

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
October 18, 2007

Present: Sandy Alley, Winn Alley, Jay Bodine, Doug Brenner, Jim Christensen, Don Clarke, John Gregory-Davis, Luther Durgin, Margie Galabrun, Don Goodnow, Doug Hatfield, Bill Hoysradt, Andy Jepson, Carolyn Keilig, Joyce Lovejoy, Pete Lovejoy, Fred Atwood-Lyons, Deb Moore, Wayne Martin, Cindy Naiditch, Les Norman, John Tostenson, Art Urie

Les Norman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Carolyn Keilig offered the opening devotions.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Council Retreat

Discussion centered around reflections by Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Institute, who led the council retreat as well as presentation of the 'working board' and 'ministry together' models. Further discussion around questions pertaining to council/conference identity: who does council/conference serve, are we structured to serve anyone, does a council mission statement exist, what does accountability look like in the models presented?

Copy of council actions taken in 2005, 2006 & 2007 were distributed.

Next steps: Wayne, Les, Andy and Gary to have further discussion.

Questions remaining: ministry together model very different from how we operate now...how do we get from A to B, possibly invite Dan Hotchkiss back?

Report from the Commission for Congregational Life – Sandy Alley

Sandy noted the various areas of the conference the commission is an umbrella for. Four vacancies exist on the commission. Small Church Resolution D Group

has been meeting with a local church. Next area of focus will be Clergy Compensation Guidelines. Andy Jepson is staff liaison for the commission. Policy documents are in need of review and an evaluation time line.

Joyce Lovejoy will send out an organizational flowchart in response to need expressed.

ACM Search – Joyce Lovejoy

1 interview has been held, two more scheduled in November. Joyce responded to questions pertaining to where profiles have been received from and how many were received. It was noted that once a final

candidate has been selected, that candidate will be presented to conference council.

Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig

Following the vote of council last month, Bill Hoysradt has been working on the transfer of approximately \$580,000.00 from CIF to unrestricted funds to pay off the Citizen's loan. Bill noted that we are on a consistent pattern of income; expenses are on line. Jim Christensen noted giving pattern for OCWM; encouraged people to continue to speak about OCWM and the 2nd mile effort at their local churches and keep their pledges current.

Budget Process – Discussion – Caroyn Keilig

Carolyn noted the need and hope for long range planning from the conference council. In particular, guidance would be appreciated with: (1) a 3-5 year plan indicating spending priorities and (2) feedback on user friendly budget process and outcomes with funding accountability. Lengthy discussion affirming the benefits of tracking and accountability, assigning priorities, a rubric for evaluation and reporting, and a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness providing funds for the furthering of the mission and witness of the UCC along with the larger question of how do we evaluate ministry resulted in the following MOTION by Carolyn Keilig: That by February 2008, the conference council identify its top priorities for funding to facilitate the budget process. SECOND by Art Urie. DISCUSSION: Wayne Martin read last year's priorities noting they were not intended to be the sole objectives for the budget process. Carolyn will bring the budget to council in May and noted that resolutions will need to have dollars attached to them. MOTION APPROVED.

CATCH Issues – Bill Hoysradt and Andy Jepson

Bill provided background information summarizing letter from John Eller about CATCH (Concord Area Trust for Community Housing). MOTION by Doug Hatfield (from letter received): Council approves \$10,000 from the NHC-UCC Bicentennial Campaign funds to assist the Family Village board in developing at least the remaining six town homes. In the event the required permits and funds can not be obtained by June 30, 2008, the NHC-UCC representatives on the Family Village board will seek to facilitate the sale of that portion of the land, ensure all outstanding bills are paid from the sale proceeds, the \$10,000 in Bicentennial Funds are repaid to the Conference and a plan is submitted to NHC-UCC and CATCH for approval for distributing any remaining sale proceeds. SECOND by Jay Bodine. MOTION APPROVED.

Conference Minister's Report – Gary Schulte

See attached report offered for Gary by Andy

Transitional Associate Conference Minister's Report – Andy Jepson

Search & Call – 29 churches in transition

Apple Polishing – low registration has resulted in cutback on some workshops;

as previous three such events were cancelled, this one will be to prevent sending an inaccurate message regarding Christian education/faith formation. Discussion about publicity/technology/paper transmission ensued.

Safer Spaces – information has gone out to churches; expanding range of safer spaces includes accessibility and different abilities for those in the minority amongst us.

Litigation issue – deadline the end of the month to answer interrogatories; possibility exists this will be continued again

UKAMA Sunday – orders of worship have been sent out. 38 partner churches with Zimbabwe. \$1200, raised by local churches has been sent for food and

Services. Andy encouraged churches to place this ministry on their pray list;

Contact Andy or Kim with any questions.

Andy presented her preaching schedule update as well as on-going efforts to balance new staff gifts with needs/possibilities

Senior High Event at Geneva Point a go; despite cancelling the Junior High event, 29 participants showed up.

Andy stated her anticipation with joy to the "other side."

Director of Outdoor Ministries Report – Beth Martindale

Executive Committee Report – Margi Galabrun

Margi, having just returned from Cleveland where restructuring was the focus of the gathering, presented a diagram of the proposed reorganization. She noted feelings of mistrust at the national level and questions of the functionality of present structure.

Nominating Committee Report – Art Urie

The following nominations were presented to council:

Visitation Committee – Rev. David Smith, Brookline (Hillsboro)

Nominating – Rea Alkema, Sanborton (Merrimack)

Witness and Action – Rev. Jean O'Bresky, Concord, First (Merrimack)
Lee Marcroft, Deering (Hillsboro)

Outdoor Ministries – Rev. Billy Brown, Concord, South (Merrimack)
Nan Nutt, Dover, (Carroll-Strafford)

Budget & Finance – Rev. Carla Bailey, Christ Church, Dartmouth

(Grafton/Orange)

NOMINATIONS APPROVED

Covenant of Leadership – Les Norman

Discussion to continue next month around proposed Covenant of Leadership offered in support of pastoral letters offered from the President and General Minister of the UCC, or from the Collegium, or from the New Hampshire Conference Minister.

Les noted upcoming (11/28) event sponsored by ONA: Civil Unions are Coming, Are you Ready?

Closing Prayer was offered by Jim Christensen; meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.