

Heartland Conference Board of Directors

Minutes - 9.10.2021



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.

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Stated Date: September 10, 2021 – Feast Day of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Stated Time: 9:00am

Attendance

Voting Members Attending (9)

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

Ms. Pam Linderson, SONKA Representative

Rev. David Plant, Moderator Heartland Conference UCC

Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending (6)

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister

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

Voting Members Not Attending (7)

Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer

Rev. Elizabeth Leung, Living Water ONE Representative

Mx. MK O'Haver, CSEOA Representative

Rev. Adrian Sunday, NWOA Representative

Rev. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative
Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative
?, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending (1)

Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

→ 9:05 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

◆ [August 20, 2021](#)

◆ **Action Item:** Move to approve the minutes and agenda

◆ Moved: Tom

◆ Second: Cathy

◆ **Motion passed unanimously**

→ 9:15 Treasurer's Report - 2022 Budget Presentation

◆ Dave LH shared his screen and presented the budget in the absence of Jim Henry who could not be on the meeting

- Jill also spoke about the budget areas that have to do with Outdoor Ministries
- David P asked if there were any questions
 - Cathy mentioned that while it is a deficit budget, she really appreciated the UCHomes offer to do book keeping was quite generous but there is nothing in the budget to offer them for their services

- ◆ Many concurred that we should budget something in the future to offer as a stipend for the help in maintaining our financial information
- ◆ Dave LH asked if Cathy had a specific recommendation at this point
 - She did not - but wants the board going forward to keep this on our agenda
- ◆ It was decided that at this time that Dave LH and David P will craft a letter of appreciation to UCHomes
- ◆ Terry W offered that we allocate \$15,000.00 a year for General Synod Delegates which over the biennium doesn't cover the actual costs of Synod. We need to think about increasing that in order to secure equality of representation of the Heartland Conference at General Synod
 - Dave LH thanked Terry for his words of encouragement in this matter
 - Further discussion on this issue brought broad agreement on working toward fully funding our General Synod delegates
- **Action Item:** Move to approve the 2022 Budget to be brought for a vote at the Annual Gathering (Sept. 24-25, 2021)
- Moved: Cathy
- Second: Pam
- **Motion passed unanimously**

→ **9:43 Flood Relief Gift to Westphalian Church - \$1,000.00**

- ◆ This would be funded from one of the Disaster Relief line items
- ◆ **Action Item:** Move to send this gift to our Westphalian partners
- ◆ Moved: Dan
- ◆ Second: Terry
- ◆ **Motion passed unanimously**

→ **9:30 Nominating Committee - Cathy Green**

◆ Nomination Report is Exhibit A below

- Nothing new to update on this report

→ **9:40 Human Resources - Pam Linderson**

◆ Authorized Minister Compensation Guideline Update

◆ Pam related that the 5.9% should stand but that perhaps a caveat could be added to remind folks that the percentage has been quite low in previous years and that this perhaps balances out over the long term

- Tom mentioned that some line items have been adjusted and we could perhaps use a three-year rolling average
- Terry supported the increase as it is stipulated in the guidelines. We should be willing to recommend the “bigger” increases as we are willing to recommend the “smaller” increases
- Cathy mentioned that the percentages that there is a range built into the guidelines and churches might be looking at that rather than the percentage that is recommended
 - Terry agreed with that and added that churches also look at prior years as well
- **Action Item:** Move to send present the guidelines to the annual gathering
- Moved: From Personnel Committee
- Second: not needed
- **Motion passed unanimously**

→ **9:56 Annual Gathering Updates - September 24 - September 25, 2021 - Tom Hathaway**

◆ Registration Updates

◆ Tom offered that the gathering is all-virtual and that the cost has been reduced

- “Swag” bags will be mailed out prior to the gathering
- The committee has been working hard to make the pivot and bring the best annual gathering they can with the time left
- Currently 79 people are registered for AG

→ **10:00 BOD Retreat in October 15-16**

◆ Begin at 1:00 pm on October 15 and finish by 3:00 pm on October 16

◆ The consensus was reached that the retreat should be held as scheduled but conducted in a virtual format due to health and safety prudence. The

plan is to utilize the established dates of Oct. 15-16 and meet virtually on Oct. 15, 1-4:00 p.m. and on Oct. 16, 9-12:00 noon or possibly in the afternoon. The Executive Committee will refine the schedule. Please contact Dave Plant or Tom Hathaway with items for discussion.

- dplant@yahoo.com
- tom.hathaway@fuse.net

→ **10:10 Meeting adjourned**

Exhibit A

Nominees for the Heartland Conference Board of Directors Annual Gathering 2021

Officers:

Moderator (2 year term): Tom Hathaway, layperson, SONKA – automatic progression from Vice Moderator

Past Moderator (2 year term): David Plant, clergy, NWOA – automatic progression from Moderator

Vice Moderator (2 year term): Dan Doty, clergy, LWA

Rev. Daniel J. Doty is an Ohio native. He was born in Columbus Grove, Ohio and was baptized and confirmed in the Columbus Grove United Church of Christ. Dan attended Bowling Green State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education. He taught in the public schools of Ohio for four years before answering his call to ministry.

While at Bowling Green Dan met and married Amy Dean in 1987. They attended and joined a United Methodist church in college. They moved their small family to Illinois where Dan attended a United Methodist Seminary (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL) and Amy began doctoral studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Campaign.

Following ordination, Dan served Methodist churches in Illinois and Ohio. The polity and short tenure of clergy appointments in the United Methodist Church caused Dan to take a leave of absence from active ministry and return to the classroom. Dan

soon began to miss active ministry and felt that God was not through with him. After taking a UCC polity class and securing Privilege of Call in the Eastern Ohio Association (now Living Water ONE), Dan was called to be the Senior Minister of Trinity United Church of Christ in June of 2005. Dan would move on to be the Senior Minister of The Bath Church in Akron, OH.

Dan engaged in the Interim Minister Training in 2019 and was called to be the Interim Minister for Westerville Community United Church of Christ in January of 2020. As of July 1, 2021, Daniel serves as the Interim Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge.

Daniel is a classically trained opera singer and has lived in Italy, sung with various symphonies and community bands in Ohio and throughout the Midwest. In May of 2017 Daniel made his Carnegie Hall debut singing the “Hostias” solo with the Hudson Festival Orchestra and Choir in the Fauré Requiem.

Rev. Doty lives in Wadsworth with his wife Amy and is the proud father of Kristian, Sean, and Kaetlyn Doty.

Secretary (3 year term): MK O’Haver, CSE

MK O’Haver is a member of Bridges of Grace UCC in Charleston, WV. MK has a MDiv with a focus on Youth Ministry from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She served several churches in the United Methodist Church for 15 years before moving with her wife, Rev. Kay Albright to West Virginia.

MK officially joined the UCC when Bridges of Grace became a church with Full Standing. Since then she has been actively involved in CSE Association.

She has served on the Heartland Conference Board of Directors for the past three years.

Treasurer (2 year term*): Jim Henry, layperson, NWOA

Jim is married to Debby and they have two daughters and four grandchildren. He resides in Mansfield, OH where he is a member of St John’s UCC. Jim is a CPA and partner in the firm of WOB Accountants and Advisors. He graduated from the College of Wooster with a degree in economics, and did graduate studies in accounting at Kent State University.

Jim currently serves as a Deacon at St. John’s, Treasurer of the Heartland Conference, a member of the board of directors of United Church Homes, Catalyst Life Services, and Richland Academy of the Arts. He is a past Moderator of the Ohio conference, and the Northwest Ohio Association. He has served the wider church on the board of directors of the Board for Homeland Ministries, Local Church Ministries and the Cornerstone Fund.

**The Treasurer position is typically a three-year term, but the committee recommends taking action this year to stagger the end of the Secretary and Treasurer terms for continuity. That is why Jim Henry will be reelected to a two-year term.*

Other Board Members:

Rev. David Brown – Living Water Association – reelection to first full term, expires 2023

David W. Brown (he, him, his) is an Akron area native. After a 20-year career as a mental health counselor, he put his training from Partners in Ministry (now the Northeast Ohio School of Ministry) to use. He was called to serve East Market Street UCC of Akron as Licensed Minister. That congregation was very small and unable to afford their church building, so David and the Church Leadership worked together to sell the building and move together to nest at another church. When David answered a call to serve as Pastor of Trinity UCC, Akron (his home church), the remaining East Market Street UCC members came along, and after 2 years of worshipping together the two congregations officially merged. His Counseling background helps when congregations are in transition. David is a Licensed Minister and a Member in Discernment working toward ordination.

Prior to taking on ministry jobs, David sang in the choir at Trinity UCC, led an adult class and participated in a lay-led midweek worship service. He served on the local Church Council as President and as a church delegate. He was Secretary of the Partners in Ministry Steering Committee, and a member of the Eastern Ohio Association Council, becoming Moderator as EOA and WRA worked together on their merger. David became the first Moderator of the newly created Living Water Association. He has served on Search Committees at the local church and Association level and is on the Association Nominating Committee. He was a delegate to the 2019 General Synod in Milwaukee.

David and his wife of 34 years, Janice live in Stow, Ohio. They have two adult children. David likes music, cooking & baking and reading.

Rev. Lauren Roe – SONKA - election to first two-year term expires 2023

Rev. Lauren A. Roe currently serves as Pastor at St. John's UCC in Germantown, Ohio. Lauren obtained her Partnership standing with the United Church of Christ in 2016 as she began her ministry with St. John's.

Lauren serves as Moderator to SONKA. She previously served on SONKA's Ministry Relations Team. She has served on the Heartland Conference's SONKA Working Group, The One Heart Working Group, and the Executive Teams Group.

She began her ministry as a licensed minister with the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) serving as the Minister to Children and Youth at Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1999. She graduated with a Master of Divinity from The Methodist Theological School in 2005. She was ordained by the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) in June 2005. While in seminary Lauren served as the Associate Pastor at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wilmington,

Ohio. Laureen was called in February 2006 to serve as Pastor at First Christian Church in Middletown, Ohio where she served for 9 years. In 2015, Laureen was called to serve a year as Interim Director of Youth Ministries at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Centerville, Ohio.

Laureen served 24 years with the UCC/DOC Partnership Critter Camps at Pilgrim Hills/Camp Christian. She served as Director of Otter Camp for 19 years.

Laureen's most recent trainings include interim ministry, anti-racism/pro-reconciliation, safe sanctuaries, blessing based spiritual nurture, mental health first aid, addiction and recovery support, and online boundaries/safety.

Mark Vaughn – NWOA - election to first two-year term expires 2023

Originally from the Youngstown, OH area, Mark came to Lima, OH in August 1984 to begin his teaching career with the Lima City Schools. He taught grades 2, 4,6,7,8, 9 and had two stints as a principal while in Lima. Mark retired from education in December 2012 and now frequently substitute teaches in a few of the local schools. While working for the Lima City Schools, Mark met Laura, a fellow teacher, and they were happily married in June 1994 until her sudden passing in June 2017.

Mark came to Wapakoneta area in April 1996 when he and his wife purchased their first home. He has two children: a married son Ryan, a recent Chemical Engineering graduate of the University of Toledo; and a daughter, who graduated from Wapakoneta High School in May 2021 and will be attending Ohio State University – Lima in the fall of 2021, following in her father and mother's footsteps by majoring in early childhood education.

Mark became a member of the St. Paul United Church of Christ, in 1997, a few years after being married in this church by the Reverend Dr. John Manzo. St. Paul has been the home of his family's continued faith journey, from his marriage to his wife to the baptisms and confirmations of their children, to his family's participation in several of our church's missions and ministries. He has taught Sunday school class to middle school youth for approximately 10 years, and has been an advisor to the middle school youth group for 4 years.

Mark currently serves on the St. Paul United Church of Christ's Church Council. He served a year as Vice-President, and is now in his second year as President of Church Council. He is also the chairperson of the Faith Formation Team/Committee, which is in charge of overseeing the development of youth and family programming that is designed to assist in the continued spiritual and faith development of our congregation.

Since his retirement, Mark's time volunteering for the church has gradually increased and become a humbling and rewarding experience.

STILL TO BE FILLED:

- Representative from CSEOA to a full two year term
- Representative from CSEOA to a partial one year term