

Recap of New Hampshire Conference Board of Directors Meeting – April 14, 2018

The Board of Directors met on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Conference Center, with a number of invited guests for various portions of our meeting. It was a lively gathering despite the weather and we addressed a number of topics.

Horton Center, being a key ministry of the Conference, is an area where the Board is focusing its attention. Members from the Outdoor Ministry Group joined us as we spent the majority of our morning identifying and sharing the key learnings gleaned from Kaleidoscope and UCCR consultant reports. Both reports identified successful models calling for significant increases in camper days over our current operations. In the last four years we've averaged 1,200 camper days and both consultants indicate that successful camps have closer to 5,000 camper days. Everyone realizes that we have work to do to revamp our outdoor ministries program. After much discussion we have agreed to move slowly and have approved taking the next step in working with both consultants to do next phase, on-site evaluations and recommendations before setting a strategic direction. We hope to have these reports completed in the next few months and will share them as soon as they become available.

As previously reported there was severe damage to Pine Mountain Road leading up the Horton Center. We are working with the Forest Service, which owns the lower two-thirds of the road, to make required repairs in both a safe and timely manner and continue to monitor the situation closely. Our Transitional Conference Minister, Charles Buck, and the Acting Director of Horton Center, Tim Hughes, briefed the board on contingency plans in case the road work needed on the Horton Center road is not completed. They assured us that there will be a camping program this summer!

Our relationship with Havenwood Heritage Heights (HHH) is a rich part of our history and we welcomed a number of their Board members and staff for a gathering and luncheon. Together we celebrated our covenantal relationship with the re-appointment of four of their board members followed by the yearly renewal of our shared covenant. Mike Palmieri, President and CEO of HHH also provided a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting their 50-year history. They recently instituted a program that provides opportunities for residents to check items off their life bucket lists, ranging from hot air balloon rides to driving a large excavator! It was a delightful time spent together.

Our afternoon included numerous policy and related motions being discussed and passed addressing business and operational issues. Our Conference Treasurer, John Herbert, provided a financial update and noted that while we have received church pledges from 62 churches, it's not too late to provide your church's OCWM pledge for 2018. Knowing what to expect for OCWM income really helps with cash flow and financial planning at the Conference.

We also received a brief update from the Conference Minister Search Committee, chaired by Neal Cass, indicating that they are making great progress. To that end we appointed a committee to begin preliminary planning for events associated with calling a new Conference Minister.

On behalf of the Board I thank all of you for the ongoing work being done on behalf of the New Hampshire Conference in your local churches, throughout the state and beyond. What a hopeful and exciting time to be part of the New Hampshire Conference!

With Grateful Thanks!

Marcie Miller, Conference President