



**Heartland Conference Board of Directors
Minutes 1.19.2024**

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: Zoom Meeting

Stated Date: January 19, 2024

Stated Time: 9:00am

Voting Members Attending

Rev. Daniel Doty, Moderator

Mr. Joe Kirk, Vice Moderator

Mr. Tom Hathaway, Past-Moderator

Mr. Jim Henry, Treasurer

Rev. Diane Carter, NWOA Representative

Rev. Terry Williams, CSEOA Representative

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

Mr. Mark Vaughn, NWOA Representative

Rev. Lauren Allen, SONKA Representative

Rev. Joe Kay, SONKA Representative

Rev. Laureen Roe, Disciples of Christ 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

Mx. MK O'Haver, Conference Secretary

Non-Voting Members, Staff Not Attending

Rev. Patricia Battle CSEOA Association Minister

● **9:06 Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda Items**

- [Minutes - November 17, 2023](#)
 - Mark Vaughn asked that the wording about the sale of Temples Hills be added to the November 2023 minutes. In the absence of the Conference Secretary it was decided that those minutes could be amended by her at a later date and accepted by the Conference Executive Committee. The amended minutes will be attached to the agenda for the February 2024 meeting.
- [Conference Minister's Report](#)
- [DOC Report](#) - Highlights from Laureen
- ACTION ITEM: Accept meeting agenda and reports. Approve minutes with pending amendment as mentioned above.
 - MOTION: Tom Hathaway
 - SECOND: Joe Kirk
 - RESULT: Passed unanimously

● **9:08 Treasurer's Report - 3rd Quarter - Jim Henry**

- [October Balance Sheet](#)
- [October Revenue & Expense](#)
- [October Ministry Analysis Summary](#)
- Jim presented highlights in the attached reports
- David LH mentioned that we've noticed a slowing in the contributions to OCWM and perhaps we will see an improvement in giving soon.

● **9:20 Formation of Conference-Wide "Financial Initiatives Team" (FIT)** ○ David spoke to the forming of the conference-wide team to bring some clarity to the totality of our shared ministry (with financial implications) in the Heartland. This will be a look at the resources available to our shared life both dollars and people. We need to be aware of generosity initiatives across all settings of the UCC.

- Dan mentioned that this FIT work, while generated by the Temples Hills, may need to be a permanent "team" to facilitate the continuing philanthropy and generosity work.
- Carl stated that the real issues we face are that folks in our churches are not aware that stewardship is a part of the call to ministry that we experience as followers of Jesus. Faith development will be key in starting this conversation.

● **9:28 Outdoor Ministry and Camp Discussion/Update - Jill Frey**

- [Outdoor Ministry Report](#)
 - Summer Camp 2024
 - Temples Hills Sale Update
 - Meeting with Andy and Miranda

- Plans for 2024 and 2025
 - Jill asked that we encourage our church to please utilize the online process of registration and payment. The public announcement of the sale of Temple Hills was fairly well received across the conference setting. She encouraged folks to be a part of the Heart to Heart conversations about the sale that are coming up soon on Zoom. (January 21 – 7:30pm & January 22 – 7:00pm)
 - Camping season 2025 plans are well on the way
 - Alternate sites have been explored and schedules are beginning to be sketched out
 - Lantern Fellowship will be partnering with Ohio Lutheran Women for an event in the fall
 - God has provided many places to be in connection with God's glorious creation and we are looking forward to connecting Heartland folk to those places and peoples!

● **9:37 Policy and Procedure Update** - Tom Hathaway

- [P&P Board of Directors](#)
- [P&P Executive Committee](#)
- [P&P Finance Committee](#)
- [P&P Nominating committee](#)
 - Tom gave an update on the policy manual
 - Most of it is outdated and seems to not have been updated since 2007
 - Looking to make the Constitution a governance document without policies and procedures which necessitates the placing of those items into an amended Policy and Procedures Manual.
 - ACTION ITEM Accept the adoption of the reports
 - Dan B asked about the flagged/highlighted piece regarding the nomenclature that refers to clergy.
 - Tom stated that the nomenclature will be changed to reflect our constitution
 - Dan asked that that be an amendment to the reports
 - The amendment was accepted by Tom/chair of committee and will be incorporated
 - Reports come from a committee and needs no second
 - RESULT: Passed unanimously

● **9:44 Leadership Round Table**

- Sabbatical Coverage - Rev. Char Burch (March 17 - June 16)
 - Former Ohio Conference member serving as Association Minister in the

Northwest Ohio Association

- Cassidy Hall was ordained and installed as the Digital Minister of the Heartland and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences of the United Church of Christ
- David LH spoke of the need to be a voice in the Gender-affirming care issues in our state
 - He asked that we consider taking the time to add our voices to this issue. Please follow this link:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/4dMRWJDkm06zx3oaAad82Q2?emci=05dd693d-5fb5-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=455ce35b-7bb5-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=4391209>
- Faith Formation Conference - March 2, 2024 - [Link to Register](#)
 - David LH encouraged us to bring confirmands to this engaging event.
- Diversity Inclusion Committee's work has begun
- Joint Heartland/Ohio DOC Annual Gathering will be September 27-28, 2024 at First Community Church in Columbus
 - Nayiri mentioned several events happening in the Living Water ONE Association's SPIRE Center
 - Carl mentioned the continuing restructure of SONKA – They will be naming “regional” ministers to oversee areas of SONKA. SONKA will then be served by a part time Association Minister. They are also working with local churches to increase their generosity.
 - Dan B mentioned that in the Northwest Association
 - Keep Tim (Joan's husband) NWOA Administrative Assistant in your prayers
 - Annual meeting 4/27/2024 Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson will be the Keynote speaker

● 9:55 Next Meeting Dates

- February 16, 2024
- March 15, 2024 - In Person at Dublin?
 - Carl asked that the meeting begin at 10am to allow for travel – all agreed!
- April 19, 2024

● 10:00 Adjournment