



**Heartland Conference Board of Directors
Minutes 03.14.2024**

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 inspire, 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: Dublin Community UCC
Stated Date: March 15, 2024
Stated Time: 9:00am

Voting Members Attending

Mr. Joe Kirk, Vice Moderator
Mr. Tom Hathaway, Past-Moderator
Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer via Zoom
Mx. MK O'Haver, Conference Secretary
Rev. Eric Williams, CSEOA Representative
Rev. Phyllis Richards, Living Water ONE Representative
Ms. Charlene J. Smith, Living Water ONE Representative
Rev. Brenda Waddell, Living Water ONE Representative
Rev. Leila Jindra, Living Water ONE Representative
Rev. Lauren Allen, SONKA Representative
Rev. Joe Kay, SONKA 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. Char Burch, Sabbatical Supply Conference Minister via Zoom
Mr. Bob Kutschbach, via Zoom
Rev. Karen Bruno

Voting Members Not Attending

Rev. Daniel Doty, Moderator
Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative
Mr. Mark Vaughn, NWOA Representative
Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA Representative
Rev. Laureen Roe, Disciples of Christ Representative

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister
Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Living Water ONE Association Minister
Rev. Carl Robinson SONKA Association Minister

- **Meeting called to order at 10:30am**
 - Dave Long-Higgins opened the meeting with a reflection and lighting of the Christ candle.

- **Welcome and Covenantal Prayer:** God of Love, made known to us in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, 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 and Consent Agenda Items**
 - [Minutes -2.16.2024](#)
 - [Conference Minister's Report](#)
 - [DOC Report - Highlights from Laureen](#)
 - **ACTION ITEM: Approve consent agenda items.**
 - Motion: Tom Hathaway
 - Second: Brenda Waddell
 - Result: **Passed**

- **Introductions**
 - Name and setting and something that is exciting you about our shared work.

- **Policy and Procedure Update** - Tom Hathaway
 - [Annual Gathering Committee](#)
 - [Resolutions Process](#)
 - **ACTION ITEM: Recommend adoption of the changes to Annual Gathering Committee & Resolutions Process portions of the Policy & Procedures Manual**
 - Motion: Tom Hathaway on behalf of the Policy & Procedure Committee
 - Second: Eric Williams
 - Result: **Passed**
 - [Ministry Networks - for Discussion purposes](#)
 - Currently there are 16 networks plus Disaster Response, and SARA
 - The Conference Minister is the lone administrative support for the Ministry Networks, which is becoming a daunting task as the number of networks grows. Could Ministry Networks be better supported by the creation of a ministry board to assist the Conference Minister in supporting the Network Ministries?
 - While it is desirable for accountability of the Network Ministries to the Conference be indirect to allow those ministries to best grow upon the interests and passions of their participants, there is a need for an indirect form of accountability to enable the Network Ministries to share their messages with the Conference membership.

- **Leadership Round Table**
 - Sabbatical Strategy (3/17/24 - 6/16/24)
 - Dave showed off the new cards with QR code to conference ministry resources. Share these far & wide!

- Becca will get with Cassidy about making the QR code available to download and place on church websites & in church bulletins.
 - See Dave's report for more details about his sabbatical.
 - Rev. Karen Bruno
 - Serving as Ministry Network coordinator during Dave Long-Higgin's sabbatical and will receive \$1,500 pay
 - Association Ministers
- **Annual Gathering Update**
 - Joint Heartland/Ohio DOC Annual Gathering will be September 27-28, 2024, at First Community Church in Columbus at the Dublin campus
 - Theme - **Being the Community of Christ - Together** based on Romans 1:11-12
 - Keynoter: Rev. Elizabeth Hagen, author of *Brace Church* will help us think about how to live into the "purple church" reality that inhabits most of our congregations
 - Preachers: Rev. LaMarco Cable, President of the Disciples Overseas Mission and Co-Executive for the Common Global Ministries and Dr. Nebedita Pramanik head of one of our partner hospitals in India
 - Working out hybrid logistics
- **Financial Initiatives Taskforce**
 - Taskforce has met twice now and have been engaging in conversations about the larger picture of our shared life in terms of clarifying the various ministries that make up our covenant life
- **Outdoor Ministry Report and Camp Discussion/Update** - Jill Frey
 - Summer Camp 2024 & 2025
 - Continue 3% increase of fees. This will be insufficient once grounds are sold.
 - Donations to support programs will still need to increase.
- **12:00 Lunch**
- **Zoom Conversation with Bob Kutschbach re: Camp Sale**
 - Chairing financial initiatives & oversee camp sale team.
 - Before proceeding are there any conditions the Board sees necessary in the sale of property? e.g. restrict fracking, certain other groups/faiths
 - Are we going to require entire property sale or allow breaking up the property?
 - Is the whole more valuable or the pieces?
 - Limitations of property use? e.g. casinos
 - Would like a decision by next meeting.
 - Were there restrictions on pilgrim hills? No – but we had a buyer ready.
 - Need professional appraisal. The previous appraiser from 2014 said there was no change in value. Committee seeking new appraisal.
 - We've had some buyers show interest, but we need the updated appraisal before considering offers
 - Some auction companies are very interested in the sale for parcels and then auction in whole and going with the higher offer.
 - Need to guide appraiser to value it in parcels
- **Templed Hills Follow-up discussion/decisions**

- o ACTION ITEM: authorize up to 10k for appraisal and title work to keep sale moving forward and those funds spent at discretion of executive committee
 - Motion: Jim Henry on behalf of the Tempel Hills Sale Committee
 - Second: Tom Hathaway
 - Result: **Passed**
- o Jill will create a google doc for sharing of ideas around defeasance clauses and deed restrictions
- o ACTION ITEM: instruct appraiser to establish a goal to get most revenue from sale of Tempel Hills as whole or in parcel
 - Motion: Tom Hathaway
 - Second: Eric Williams
 - Result: **Passed**
- **Treasurer's Report - Jim Henry**
 - o Update about delays due to illness
 - o Statements will come at April meeting
 - o OCWM dollars down 2023
- **Next Meeting Dates**
 - April 19, 2024 – Zoom with Bob Kutschbach
 - May 17, 2024 - Zoom
 - June 21, 2024 - Zoom
 - No Meeting in July
- **Adjournment at 1:34pm**