Water ONE Representative

Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA

Mx. MK O'Haver, CSEOA Representative

Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative

Faith Solon, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative (New representative to be named soon)

Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending (2)

Ms. Rebecca Hoskins, Heartland Conference Executive Administrator

Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

→ **9:05 Welcome, Introductions and Covenantal Prayer (Led by Cathy Green)**

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.

→ **9:08 Approval of Minutes/Agenda Items**

◆ [July 30, 2021](#)

- Moved: Adrian
- Second: Tom
- **Action Item: Motion passed unanimously**

→ **9:10 Treasurer's Report - Jim Henry**

◆ 2021 Second Quarter

- [Balance Sheet](#)
- [Analysis of Revenue and Expenses](#)
- [General Operating Fund Summary](#)
- [HC Fund Report](#)
  - Jim pointed out highlights in the reports linked above
  - Cathy asked about SARA bringing their accounting back to the conference and she wanted to know why there was a negative balance
    - ◆ Jim answered that we are merely an agent for SARA and that we will see these accounts "cleaned-up" over the next several months and that there numbers will actually be pulled out these reports in the future
  - Cathy also asked about the special offerings which are a pass-through for us. These have been passed-through and will be booked in the coming weeks at which point the numbers will reflect this action.
- Motion to receive the reports linked above

- Moved: Dave B
- Second: Tom
- **Action Item: Motion passed unanimously**
- ◆ 2022 Budget Process Update
  - Jim stated that the process is underway. Jill is working on the camp budget and Dave LH and Jim are working on the rest of the conference budget
  - They are on track to have it ready for the AG in September
  - It will be available for Board review at our next meeting Sept. 10
- ◆ Pam wanted us to be aware that the Midwest Market Index from July 2020-2021 on which we base our clergy compensation guidelines is currently 5.9% which may effect the budget

→ **9:37 Annual Gathering Updates - September 24 - September 25, 2021 - Tom Hathaway**

- ◆ Registration opened August 16th - \$80.00 (In person/hoping)
  - Dave LH reported that the Leadership Roundtable discussed Covid-19 protocols.
    - Patricia offered that information being shared with her (through her position with Ohio Health) the delta variant is 60% more transmissible than the original Covid-19 strain (which was in fact 50% more transmissible than other corona viruses)
    - Even the vaccinated can contract Covid and even though hospitalization and death are less rare - serious repercussions can still happen
  - Given all of this, the BOD discussed whether it was prudent to move the AG to an all virtual event
    - Dave LH - the Leadership Roundtable has recommended that the AG be an all virtual event and that all other association fall meetings would be virtual.
    - Dave P - it is pretty certain that things are getting worse and it would be better to make the decision today so that the AG planning team has adequate time to shift the meeting to all virtual
    - **Moved that the AG be an all virtual meeting**
      - ◆ Motion: Dave B
      - ◆ Second: Pam
      - ◆ Discussion
        - Dan B better to err on the side of caution
        - Dave LH mentioned that there will be some meeting design things to work out and the team may need to test some of the AG items out and may need BOD feedback to help with the process
      - ◆ **Action Item: Motion passed unanimously**

→ **10:00 Nominating Committee - Cathy Green**

- ◆ Cathy mentioned that there are still some positions for nominations from CSEOA
  - Patricia will check on this

→ **10:05 DOC Ohio Regional Board Report - Terry Williams**

- ◆ Terry was not present for the meeting thus no report was given
- ◆ Dave LH reported that the Ohio Disciples have requested a “job description” for the liaison position to Allen Harris. The description is being worked on and Dave will pass it on very soon!

→ **10:06 Outdoor Ministry - Jill Frey**

- ◆ General Report
  - Jill gave a report on this past year’s camp season
    - A few updates:
      - ◆ Accessible restroom project is moving forward for Skipper
      - ◆ Donation for a microwave and dorm fridge will be put in one of the Parker Ridge cabins
      - ◆ Usage is still low due to Covid
      - ◆ Still have a small supply of Covid tests that will continue to be utilized until they run out or pass their expiration date
  - Dan B thanked Jill for all of her work at camp (others concurred with their thankfulness)

→ **10:10 Leadership Roundtable**

- ◆ Boundary Training in SONKA - Ministry with Differently Abled Persons - August 21, 2021
- ◆ All Fall meetings in the associations will be virtual
- ◆ Nayiri mentioned that the Healthy Practices will take place on Oct. 6 (9-12) with the theme on Ethical Practice in Online Church and the LWAAG will be Oct. 30 (9-12) with the keynote speaker Diana Butler Bass
- ◆ Interim Working Group will hold a workshop will feature Dave LH as the keynote speaker on Sept. 27 as a virtual meeting
- ◆ Dave LH Sept 8 CHHSM will hold a virtual workshop on “Emerging Leadership”
- ◆ Dan D talked about the UCC Forum - the joint meeting with our German Partners. This online event will feature Diana Butler Bass speaking on the topic “From Dislocation to Relocation: Wrestling With the Future” The forum will take place Sept. 10-11. Dave LH, Chad Abbott (IKC) as well as others will be speaking during the forum

→ **10:25 BOD Retreat in October 15-16**

- ◆ Begin at 1:00 pm on October 15 and finish by 3:00 pm on October 16
- ◆ Is there anything specifically that you think would be helpful to cover?
  - Please send your thoughts to Tom Hathaway/Dave Plant
    - [dplant@yahoo.com](mailto:dplant@yahoo.com)
    - [tom.hathaway@fuse.net](mailto:tom.hathaway@fuse.net)
  - Please keep these days open and the meeting will be moved to online only

→ **Next Meeting Date - September 10, 2021 9:00am - Budget Finalization and AG**

◆ **Upcoming Dates**

- **Annual Gathering - September 24-25**

- **October BOD Retreat - October 15-16**

→ With no further items to come before the board, and the board having exhausted it's agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 following a prayer by Dave LH