

**Heartland Conference Board of Directors
Minutes 2.18.2022**



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: February 18, 2022
Stated Time: 9:00am

Attendance

Voting Members Attending (9)

Mr. Tom Hathaway, Moderator
Rev. Daniel Doty, Vice Moderator
Rev. David Plant, Past-Moderator
Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer
Mx. MK O'Haver, Conference Secretary
Mr. Mark Vaughn, NWOA Representative
Ms. Charlene J. Smith, Living Water ONE Representative
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell, CSEOA Representative
Rev. Eric Williams, CSEOA Representative
Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA
Rev. Lauren Allen, SONKA Representative
Rev. Lauren Roe, Disciples of Christ Representative
Rev. David Brown, Living Water ONE Representative
Rev. Melody Ruffin Ward, Living Water ONE Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff, and Guests Attending

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

Voting Members Not Attending

Mr. Martin Buck, Living Water ONE Representative
Dan Weyand-Geise, SONKA representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

- **Meeting called to order at 9:03am**

- **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.

- **Approval of Minutes/Agenda Items**

- **Action Item: Motion to approve agenda & minutes from [January 21, 2022](#)**
- Moved: Rev. Diane Carter
- Second: Rev. Eric Williams
- Result: Motion Passed

- **Welcome and Approval of New BOD Rep from SONKA**

- **Action Item: Motion to approve new BoD Rep from SONKA – Rev. Lauren Allen**
- Moved: From Nominations committee
- Result: Motion Passed

- **Treasurer's Report - Jim Henry**

- Audit Strategy for 2020-2021
 - Finance committee unable to meet because awaiting final financials

- **[Outdoor Ministry Report](#) - Jill Frey**

- Skipper Restroom Project Update
 - Cost came in much higher than expected at \$120,000 due to increased costs of materials and having only one vendor who could complete the project within the timeline.
 - Architect is currently reviewing the plan & looking at some ideas for cost reduction
 - Current recommendation is to wait to gather more information and possibly move project to Fall for larger pool of bids
- Camp Promotion and Staff Recruitment
 - Still in need of more staff & campers for Summer. Jill encouraged us to promote & refer folks to the program
 - Half week (mini-camp) camp is launching this year. Registrations have already come in.
- No changes to Covid protocols at this point, but remaining open and ready to flex as needed

- **Committee Updates**

- **Constitution Review Taskforce – Rev. Dave Plant, Chair**
 - Met last week for the first time
 - Heather Kimmel advised them on some items
- **Human Resources/Personnel – Rev. Dave Plant, Chair**
 - Rev. Eric Williams as co-chair and will take over as chair in 2023
 - Conference Minister Yearly Evaluation
- **Heartland Board Representative to DOC Regional Board**
 - Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell from CSEOA

- **Executive Teams Update**
 - Affirmation of the Conference Priorities
 - Executive Teams will be reading *Quietly Courageous* by Gil Rendle for discussion
 - Rev. David L-H asks that the BoD read it as well as a Board Development tool
 - Email Becca at the Conference office for ordering of paper or digital copy to be sent to you
 - Conference Priorities Next Action Steps

- **Conference Minister's Report**
 - Christmas Gift Thank-you from the whole staff
 - Introduction of New Communications Director
 - Ms. Cassidy Hall begins work next week, overlapping with Rev. Nikki Shaw
 - Annual Gathering Theme: Rise Up
 - In response to a survey regarding desirable meeting dates, the 2022 Annual Gathering will switch to a Thursday-Friday format and be held o Sept. 22-23.
 - The networks and working groups of the conference will create the workshops.
 - Network Updates:
 - Disaster Response - Dayton Recovery
 - Bucket Challenge - 2022 Buckets and hygiene kits in 2022
 - Depot at Tempel Hills for Bucket storage
 - Partnering with DOC for Dayton recovery work
 - Scheduling opportunities for Spring mission teams are available
 - Generosity Network
 - Heartbeat of Generosity Newsletter is a practically helpful resource for congregations
 - Climate Justice Network
 - Now named Creation Care Network is in process of growing core group
 - Discussion of Tempel Hills as location for a Center for Creation Care education
 - Anti-Racism Network
 - Gathering quarterly and most recently featured a presentation on the curriculum "Centering God, Decentering Whiteness"
 - Faith Formation Network
 - Conference is next week!
 - Leadership Roundtable Updates
 - Rev. Carl Robinson
 - Dayton recovery work is working on providing affordable housing for those displaced from rentals 3 years ago
 - Good financial position of a deficit of only \$3,600
 - Rev. Nayiri Karjian
 - Lots of pastoral care with pastors & churches around unhappiness & anxiety
 - Lots of conversations around yoking congregations, merging conversations, & shared staffs
 - Diversity Training upcoming March 5
 - Church Vitality event upcoming April 2 "Anxiety in the Church & Its Possibilities"
 - Rev. Dan Busch
 - Annual Meeting on April 30th via Zoom with Keynote from Rev. Cheryl Lindsay
 - Good financial year
 - Pictures and bios - please send to Becca at becca@heartlanducc.org

- **DOC Regional Board Report** - Laureen Roe
 - Spiritual Life Retreat for Clergy & Chaplain, active & retired is March 28-30 and UCC Authorized Ministers, active & retired, along with spouses are invited.
 - Excitement within Regional Council regarding Bucket Depot & Challenge. A little competition between the DOC & UCC maybe???
 - Biennial Regional Assembly at Camp Christian Saturday, 9/24/22 10am-7pm

- [Thank you letters from UCH & Heidelberg](#)
- **Next Meeting Dates**
 - **March 18, 2022**
 - **April 22, 2022** (Due to Good Friday)
 - **May 20, 2022**
- **Meeting adjourned at 10:18AM**