

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
January 17, 2008

Present: Michelle Bagby Allen, Sandy Alley, Winn Alley, Fred Atwood-Lyons, Doug Brenner, Jim Christensen, Don Clarke, Diane Durgin, Luther Durgin, Gray Fitzgerald, Margi Galabrun, Bill Hoysradt, Andy Jepson, Carolyn Keilig, Joyce Lovejoy, Peter Lovejoy, Wayne Martin, Beth Martindale, Deb Moore, Cindy Naiditch, David Richardson, Gary Schulte, John Tostenson, Art Urie, Carl Vitters

Les Norman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Opening devotions were offered by Joyce Lovejoy.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Closing Report of the Transitional Associate Conference Minister – Andy Jepson

Following her report Andy received a standing ovation in appreciation of her ministry with us. After entertaining questions and much discussion, it was agreed that Andy's report would be made available on a wider basis inviting discussion at the local level.

Luther Durgin reported that the Personnel Committee had an exit interview with Andy the notes of which are in Andy's personnel file and were shared with Gary.

Annual Planning Committee – Michelle Bagby Allen reported that the number of members on the committee was diminishing; there have been three resignations. The dates for the 2008 annual meeting are June 13 & 14th at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro. Theme for the meeting is Sanctuary – Living into the Image of God. Featured presenters are Kim & Reggie Harris (storyteller and musician) and Rev. Martin Copenhaver. Worship will be a central focus of the meeting with the intentional planning of sanctuary times; a renewal time for spirits as well as work MOVED by Michelle Bagby Allen; SECONDED by Carolyn Keilig for the above to take place. MOTION APPROVED.

Michelle explained that the committee is visioning a change of venue and time for the 2009 annual meeting to accommodate the needs of those with disabilities; family plans around graduation, weddings, etc; and the technological needs of the conference event. The cost for the event would be higher than the cost we experience with Brewster Academy. Location and dates need to be made available at the June meeting.

The committee plans the same process and format for resolutions as was followed at the 2007 annual meeting.

Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig, Bill Hoysradt
Conference appears to be in the black at the present time with additional income possible from Outdoor Ministries and some restricted funds. Thanks were expressed for income received on a regular basis for OCWM.

Carolyn distributed a process for developing the 2009 budget – “One Church, One Ministry, One Budget.” A trained facilitator from beyond the New Hampshire Conference would lead the committee through the process. Boards/committees/expense centers are asked to choose a representative to attend the budget conversation and discernment process on April 5. It is further requested that the Commission for Congregational Life, the Commission for Witness and Action and the Outdoor Ministries Board send 2 representatives. A March 10th deadline was proposed by which all of the above should submit a proposed budget for 2009. The goal for April 5 is to ‘engage in a broad and open discussion about the mission and work of the Conference, to the end that a budget can be developed.

Resolution of the Council of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ, January 17, 2008 to allow amendment of the Citizen Load Agreement-

Presented by Bill Hoysradt:

Resolved that the following people are authorized to negotiate and accept on behalf of the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ new or amended terms regarding the \$100,000.00 line of credit from Citizens Bank:

Rev. Gary Schulte, Conference Minister

Cindy Naiditch, Conference Treasurer

William Hoysradt, Finance Officer

Also, the people listed are authorized to draw on the line of credit for deposit in the Conference’s operating account at Citizens Bank and to transfer money from the checking account to pay down the line of credit.

MOVED by Carolyn Keilig SECONDED by Winn Alley MOTION APPROVED

Discussion took place regarding the reimbursement for gas and travel expenses at .14 a mile plus tolls [not a well known opportunity]. MOTION by Art Urie to dispense with the practice SECONDED by Peter Lovejoy. Following discussion MOTION WAS NOT APPROVED.

MOTION by Jim Christensen to reinstitute the former practice of reimbursing mileage and expenses for conference meetings SECONDED by Doug Brenner
MOTION APPROVED.

Conference Minister's Report – Gary Schulte

Gary sought the blessing of the council to pursue appointing a $\frac{3}{4}$ time Interim Associate Conference Minister to 'bridge' the time between the retirement of Andy Jepson and the arrival of a settled ACM.

MOTION by Art Urie SECONDED by John Tostenson to do so in support of the Conference Minister MOTION APPROVED

Gary outlined a process for a nationwide search for a Director of Outdoor Ministries. It was understood when Beth Martindale was hired she would serve in this role for two years. This ends at the conclusion of the October 2008 camping season. Beth is welcome to apply for the position should she choose to.

Gary proposed a DOM search committee consisting of the Conference President, the President-elect, Personnel Committee Chairperson, two representatives of the Outdoor Ministries Board (to be selected by the Board) and the Conference Minister. The Conference Minister would ultimately hire the person selected.

The following tentative timeline was proposed: Appointment of the Search Committee – March/April 2008; preparation for the search and advertisement of the vacancy – May/June 2008; interviews – July/August 2008 [while camp is in session]; selection of DOM and presentation to Conference Council and membership – October 1, 2008.

Following discussion about the cost effectiveness of the search process it was agreed that in the best interest of rebuilding trust within the conference our efforts needed to be transparent and process followed. MOTION by Doug Brenner that a search committee be appointed this night

(January 17, 2008), SECONDED by Peter Lovejoy. MOTION APPROVED

The two names of representatives from Outdoor Ministries will be given to Les and Gary.

Conference Minister's Housing

MOTION by Winn Alley SECONDED by Many to allow up to 50% of Gary's total cash salary (for 2008 and future years until specifically amended) be allocated for housing allowance, subject to actual expenses for which Gary can give an accurate accounting in accordance with Section 107 of the IRS code.

MOTION APPROVED

100,000 for Peace – Gray Fitzgerald, representative to the UCC Task Force on

Peace with Justice

Gray gave a history and update about the Pastoral Letter offered by the collegium, conference ministers and UCC seminary presidents.

Members of the task force met recently with Congressman Paul Hodes regarding an Iraqi refugee bill being considered by congress.

Associate Conference Minister Search Committee – Joyce Lovejoy

Joyce Lovejoy reported that the 'Associate Conference Minister Search Committee is pleased to announce that we are prepared to introduce a candidate for the Associate Conference Minister position. However, because of confidentiality issues, we can not release the name at this time. We would like to ask the Council to come together for a special meeting to be introduced to and vote on this candidate 2 weeks from tonight, Thursday, January 31st.

MOVED by Joyce "that a special meeting of the New Hampshire Conference Council be held on Thursday, January 31st for the purpose of introducing and voting for the candidate for the Associate Conference Minister position at a time to be decided by council". SECONDED by Peter Lovejoy. AMENDMENT to the motion by Art Urie SECONDED by Carolyn Keilig that the time be specified as 4:00 p.m. MOTION APPROVED

Planning and Evaluation Committee – Self Evaluation Questions – Joyce Lovejoy

Handout for committees and groups to use as a guide to reflect upon the committee/groups work and where it might focus in the future was distributed.

Director of Outdoor Ministries Report – See attached

Faith Formation Update – Les Norman

Les provided an update on the committee's most recent meeting which included a presentation by Elsa Marshall from the Massachusetts Conference, also serving as the New England Representative for education in the UCC about 'best practices and communities of practice'. Next steps would be developing a vision for faith formation and to begin gathering data as to what best practices are happening in faith formation throughout the conference.

Discussion followed about the criteria, measurement and determination of such. A cautionary note was expressed concerning favoritism and our desire to build trust within the conference. Question to be asked...how does this help people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Report from the Stewardship Development Committee – Fred Atwood-Lyons

Fred shared resources, brochures, information and a calendar of events planned by this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer offered by Les Norman