

**New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, September 16, 2017**

The Board of Directors held its last meeting before the new Board begins its work after Annual Meeting on October 21. It was a meeting packed with business. Here is a summary of the actions of the Board.

Resolutions:

Two Resolutions of Christian Witness were presented to the Board for action. One was adopted by the Board and the other was referred to Annual Meeting for action.

A resolution stating that “The New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ (NHCUCC) Stands in Solidarity with the Maranatha Indonesian UCC in Madbury and with its Members (and Other NH immigrants Similarly Situated) Who Face the Threat of Deportation – and Calls Upon All Settings of the NHCUCC to Provide Welcome, Support and/or Sanctuary for New and Long-Term Immigrants and Asylum Seekers in Our Communities” as referred to Annual Meeting with the recommendation from the Board of Directors that this resolution be adopted.

The Board of Directors adopted a resolution entitled “Creation Care for our Conference Churches Partnering with our National Leadership”. This resolution calls for our Ministries and Mission Groups to work together on this issue and one of the primary actions called for in the resolution is an Environmental Justice Youth Event in 2018. Time will be allotted at Annual Meeting for a presentation on this resolution.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study

Susan Lewis and Peter Heinrich from Full Harvest Fundraising, our consultants, presented the Board with the Capital Campaign Feasibility study. Over 60 interviews were held over the summer and great information was received. The recommendation is to not proceed with a campaign at this time. While there is great affection for the Conference there did not appear to be passion for the projects presented to those interviewed. The information received will help the Board of Directors over the next year as the strategic planning is done and the vision and mission of the Conference moving into the future is honed. The complete report is being made available to all who are interested.

Horton Center

The summer at Horton Center was transformational for people that took part in the program, but the Board of Directors is struggling with the reality that the program is very under subscribed and not reaching the number of people it needs to, given the Conference resources that go into the program. A group was assembled in August under the able leadership of Conference Secretary Dawn Berry to brainstorm a vision and a way to increase viability of Horton Center moving into the future. The Board spent a significant amount of time discussion this and decided to take short-term action and begin work on long-term goals. A group was put together to work on job descriptions for Horton Center leadership and current leadership is being tasked with adjusting the current program to make it more viable in 2018. Along with the Transitional Conference Minister, the Board will begin working on a long-term plan to move into the future.

2018 Mission Income & Spending Plan (Budget)

The Budget Committee presented the proposed Mission Income & Spending Plan for 2018 to the Board of Directors who are responsible to present the plan to Annual Meeting. The proposal includes a deficit budget of just over \$40,000. This is very concerning to the Board. 2016 ended with a slight surplus, but 2017 could end with a deficit. It is clear that we cannot have deficits each year. After much discussion, the Board with several dissenting votes sent the proposed budget to Annual Meeting. The long-term financial health of the Conference will be front and center in the strategic planning of the Board over the next year.

Other Items

- ❖ Members and the chairs of all the Ministries were appointed for 2018 with terms beginning at the close of Annual Meeting in August. These are all one-year terms appointed by the Board of Directors. An orientation and first meeting of the Ministries and Board of Directors will take place on November 11.
- ❖ Conference Treasurer John Herbert reported that we currently have an \$86,542 deficit in our 2017 operating budget. At this point last year, our deficit was half that amount. Please remember to send in your OCWM Basic Support and support the Friends of the Conference Fund.
- ❖ In its role as Board of Incorporators for Havenwood-Heritage Heights, Beth Slepian was appointed to the HW-HH Board of Directors.
- ❖ Dawn Berry, Stacey Kullgren, and Carolyn Keilig were thanked for planning the wonderful farewell for Conference Minister Gary Schulte. What a great day for the Conference as it celebrated at Brookside Church in Manchester.
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Charles Buck begins his work at the Transitional Conference Minister on October 2. He has met with staff and the Board and all excited for the beginning of his ministry here in New Hampshire.
- ❖ Thanks and appreciation were given to Board members Dawn Garrett-Larson and Ken Gould for their years of service on the Board. Both are completing their second term on the Board making this their last meeting.

This was also my last meeting on the Board and I wish to thank the Board members for their dedication to the Conference and the thoughtful leadership they provide. Also, know that we have a wonderful dedicated staff who go way above and beyond in all that they do. It has been an honor to serve.

Blessings,

Neal A. Cass, Conference President