



## Heartland Conference Board of Directors Minutes 11.19.2021

***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: November 19, 2021  
Stated Time: 9:00am

### **Attendance**

#### **Voting Members Attending (9)**

Mr. Martin Buck, Living Water ONE Representative  
Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA  
Mr. Tom Hathaway, Moderator  
Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer  
Rev. Laureen Roe, SONKA Representative  
Mx. MK O'Haver, Conference Secretary  
Mark Vaughn, NWOA Representative  
Rev. David Brown, Living Water ONE Representative  
Rev. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative  
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell, CSEOA Representative  
Rev. Eric Williams, CSEOA Representative

#### **Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending**

Rev. Daniel Busch, NWOA Association Minister  
Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Living Water ONE Association Minister  
Rev. David Long-Higgins, Heartland Conference, Conference Minister  
Ms. Jill Frey, Heartland Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries  
Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister  
Ms. Rebecca Hoskins, Heartland Conference Executive Administrator  
Charlene J. Smith, Living Water ONE Representative, Designate

#### **Voting Members Not Attending**

?, Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Representative  
Rev. Daniel Doty, Vice Moderator  
Rev. David Plant, Past-Moderator  
Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative

#### **Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending**

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

- **9:00 Welcome, Introductions and Covenantal Prayer**

God of Love, made known to us in Jesus Christ, 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**

- [September 10, 2021](#)
  - **Action Item: Motion to approve minutes**
  - Moved: Eric Williams
  - Second: David Brown
  - Result: Passed unanimously
- [October 16, 2021](#)
  - **Action Item: Motion to approve minutes**
  - Moved: Eric Williams
  - Second: David Brown
  - Result: Passed unanimously

- **9:15 Election of New Board member from Living Water Association - Charlene Smith**

- **Action Item: Election of Charlene J Smith as LWOA Representative**
- Moved: Nominations Committee
- Second: n/a
- Result: Passed unanimously

- **9:20 Human Resources Chairperson**

- Tom opened conversation for nomination of board member to serve as HR Chair.
- Committee is composed of HR Chairs of each association

- **9:25 Clarifying Ministry Priorities for 2022**

- [Heartland Trends and Priorities Summary](#)
- [Executive Teams Notes](#)
- [BOD Retreat Notes](#)
- Tom recapped discussion from Executive Teams meeting
- Tom & Dave LH composed comments and discussion from ET & BoD into one document – see Heartland Trends & Priorities Summary
- Dave LH walked us thru the summary with hopes to further delve into items at December meeting.

- Dave LH raised some critical questions: What are we doing and what can we be doing with regard to anti-racism work? How do we tend to diversity in our executive teams? How can we reinvigorate the Racial Ethnic Empowering Committee?
  - Eric Williams is looking at a summary from the congregational POV. How do we live into this “long urgency” at that level? How do we encourage ownership at the local church level for anti-racism work?
  - Dave LH highlighted the Anti-Racism working group that is open to everyone with an interest in anti-racism work
- Church Vitality
  - Eric Williams noted that as he sat with the term “right-sizing” he has grown more comfortable with it
  - Nayiri Karjian noted she has been embracing the term “honest” and its importance in church vitality
  - Charlene J Smith encourages rethinking the meaning of vitality to not be equated to numbers, but mission & spirituality
  - Laureen Roe highlighted the tiredness of leaders & congregations and the need for permission giving to rest
  - Tom Hathaway brought up the Annual Gathering survey results that asked attendees what concerns the Conference could help with & many were concerned with church vitality/bouncing back from covid as well as preparation & care of pastors
- Reimagining Ministry
  - Dave LH noted that the networks can serve as vehicles for vocational clarity & engagement
  - Carl Robinson raised the impression that we are facing a crisis of faith formation & need to rethink & reshape our education of attendees
  - Diane Carter brought up the necessity of reframing language. Ex. mission -> purpose
  - Jill Frey raised the glaring omission of Outdoor Ministries from the summary. Could it supplement and assist with the above needs/concerns?
- Fiscal sustainability
- Organizational clarity
  - Constitution revision is needed
  - Board development
- Communication as connection

#### 9:55 Outdoor Ministry Report

- Jill reviewed the necessary property needs for Skipper Lodge
- Action Item: **To accept contract addition to Branstetter and Carroll architects for the re-design/bid process not to exceed \$8,000 to come from the Hills are Alive Capital Campaign.**
- Moved: Martin Buck on behalf of the property committee
- Second: n/a
- Result: passed unanimously
- Jill reviewed immediate maintenance issues at Temples Hills

- **Action Item:** Release funds from the ODM Maintenance Fund for the projects as directed in the ODM report and recommend to the finance committee to immediately remove \$60,000 from the market to secure funding for the projects
  - Moved: Martin Buck on behalf of the Property Committee
  - Second: n/a
  - Result: passed unanimously
- **10:05 Disbursements**
  - **MAD Grant Distribution**
    - We had 23 requests this year. Up from 14 last year.
    - **Action Item:** Authorize disbursement of \$15,800.00 for MAD grants
    - Moved: comes from committee
    - Second: n/a
    - Result: passed unanimously
  - **Consideration of Disbursement for Peace and Justice Pilgrimage (with LWA)**
    - **Action Item:** Disperse \$8,000 from Racial/Ethnic Empowerment Fund for support of Peace and Justice Pilgrimage hosted by LWOA
    - Moved: Eric Williams
    - Second: Laureen Roe
    - Result: passed unanimously
- **10:10 Conference Minister Report/Updates**
  - New Disaster Response Coordinator - Kevin Gehres from St. Paul's, St. Mary's, Ohio
  - DOC/Heartland Board Representatives
  - Leadership Roundtable Updates
  - Pictures and bios - please send to Becca at [becca@heartlanducc.org](mailto:becca@heartlanducc.org)
- **10:20 Treasurer's Report - 3rd Quarter**
  - [Balance Sheet](#)
  - [Income and Expense](#)
  - [Fund Report](#)
  - Housing Allowance for Rev. Dave Long-Higgins
    - **Action Item:** Approve housing allowance of \$21,281.52 for Rev. David Long-Higgins for year 2022
    - Moved: Jim Henry
    - Second: Eric Williams
    - Result: passed unanimously
- **10:30 Next Meeting Dates**
  - December 17, 2021
  - January 21, 2022
  - February 18, 2022
  - March 18, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 10:48am