

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors
United Church of Christ
A Conference Call

Wednesday, November 13, 2013
(1:00 PM Eastern Time)

Board Members on Call: Ms. Angulo de Gonzalez, Ms. Sue Artt, Mr. Geoffrey Black, Ms. Dale Bonds, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Mr. Brian Holeman, Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Mr. Jim Moos, Mr. Ron Patterson, Mr. Rich Pleva, Mr. Brian Holeman

Board Member(s) Excused: Ms. Christina Phillips

Staff on Call: Mr. Don Clark, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Kathy Houston, Ms. Ann Kiernozek, Ms. Heather Kimmel, Ms. Denise Shimell

Rev. Wilson called the meeting to order, the time being 1:05 PM Eastern Time, and Mr. Lee Foley called the role. A quorum was called and Mr. Geoffrey Black opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Wilson spoke to the letter from the CHHSM Board and asked Mr. Clark to walk the committee through the background. Mr. Clark noted the Board's adoption of the document related to the 501(C)(3) at its fall meeting, with the policy to be effective three (3) years from the date of adoption. It was understood that there would be a time of implementation. During this time the Office of General Counsel would do a mass mailing to all organizations affected by this new policy, following up with resources and documents necessary. Within one week of the fall meeting of the Board a mailing went out, including a cover letter from Mr. Black and Mr. Wilson, to all groups affected, with the exception of the CHHSM groups. Bryan Sickbert requested that he receive the letter and stated that he would provide the information to the CHHSM Board at its meeting. One month after the adoption of the policy and circulation of the letter, Mr. Sickbert requested General Counsel and Associate General Counsel give a presentation to the CHHSM Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting explaining the decision made by the UCC Board of Directors related to the 501(c)(3) issue. General Counsel declined the invitation. On November 4, 2013 a letter was received from the CHHSM Board of Directors and the Office of the General Counsel had a discussion with Mr. Black and Mr. Wilson regarding the content of the letter. A letter in response was drafted and that letter has been distributed to the Executive Committee. Shortly after responding, a large mailing, including the original policy and original cover letter was sent to all organizations affected, including all CHHSM organizations.

Mr. Wilson requested input from the Committee on thoughts and recommendations as to whether this matter is being handled in an appropriate manner.

Mr. Pleva stated that he fully supports the direction the Board and the Church are going and agreed that this is entirely acceptable.

Mr. Holeman echoed Mr. Pleva's position, stating that he agrees with Mr. Pleva and that the tone of the letter is appropriate. The legislation passed at the fall meeting was reasonable and generous with time allotted for entities to obtain their own 501(c)(3). Mr. Sickbert and others are still operating under the old model of 300+ members taking years to vote. As a more nimble and more professional board, we have taken the appropriate tone and also kindly in addressing this. At this point to do differently would acknowledge that we are making misrepresentation, and we don't want to do that.

Ms. Artt stated that she agreed with Mr. Holeman and was very persuaded by his statements. She also stated that she was happy to see the change from the two (2) to three (3) year window. Ms. Artt was taken aback by the letter received from the CHHSM Board and feels the matter is being handling correctly.

Mr. Patterson agreed with other comments that were previously said. He then asked for clarification as to whom the letter was from. Mr. Clark verified that the letter originated from the CHHSM Board of Directors. Mr. Patterson stated that he did not recognize any of the names or signatures and raised concerns over the letter, asking if anyone had spoken with Mr. Sickbert. Mr. Guess noted that he, Ms. Jaramillo and Mr. Moos met with CHHSM last week and stated that the group was very kind with all of them. It was unknown at that time the intensity or tone of the letter. Mr. Patterson stated that he does not agree with how the matter is being handled and would prefer face to face meetings with softer tones. In response, Mr. Holeman stated that he thought the tone of the letter in response was rather gentle, reminding the Committee that Mr. Sickbert acknowledged that we are out of compliance at the October meeting of the full Board. We did not invite the tone that is evident with this letter. In the past such a letter would have caused the Board to pause. That is old model stuff. It's a new day. Mr. Holeman stated that he was not bothered at all by the length of the response, noting that the response is thorough and complete and the tone is good, considering what was being responded to.

Without any additional comments being lifted up, Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Clark to move forward with the letter. Mr. Clark will call the Chair of the CHHSM Board of Directors to inform the Board that the letter in response is forthcoming. Mr. Holeman stated that the Board will respond as a Board in writing to whatever they respond. Our tone may be different, but the response will demonstrate our seriousness and resolve to handle the issue.

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone for their work on this matter.

The Collegium provided an update for fiscal responsibility. Mr. Black stated that the Collegium has moved forward with the staff reductions and cost reductions indicated at the October meeting of the Board of Directors and is in the process of re-constituting how we operate and how we do pastoral work with those still here.

Mr. Moos stated that the Collegium is in excess of the \$1 million target, noting \$1.3 million is a good ballpark number right now. With additional ideas, the Collegium is thoughtfully and prayerfully moving ahead.

Ms. Jaramillo echoed Mr. Moos' comments. Ms. Jaramillo asked Mr. Wilson how he wished to have the Board informed of matters that involve National Staff and Conferences. Mr. Wilson asked that these matters be worked through with the Executive Committee and then the full Board and that such notifications should come through him, extending appreciation to Ms. Lewis.

Mr. Guess affirmed what has already been said by the other members of the Collegium.

With no further business to come before the full Executive Committee, it was moved and seconded to move into Executive Session, the time being 1:38 PM Eastern Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Shimell
Associate for Governance and General Synod Administration
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

November 14, 2013