

**MEETING OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RADISSON HOTEL CLEVELAND GATEWAY  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**OCTOBER 15-17, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez, Ms. Sue Artt, Ms. Caroline Belsom, Ms. Lynda Bigler, Mr. Brian Bodager, Mr. Frank Bolden, Ms. Dale Bonds, Mr. Geoffrey Brace, Ms. Carolyne Call, Mr. Dennis Coy, Mr. Edward Davis, Mr. Mike Denton, Mr. John Dorhauer, Mr. Robert (Bob) Frieberg, Mr. David Gaewski, Mr. Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez, Mr. Darrel Goodwin, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Mr. Don Hart, Mr. Richard Harter, Ms. Emily Heath, Ms. Alice W. Hunt, Mr. Wesley Hurt, Mr. Noah Jensen Tabor, Mr. Nesa Joseph, Mr. James Maki, Mr. Douglas McClelland, Ms. Brittni Melius, Ms. Yesenia Menendez-Sanchez, Mr. Keith Mills, Mr. James Moos, Mr. Jorge Morales, Mr. David Nelson, Mr. Kevin Omi, Mr. Kevin Peterson, Ms. Christina Phillips, Mr. Michael Readinger, Ms. Inez Reid, Mr. Ernesto (Ernie) Reyes, Mr. Dwayne Royster, Mr. Gary Schulte, Ms. Carol Shipley, Mr. William Tanner, Mr. Norman Williams, Ms. Frances Q.F. Wong, Ms. Yvette Wynn

**Members Not Present:**

Mr. William Edwards, Ms. Carla Gregg-Kearns, Ms. Julia LeBrell, Ms. Thea Racelis

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Wayne Cherry, Mr. Don Clark, Mr. Bentley deBardelaben, Ms. Michell Farrow, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Jan Gomoll, Ms. Ann Kiernozeck, Ms. Heather Kimmel, Ms. Alisa Lewis, Ms. Linda Long, Ms. Christine Lucarelli, Ms. Denise Malinowski, Mr. Ron Nowak, Ms. Mary Paxton, Ms. Valerie Smith, Ms. Kimberly Whitney, Ms. Cheryl Williams.

Ms. Bonds, Chair of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors (UCCB), acting on the advice of the Registrar, Ms. Denise Malinowski, declared a quorum present and called to order the First Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, the time being 2:03 PM Eastern Time.

**OCTOBER 15, 2015**

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. Bonds invited the membership to approve the recommended Agenda. It was moved and seconded, and;

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10-UCCB-01** to approve the recommended Agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Bonds invited the membership to approve the recommended Consent Agenda with the addition of Mr. Corey Larson to those with Voice Without Vote. It was moved and seconded, and;

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10-UCCB-02** to approve the recommended Consent Agenda with the addition of Mr. Corey Larson to those with Voice Without Vote.

- a- Grant Voice Without Vote to staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors
- b- Approval of the Minutes of the Thirtieth General Synod
- c- receive the Minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee
- d- establish a Special Committee on Development and Consent to the Nominations of Non-Directors to the Special Committee on Development
- e- Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members of the Special Committee on Development: Ms. Penny Lowes, Mr. Ron Patterson, Ms. Shari Prestemon, Ms. Sue Wimer
- f- approval of the Clergy Housing Allowance
- g- approval of Supplementation of Small Annuities

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

Only members present at the June 25, 2015 meeting may vote. It was moved and seconded to approve the June 25, 2015 minutes with the correction in spelling of Kevin Omi's name on page 6 of the minutes.

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10 UCCB-03** to approve the June 25, 2015 United Church of Christ Board of Directors Minutes with the noted correction of Kevin Omi's name.

## **REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

Ms. Bonds lifted up the commitment of Members to the Board and their work. She then gave thanks to the full Board, new leadership and to the Executive Ministers.

She noted that the agenda leaves room for generative discussion as well as business. If there are no actions to vote on reports coming from a committee, the report will be posted on BoardMax. Only those actions that need a vote will be heard.

Ms. Bonds reviewed the process of placing items on the agenda. All suggestions are welcome, but should be communicated within the proper timing.

Ms. Bonds and Mr. Bolden met with the Council of Conference Ministers the previous day. The meeting proved to be a wonderful experience, and served to open up dialogue. She saw this as a beginning and an opportunity to build relationships.

## **REPORT OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

Mr. Dorhauer began by saying “the Holy Spirit envisions a future in which we matter,” and quoted Mr. David Kinnamon in saying, “It’s a great time to be the Church.”

He was reminded of the downward trend with church membership and that today the narrative shifts. Today will begin the focus of attention on what the Holy Spirit envisions in the future, ever mindful of the present realities. Standing on the shoulders of a deep and glorious past that builds a foundation upon which those solid steps in the future will be taken, attention will be focused on crafting our narrative on what lies on the horizon. The best days are yet to come.

He challenged members to enter a discussion with those seated at their table to answer the question, “Since the last time the Board gathered or you partnered around the table with someone from the United Church of Christ, how has the United Church of Christ blessed you?” After table discussion, members responded with their individual experiences.

Mr. Dorhauer talked about why denominations exist and what the United Church of Christ’s core values speak to and envision in the motto “That They May All Be One.”

He asked the question, How do we as a Church recreate the image of a Church to a God that shows no partiality? We are a still speaking people. Isaiah invites us to a God that calls us to perceive the call to do and envision new things. We must onward and upward keep abreast of truths and challenging each one.

The body is a metaphor for the Church. There is no part of the body that is unnecessary or unneeded. We must reshape toward a new unity. United isn’t a past tense word. Uniting is our call and why we matter. We must take a look at the world evolving around us and ask, what is feeding their spiritual hunger when talking to our children. We are then called to undertake the work boldly and passionately as we can. Our young people are speaking differently to what feeds their spiritual hunger.

What are we committing to in order to fulfill what matters? We are assembled and built to do this. What we are called to do matters and lives will be transformed because of it. Pathways will need to be created and everyone has a role in it.

Mr. Dorhauer touched on what he sees as his 90 day initiative.

- He will take a look at what is not working, or not fulfilling mission priority or goals.
- What is working, but not making a difference, by asking whether it is wise stewardship.
- He met with the President's Cabinet to determine the core theme of collaboration, and to begin conversation on creating a culture where the permission to take risks are celebrated.

One risk that he spoke about was the launching of Still Speaking 2.0 to begin identifying the new edge and shaping of a new future. Mr. Michael Jordan will offer creative thinking to this. He talks about edges that have been accomplished and the new edges to be created. A marketing and branding tool kit will be created and distributed to all UCC churches.

- An entire network of churches will act as distributors.
- A feedback loop will be created from covenanted partners on how this is working and if the kits need to be tweaked.
- There will be an extension of a culture shift that will serve to deepen partnerships with local churches.
- It will call the UCC to live more fully into its promise to live into its bold public witness. The UCC has a bold public voice that when used effectively, lives are transformed. A voice that maintains relevance and creates opportunities.

Mr. Dorhauer went on to say that there are competencies that the UCC needs to develop with the Holy Spirit, to become relevant in a post-modern world. There needs to be sacred conversations and engaging in the part on white male heterosexual privilege. By September of next year a curriculum will be developed. There is compromise if there is no willingness to take this on, meaningfully. Finally, the Board and covenant partners must commit to a new strategic plan initiative and find the answer to the question, "What must the United Church of Christ look like in 10 years to remain relevant?" Once this is answered with clarity, a report will come back to the Board with a vision.

Stage two will focus on how to architect a pathway to the horizontal 10 year goal. He invited member to dream about commitments to the future.

He talked about personnel changes.

- Jim Moos, Acting Financial Officer
- Heather Kimmel to succeed Don Clark on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Cheryl Joseph Williams, Chief Strategic Officer
- Mary Paxton, Team Leader with operational duties

Mr. Dorhauer opened a time for questions and comments.

1. **Q:** What is the plan to build a better covenant with churches?  
**A:** Talking points will be established.
2. **Q:** As General Minister and President (GMP), what are you committed to do for those under 40, Generation X, to get them to the table?  
**A:** Mr. Dorhauer said that he didn't believe his calling was to preserve the institution but the mission for what the institution was built is thriving. He plans to engage stakeholders in conversations and to repurpose assets to mission and gospel, as a way of coming together outside of the institution.
3. **Q:** How will the National Office work with other partners, example Conference Ministers?  
**A:** Conference Ministers will be invited to help with plotting and planning of the initiatives.
4. **Comment:** What's missing is the question of who is missing. The concept of who has the right to be at the table. If no place for certain people, why should they show support?  
**Q:** Is there a plan to answer the question?  
**A:** Mr. Dorhauer declared that as the GMP the space will be open for the questions to be asked. Although the GMP may not have the power or authority to change, he promised to help affect those changes.
5. **Comment:** Looking at the GMP position, it is the spiritual, ecumenical, administrator of the Church. There is hope that this conversation with others can be taken back to connect to the pews. The National Office shouldn't be seen as something different and far away.
6. **Q:** What is your self-care package?  
**A:** There is no adjustment to the pace, so it calls for both spiritual centering and discipline. It requires the planning of micro sabbatical time, lunch walking and centering. There will also be time spent with family.
7. **Q:** Excited about the bold voice, with hope that there can be boldness without being political. Is it part of your vision?  
**A:** You can't be bold without being political, but legally must not be partisan.
8. **Q:** How cognizant is the UCC about the theological range within the UCC?  
**A:** Concerned with how to find ways to take account and value theological diversity. Find a way through love and relationship in a way that theology doesn't confine. Just speak truth where everyone is heard in a safe space.
9. **Q:** It is hard to be represented at the best level of everyone. The Hispanic absence is concerning in the UCC.  
**A:** There will be a partnership with Mr. Morales and others to identify those in the Latino community that are willing to partnership in safe space.

Following the question and answer session Ms. Bonds made a couple of announcements about the forms that were distributed and that the Finance and Budget Committee would be meeting over dinner.

Mr. Royster gave the blessing of the meal and Ms. Bonds called the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:40 PM Eastern Time.

## **SECOND BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Bonds presiding, called the Second Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 6:16 PM Eastern Time. She then invited Ms. Malinowski to introduce the guest speaker, Ms. Michelle Harms of American Express Travel.

American Express Business Travel is the new travel company that the National Office and the Board, will utilize to book online travel through Concur. Concur is a leading provider of integrated travel and expense management solutions. This service helps ensure that corporate travel is booked within policy before the trip is taken and reconciles expenses after travel is completed.

Ms. Harms gave an online demonstration of the online booking process. She then noted the costs of online booking which is \$9.00 and \$30.00 to book by phone.

The transition to Concur was due to the savings with the online booking tool.

Following Ms. Harm's presentation It was moved and seconded to move into Executive Session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10 UCCB-04** to move into Executive Session.

## **OPEN SESSION**

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10 UCCB-05** to end Executive Session.

It was announced that a reception will follow to honor Mr. Clark and Ms. Kathy Houston in the New York/Philadelphia Room. The meeting was adjourned, the time being 8:24 PM Eastern Time.

**OCTOBER 16, 2015**

## **THIRD BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Bonds presiding, called the Third Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 8:32 AM Eastern Time.

## **REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Frieberg commented on some of his observations relating to the financial systems that are in place. He thinks that the systems in place are difficult, and the complexities of the financial systems need to be addressed. Non-profit accounting is a complicated process. He then shared his concern with the system of silos, meaning there is a 19<sup>th</sup> century system operating in a 21<sup>st</sup> century Church. The financial sheet should run in the reverse. The Board has an obligation to perceive what needs to be done in order to fix it or make it better. There are fiduciary obligations relating to policy.

He touched on salary policy as it relates to the chief executive, and that it has been approximately four years since staff has received a salary increase. This is a major concern. This committee will need to look at these fundamental things. This is a good group to start the process.

Mr. Frieberg shared unofficially that Mr. Moos will serve as acting interim Chief Financial Officer which he thinks is great.

Mr. Frieberg clarified that the 2016 Budget is reflective of what will be moved with some flexibility built in. Any major adjustments can be brought back before the Board for approval.

- There is funding built in for the vision pieces, and there is a significant surplus of approximately \$200,000.00 from General Synod. There will be some conversation and consultation on how to use those funds.
- Mr. Dorhauer, along with the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship, is working on a bold initiative and setting a goal of raising \$300,000 by January, 2016. The mark is close, sitting presently at \$200,000.00 due to a carry over and will jumpstart the new initiative.
- By the end of 2016, there is hope to raise \$1 million dollars.
- There will be a more broad based campaign at the beginning of the year to be approved by the Board at the March meeting.
- The restoration of the position of Executive Minister in Justice and Witness Ministries is reflected in the budget as an acting position until General Synod 2017.
- The sale of the hotel is reflected in the budget.
- There was a recommendation to form a Search Committee for the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries to have a candidate to present to General Synod 2017.
- It was confirmed that the property at 700 Prospect will not be sold. The figures didn't work in favor of the UCC.
- There was a concern raised in keeping with a draw rate of 5% and not moving to 4% in the next year. Mr. Frieberg noted that this year's target is 5%. Next year's target is 6%.
- Some disagreement that there is a silo in the financial system. The surplus represents de-silofication.

It was moved to approve the proposed 2016 budgets totaling \$22,322,281.00. Coming from committee, so it needs no second.

## **APPROVAL OF THE 2016 BUDGET**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-06** to approve the proposed 2016 budget of \$22,322,281.00.

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED CHURCH FUNDS**

Mr. Hart gave a brief overview of United Church Funds (UCF) and its mission. Specifically to orientate new Board Members.

The principal work of UCF is to provide investment vehicles for churches and other entities of the United Church of Christ. UCF has been in existence since 1909 and since the mid-1950's has been providing investment funds to the United Church of Christ. Until the mid-1900s only one fund was available and that fund continues today as the Moderate Balanced Fund. Today the UCF offers 13 separate investment funds. The majority of the investments of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ for which this Board is responsible, is invested in various funds offered by UCF.

Historically UCF has screened out investments in tobacco, alcohol and gambling. In 2001, when the Covenanted Ministries moved their investments into UCF's investment funds, UCF adopted another screen to eliminate conventional and nuclear weapons, a screen that only Wider Church Ministries had. At the same time the remaining Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council adopted the same screens.

In the 1980's the UCC called for divestment from companies doing business in South Africa. UCF responded by divesting from its one investment in those companies until apartheid ended in the 1990's. In 2013, the UCC passed a resolution calling for divestment-among other strategies-from fossil fuel companies. On November 1, 2014, UCF opened the Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund with \$20 million.

Another response to the resolution was that UCF added a new screen to all of its investment portfolio where it begins screening companies that extract oil from tar sands and coal. Prior to General Synod this year, UCF adopted a screen to exclude from its portfolios companies who directly contribute to human rights abuses in the Occupied Territories of Palestine.

UCF is also trustee of the Brown Endowment for Pastoral Scholarships. This fund provides scholarships to seminarians and for continuing education for ministers. There were some unused funds at the end of 2014. The Brown Scholarship Committee approved utilization of a portion of those unused funds to provide scholarships for 27 seminarians to attend General Synod this year. Mr. Hart agreed to give more details of this scholarship fund at the March board meeting.

### **FIRST REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Brace noted that the committee met by conference call on Monday with a number of business items to consider. He presented the following recommendations for approval by the Board.



It was moved that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects Mr. Dan Deleon as Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and his term as a member of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

This motion comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **ELECTION OF DAN DE LEON, CHAIR-GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-07**

to approve the election of Mr. Dan Deleon as Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and his term as a member of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

It was moved to approve the election of Ms. Krysten Thomas as Chair of the Credentials Committee of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and her term as a member of the Credentials Committee. This motion comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **ELECTION OF KRYSTEN THOMAS, CHAIR-CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-08**

to approve the election of Krysten Thomas as Chair of the Credentials Committee of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and her term as a member of the Credentials Committee.

It was moved that that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopt the distribution of Conference Delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod totaling 675. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO THE THIRTY- FIRST GENERAL SYNOD**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-09**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopt the distribution of Conference Delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod totaling 675.

Ms. Kimmel provided an update on the Group Exemption Policy relating to those organizations in the Yearbook that are affected by the tax exempt status. Next steps include a reminder that will be sent to those that have not completed their 501 (c)(3) paperwork. Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGS) have been notified, and Ms. Jaramillo has been in contact with the groups as they determine their next steps.

It was moved that the Board approves receipt of the 501 (c)(3) Group Exemption Policy Status Report. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **501 (C)(3) GROUP EXEMPTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-10** that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves receipt of the 501 (C)(3) Group Exemption Policy Implementation Report.

It was moved that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the dissolution of the United Church of Christ Musicians National Network, Inc. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MUSICIANS NATIONAL NETWORK, INC.**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-11** that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves the dissolution of the United Church of Christ Musicians National Network, Inc. (UCCMNN).

WHEREAS, Local Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ, (LCM) is the sole member of United Church of Christ Musicians National Network, Inc. (UCCMNN) and desires to dissolve UCCMNN; and

WHEREAS, UCCMNN elects to dissolve, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the assets of UCCMNN be distributed according to the Articles of Incorporation and UCCMNN be dissolved as soon as practicable in accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio.

It was confirmed that the remaining assets will be re-allocated to those that attend musician's gatherings. The distribution in accordance to the Articles of Incorporation and UCCMNN.

It was moved that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors declare the noted persons eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of the Pension Boards, United Church of Christ, Inc. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS**

**It was VOTED:  
15-10 UCCB-12**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors declare the following persons eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of the Pension Boards, United Church of Christ, Inc.: Ms. Deborah J. Blood, Mr. Brian Grad, Mr. William C. Huffman, Ms. Elena P. Larssen, Mr. Robert McGee, Mr. Charles E. Mize, and Mr. William P. Worley.

It was moved and seconded that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopts the proposed amendments to the UCC Board of Directors Standing Rules. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

## **UCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS STANDING RULES**

**It was VOTED:  
15-10 UCCB-13**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopts the proposed amendments to the UCC Board of Directors Standing Rules.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF CHHSM**

Mr. Michael Readinger provided background information on the Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM). This organization's services would cost upwards of \$8 billion dollars to replace its facilities if the organization didn't exist. CHHSM employs 55,000 people nationwide that provide a high level of care.

At General Synod a Chalk Wall was created that allowed anyone passing by the opportunity to share their personal reflection on a variety of topics. These were posted on their Facebook page, and CHHSM is creating videos of the experience. The idea was well received and offered further testament to their common core values.

CHHSM partnered with Justice and Witness Ministry at General Synod on a luncheon and the Valerie Russell lecture series. The Covenantal partnerships that CHHSM has with Pension Boards, United Church Funds, Church Building and Loan Funds, the Insurance Board, and the Office of Philanthropy are also very important assets that are shared with members as an advantage to their membership.

The 2016 CHHSM Annual Meeting will be held in Houston, Texas March 3-5, 2016. The theme is "Sustainability through Stewardship and Social Action". One of the keynote speakers on the topic will be Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson. Additional sessions will be offered on financial sustainability, philanthropy and healthy work space environments. All are invited to attend.

The CHHSM Board remains committed to the UCC Core Values. They are mindful of their faith based heritage and dedicated to maintaining the covenants with the Conferences and local churches. They will meet in Cleveland November 16-18, 2015.

CHHSM's leadership formation work continues in a robust fashion. The 2015 Nollau Institute class just finished their second retreat with all 18 participants in attendance. The class is extremely diverse with members from our ministries, an Associate Conference Minister, a

member of the JWM staff, a local church pastor and a Cornerstone Fund staff person. The CHHSM Scholar program will be renamed in honor of Rev. Jerry W. Paul in October and will welcome Jamel Garrett from Chicago Theological Seminary as the recipient of the 2016 scholarship.

He encouraged Board Members to visit [www.chhsm.org](http://www.chhsm.org) to look around and to sign up for their monthly electronic newsletter, "Diakonie".

Ms. Dale Bonds adjourned the meeting, the time being 10:05 AM Eastern Time.

## **FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Bonds presiding, called the Fourth Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 2:19 PM Eastern Time.

Ms. Bonds noted several adjustments to the schedule of committee reports in the agenda. The Audit Committee did not have a report, so that item was removed. The Governance Committee report was moved until after dinner, along with moving the vote relating to the Acting Justice and Witness Ministry Executive to before dinner.

Ms. Bonds called on Mr. Joseph to share the report of the Development Committee.

## **REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Joseph reported on behalf of the Development Committee. He noted that it was a good meeting this morning. This Committee was formed as a part of the Board two years ago. Within a few months of its formation, the director of Financial Development resigned. There was an interim period and person, before Ms. Cheryl Williams was confirmed as the new Director following the search process.

Mr. Joseph gave a summary and provided comments on the agenda of the Committee, as it had met earlier in the day.

- Recognition and introduction of the Committee members
- Job description for the Development Committee was reviewed.
- Report on developing a culture of giving within the UCC. How to create the culture within the UCC as a whole, from Conferences and Association to the pews.
- Where are we with the annual fund, special offering and direct giving? This was reviewed and there was a suggestion to have a format to compare the finances on the same format at each meeting.
- We as a Board should set the example of giving. Forms will be distributed to collect pledges. 100% participation is needed.
- Mr. Bolden and other members are actively working on the Task Force on Giving Report. It is an ongoing task force that will remain in place for another year or more.
- Resolution update

- There is a Stewardship Conference in March in Orlando, Florida. Information will be available on the UCC website. It will be a two day meeting. Registration will be available through the Conference link. The topic will be on “Philanthropy and Stewardship within the UCC.
- Ms. Williams now has a dual role in the Office of the General Minister and President as the Director of Philanthropy and Stewardship and the Chief Strategy Officer. Management and operations will shift to Ms. Mary Paxton, who will serve as Team Leader.

Mr. Bolden continued by sharing the report of the Task Force on Giving. At the 2014 Fall meeting, the Board approved the recommendation to convene a UCC Task Force on Giving to examine the covenant of giving across the life of the UCC to ensure a more effective and efficient development program.

There is a very diverse group of people that serve on the Task Force and represent the broad audience that is the United Church of Christ. The Task Force has met three times to look at the patterns of giving, and in the process discovered outdated documents that were used on giving dated 1984 that were based on documents from 1972. This isn't the first group to look at the pattern of giving. There were groups in 2008 and 2011. In 2011, the Best Minds group came up with the same conclusions and principals as the current group. The pattern of giving and policy documents and practices now have no relationship with the past documents. New covenant among the various settings of the UCC should be a priority. It is taking too long to do things and in the process there are missed opportunities. The pattern of giving, as seen in the past, is going downward in progression along with membership. The recommendation is to look at funding and giving patterns, then take advantage of opportunities inside the Church and out by creating a timetable where recommendations will come to the Board to act upon in 2016, and have something to present by General Synod 2017, and by 2019 there would be a new pattern of giving for the United Church of Christ. Following are a few strategies that the Task Force wants to utilize to make better use of opportunities:

- Make greater use of technology in patterns of giving.
- Develop and implement a multifaceted funding strategy that account for differences in generations, social locations, economic means and theological understanding of stewardship and giving.
- Create greater funding strategies.
- Create educational resources that cultivate practical giving patterns.

Mr. Bolden said the original plan was to come before the Board today with a plan to put in place, but we realized there was quite a bit of work to be done to assure that a comprehensive pattern of giving can be adopted and implemented across the Wider Church. Therefore, the recommendation is for the Board to accept this interim report and to give the Task Force permission to continue their work and bring back recommendations to the fall meeting of 2016 that can be implemented throughout the Church. To do that, the Task Force will solicit information from every aspect of the Church. This process was explained to the Council of Conference Ministers earlier in the week, and they were excited about it. An email address was also shared with them where they could submit feedback to the Task Force to be considered.

The question asked of the Board, “Is there one single thing that you would like the Task Force to be aware of or consider as they try to develop a new pattern of giving for the United Church of Christ?”

The Task Force asked the following action of the Board: “That the United Church of Christ Board of Directors gives the Task Force on Giving the permission to continue their work in this area, and come back to the Board during the October 2016 meeting with a new plan of giving for the United Church of Christ.” During that time they will continue work of soliciting information from every aspect of the Church and develop models that can be used in places around the Church to have proven information and data that the new models can work in. They will also be mindful of the diversity and polity of the Church.

It was moved that the United Church of Christ Board receives the preliminary report of the Task Force on Giving and approves its recommendations to continue its work within the timeline as set forth in the report. This motion comes from Committee and needs no second.

### **TASK FORCE ON GIVING**

**It was VOTED:  
15-10 UCCB-14**

that the United Church of Christ Board receives the preliminary report of the Task Force on Giving and approves its recommendations to continue its work within the timeline as set forth in the report.

### **REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tabor said that the Committee met this afternoon and had a very fruitful meeting. There were two presentations and reports from United Church Funds (UCF) and SASCO relating to comprehensive investment policy. The reports will prompt keeping an eye on investments, understand strategy and current layout and next steps. Although the markets are currently unfavorable, we have to weather the storm with partners and move forward.

There was a conversation on the comprehensive investment policy for the United Church of Christ Board. There are efforts to come up with a comprehensive investment policy based on the new UCF policy, to bring the policy into uniformity. The plan is to engage in further conversation with a recommendation to the Board at its March meeting.

The piece of business before the Board today is the recommendation relating to the Beyond Fossil Fuel Fund. He asked Mr. Hart to come forth to share background information on the Beyond Fossil Fuel Fund.

Mr. Hart provided a brief review of the background.

UCF, at the request of General Synod, formed a Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund that was opened last November. Part of the opening of that fund and the delay in opening it sooner, was that funds needed to be raised in the approximate amount of \$20 million. UCF originally came to the

Investment and Endowment Committee with a proposal to help raise the \$20 million minimum needed, but the recommendation from the Committee to the United Church of Christ Board was to commit only \$10 million. The remaining \$10 million was raised from other investors and was able to open in November.

UCF also opened a Balanced Fund that is fossil fuel free, with only one asset class. Large cap domestic equities are fossil free in this fund but small cap, international and fixed income stocks are not. In order to make this fund completely fossil fuel free the equity manager that manages the large cap portion has agreed to do a global equity portfolio, but UCF will need a minimum of \$50 million. Last year, in looking at how to honor the \$10 million commitment, two accounts were selected, Wider Church and Justice and Witness Ministries. The domestic allocation covered the \$10 million dollars. Also, total equity in these accounts would come close to the \$50 million dollars needed. Other accounts invested in the Balanced Fund would cover the remaining portion. In order to proceed with retaining a manager to manage the equity investments so that the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund is completely fossil fuel free, the question asked of the Board is to give approval of the equity of these two funds be used to move towards making the Balanced Fund completely fossil fuel free.

It was moved that the United Church of Christ Board give approval to use the equity investments of Wider Church and Justice and Witness Ministries unrestricted account in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund. This motion comes from Committee and needs no second.

## **BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS BALANCE FUND**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-15**

that the United Church of Christ Board gives approval to use the equity investments of Wider Church and Justice and Witness Ministries unrestricted account in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE PENSION BOARDS**

Mr. Bodager introduced himself as the new Executive of the Pension Boards and went on to talk about some of the initiatives that are being undertaken at the Pension Boards.

He is looking for what makes for a paradigm shift. The kind of change that requires whole new ways of thinking about what we do, for whom we do it, and why we do it.

Prior to taking office July 1<sup>st</sup>, he made calls to people around the Church to ask each person to imagine the Pension Boards in the year 2025. What resulted from the calls was the assembling of a number of representatives from around the Church. He called together an initiative designed to capture best ideas from stakeholders throughout the Church. This accumulated members of the Pension Boards, annuitized members of the Pension Boards, leaders of the National Setting of the Church, Conference Ministers, CHHSM representatives and leaders from the other financial ministries. He then challenged them to participate with Pension Boards' staff in preparing a strategic plan for the Pension Boards. This effort was begun immediately upon his arrival. The hope is to present the first draft to the Pension Boards' Board of Directors at its November meeting.

A different environment calls to rethink the mission statement, that's a key piece of the Pension Boards' strategic plan. The mission statement had to be simple, brief, define the core purpose, identify the intended clients, help to focus resources, allow governance to define what activities would be appropriate to be positive, uplifting, realistic and durable over time. He then noted the new mission statement: "Operating at the intersection of faith and finance, we are caring professionals partnering with those engaged in the life of the Church, to provide valued services leading to greater financial security and wellness."

One challenge that was looked at was related to the large number of annuitized members that are due to retire in ten years. What will happen to assets once this large group of members retire? This is an interesting challenge.

Objectives and strategies have been set. The Pension Boards now has its mission, vision, situation analysis, objectives and strategies. These will be presented to its Board in November. If the Board approves, the strategic plan as presented will be taken back to staff to develop specific action plans and personal goals to execute those actions and goals.

There is a very aggressive review of the plan that will be implemented.

He noted that as part of the process, a look has been taken at many aspects of the current programs and capabilities. A program is being developed to track major gift giving.

Although not 100% clergy and laypersons, the Pension Boards' core business is asset management and insurance services for UCC clergy and lay employees.

November 2, 2015 will serve to launch the new ESG Fund with enhanced environmental and governance and social responsibility factors. This fund is managed by the Northern Trust Company out of Chicago.

For those not able to save for retirement and have served the Church their entire lives and live in poverty, there is an affiliated company that the Pension Boards formed with three entities that engage in ministerial assistance. The corporation is called the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance. This serves as a supplement to small pensions for clergy living below poverty level. There is also health premium supplementation to Medicare that includes prescriptions for lower income retirees. Emergency grants are given for unforeseen financial problems and crisis. Monthly ministerial assistance grants are given to recipients. There are programs for new church starts, along with scholarships for children of deceased clergy.

Mr. Dorhauer thanked Mr. Bodager and his spirit of collaboration. He then offered full partnership in the Pension Boards' efforts.

Ms. Bonds put for a motion from the General Minister and President to approve the selection for the Acting Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Ms. Traci Blackmon. It was seconded.



## **TRACI BLACKMON AFFIRMED AS ACTING EXECUTIVE FOR JWM**

### **It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-16** to affirm the selection of the Acting Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Ms. Traci Blackmon.

Members were instructed to keep this information within the confines of the meeting until Ms. Blackmon has made the announcement to her church.

## **HOW DO YOU WANT GENERAL SYNOD TO LOOK?**

Ms. Artt talked about the cost of General Synod. General Synod 2013 costs came in at approximately \$1.4 million over budget. General Synod 2015 came in at a \$1.2 million substantial savings. The credit goes to Mr. Foley and his administration for the savings. She then went on to credit his team individually. The Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship exceeded their commitment of funding. They were anticipated to raise \$50 thousand, but raised over \$160 thousand.

Ms. Artt asked the members of the General Synod Program and Planning Committee to stand and be acknowledged. They will meet over dinner after today's meeting. She noted there would be a short report the following morning.

Ms. Artt then challenged Board Members to name what it is as Synod attendees you want to happen or want folks to walk away with? Suggestions were lifted up among the Board Members.

- Listen for and discern the call of God as a faith community
- Clear process of action around resolution
- Leave in a place where we are ready to engage in mission together
- Connection to the Wider Church
- Emerge as true a true faith community
- A feeling of wow, we were a Church together
- Beginning, not the end of something; Fired up and ready to go
- Covenant and together
- Energized, grateful, engaged in mission to feel the call to action
- Feel needed, important and heard
- To be on fire, affirmed, bathed in prayer as a Church and individuals, and want to have wrestled with God
- Substantive experience that includes theological formation; It doesn't need to be improved, but needs to be rebuilt from the ground up.
- Full of the Spirit, new and exciting experience, learning more about the UCC, empowered to act, call to action, believe that the UCC has a future to be excited about

- Have the idea that the resolutions presented are an invitation to engage; those presenting should be responsible to enact and invite others to engage to be empowered and compassionate about it

Ms. Bonds said that within the next three weeks she will appoint a Search Committee for the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries position. There will be a conference call of the full Board of Directors to affirm the names of the people that will be placed on that Committee.

Ms. Bonds noted that a document was passed out related to the Governance presentation that will take place after dinner. It includes a timeline and other information. She instructed Board Members to review the before the presentation.

Ms. Bonds then called the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:42 PM Eastern Time.

## **FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Bonds, presiding, called the Fifth Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 6:19 PM Eastern Time.

Mr. Readinger offered as a gift to Board Members the 2016 Ohio Benevolence Calendar that contains the Ohio institutions that are a part of the United Church of Christ, the colleges and Health and Human Services Ministries.

Mr. Readinger then shared that this past June the Council for Health and Human Services Board voted to become an open and affirming entity of the United Church of Christ. This represents the first non-Church organization that has officially become open and affirming as part of the Church. Subsequent to that, Bethany Children's Home in Pennsylvania also became open and affirming. Horizon House in Seattle is pursuing it at its Beatitudes campus in Phoenix, Arizona.

## **REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - PART 2**

Mr. Brace presented three recommendations from the Governance Committee to the full Board for vote.

After consultation and approval of legal counsel, the Governance Committee is recommending that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors release, as no longer confidential, the minutes of the September 9, 2014 Executive Session of the UCC Board of Directors meeting that was held via telephone conference call.

## **RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10 UCCB-17**

that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors release, as no longer confidential, the minutes of the September 9, 2014 Executive Session of the UCC Board of Directors Meeting that was held via telephone conference call.

Recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board approves the election of Mr. Mark Parthemer to the United Church Funds (UCF) Board of Directors, class of 2019.

### **ELECTION OF MARK PARTHEMER TO THE UCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**It was VOTED:**

**15-10-UCCB -18**

that the United Church of Christ approves the election of Mr. Mark Parthemer to the United Church Funds (UCF) Board of Directors, class of 2019.

### **PROPOSED UCC CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES**

The Governance Committee spent a substantial amount of time on the agenda item labeled the Proposed UCC Bylaw Changes Moving Forward. They did a review of the history that brought them to where they are today. He then provided a brief summary.

In August of 2014 the Secretary's Working Group was convened and began a process of meetings and calls to review line by line, over a four month period, the recommended Constitution and Bylaw changes. That group was comprised of Mr. Brace, Mr. Clark, Mr. Foley, Ms. Kimmel and Ms. Elizabeth Walker.

The proposed changes were brought to the Board of Directors at the spring 2015 meeting. The Board then took action to convey three sets of proposals to General Synod. One of the proposals was withdrawn before General Synod. One of the items was approved by General Synod that relates to the Investment and Endowment Committee. One other proposal did not pass at General Synod.

In conversation with the Chair of the Board, it was asked whether this was to be brought to some sort of next step, and the answer was yes. Therefore, the Committee took some time to work on bringing a process and timeline forward and to take the proposal that wasn't approved by General Synod and wrestle with its content. The proposed process and timeline was distributed before dinner. The Board received the recommendations from the Committee. The recommendation is that the United Church of Christ Board approves the recommendation of the Governance Committee to move forward with the timeline for the Bylaw changes.

Mr. Brace shared what he observed and understands from conversations with the Governance Committee, which is that the process is very important to this conversation. It is a well planned and executed process. It helped to ease anxiety and to facilitate meaningful feedback and create

an end product that works. This is a step by step process of how things will play out and includes intentional timeframes for the Board, Officers and Conference Ministers to offer feedback. It includes a timeframe to seek feedback from the covenanted bodies, associations, congregations, ministerial partners and affiliated ministries. Consideration will also be given relating to the need to deploy the communications resources. That will include multimedia capabilities.

This is a moment of accountability. A message that the Board needs to be accountable and everyone involved in the process.

There will be a conference call of the Governance Committee in advance of the spring Board meeting, and will be guided by the nature of the feedback received.

The Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) and the other Historically Underrepresented Groups will be contacted relating to the process and changes. If adopted, the Board will take on the responsibility for the process.

In response to a suggestion to move the timeline target for final action to the fall of 2016, it was stated that the timeline as set forward was chosen as not to set the process up for failure, but that the suggestion is open for change, assuring time is given for feedback. Feedback is based on evaluation of the communication process and designation and creation of partnerships on how the information will be distributed. The services of the Center for Analytics, Research, and Data (CARD) will be a part of the process.

Work will be done with Ms. Kimmel and Mr. Foley to assure that electronic copies are received of the proposed changes. Feedback can be sent via Mr. Brace's contact information.

It was noted that during that same time, feedback will be solicited relating to feedback on the new model of giving, so how will the opportunities be orchestrated? It will be just an added conversation for additional feedback.

There is a more intentionality for seeking and receiving feedback, which was the concern leading to Synod.

After further conversation there was a motion to Call the Question and end the debate; and it was moved and seconded. By a show of hands, it was defeated.

Conversation continued around the timeline relating to receiving feedback and how that relates to changes in the draft. It was determined that feedback may initiate a second draft that will be fielded by counsel to assist with streamlining. Board members will also be asked to help field the feedback that is received.

The second revision will be communicated to Conferences, Associations and congregations as soon as feedback is synthesized and after the March meeting of 2016.

It was moved and seconded to Call the Question.

## CALL THE QUESTION AND END DISCUSSION

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10-UCCB -19** to Call the Question and end the discussion.

## TIMELINE FOR BYLAW CHANGES

**It was VOTED:**  
**15-10 UCCB 20** that the United Church of Christ Board approves the recommendation of the Governance Committee to move forward with the timeline for the Bylaw changes.

Ms. Bonds invited a small discussion about feedback on how the Board envisions the installation service of the General Minister and President so that the wider church can have a more active role in the installation. Suggestions were lifted up among the Board Members.

- Invite churches and associations to have a celebration gathering leading up to the real time installation. This is a way of melding high and low technologies.
- Have a series of mini installations across the nation, with Mr. Dorhauer traveling to each region.
- Have a designated day and hour for each local church to have prayer for the new General Minister and President (GMP).
- Have some packaged way to learn about the role and vision of the GMP and send to churches.
- Invite all Conference Ministers to represent their region in a laying on of hands on behalf of local churches.
- Invite Twitter feeds.
- While the installation is going on, ask churches to bring choirs together to sing “Be Now My Vision,” in all languages with constant streaming during the reception.
- Congregations can send in ribbons to be tied together with the name of their congregation, church, etc., to represent covenant.
- Make a donation in Mr. Dorhauer’s name to a local charity, and take a picture and send it in for an album at the installation service.
- Mr. Dorhauer could declare a charity and track donations and recognize them.
- Something very similar to the scarf project.
- Have the installation at the National Youth Event in a big field.
- Local churches could send an image of something that represents them as a community with prayer or hope to give to Mr. Dorhauer to display.
- A special offering towards Mr. Dorhauer’s vision.
- Make it a national Church event that is observed in different ways by churches providing packages to use on installation Sunday. Sending out from the National Office, prayers and liturgy to use that day during the installation.
- Installation can be held at the newest church start.
- Busch Stadium
- A national day of prayer prior to the installation service, using an Isaiah verse relating to doing a new thing, while streaming media to unite entire Church on Saturday.

- Churches could use a photo or video clip on how they honor someone in their church.
- Create a map where the video or images are coming from to see how to celebrate in all parts of the Church.
- Have the same event/service using same order of service while parascooping back after live streaming.
- A location other than Cleveland.
- A visual representation with banners from every Conference, including military chaplains.
- What does Rev. Dorhauer want?
- Having Rev. Dorhauer's stole contain every setting or church's name.

Ms. Bonds then called the meeting adjourned, the time being 7:33 PM Eastern Time.

## **OCTOBER 17, 2015**

### **SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION**

Ms. Bonds, presiding, called the Sixth Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 9:15 AM Eastern Time.

Mr. Frieberg shared information relating to the tragedy in the Dakota Association the previous Sunday. Memorial Church in Cannonball, North Dakota was involved in a huge wind event and prairie fire. Over 800 people were evacuated that lived on the reservation, and unfortunately, there was no fire or wind insurance on the facility. The following week on Sunday, a gathering is planned by the Conference and Association to address the needs of that community. Board members were invited to visit the Conference page for more detailed information and to make contributions. The Conference is working on a process to make contributions online.

### **REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SYNOD PROGRAM AND PLANNING**

Ms. Artt started her report with a reading of the "Romero" prayer. She then went on to talk about shifting the needle which is the call for 2017, and named the members of the Committee.

Sometimes people need to hear things repeated in different ways about how things are changing our world, seven times in seven different ways. The theme hasn't been determined, but the team will be weaving the theme in and out over every venue that they can. Ms. Villa will take on the communications piece, but the core themes will be weaved in seven times in seven ways.

General Synod 2017 will be held in the Baltimore Inner Harbor, and the Conference Minister from the Central Atlantic Conference, Mr. John Deckenback, was with the Committee yesterday. This is a General Synod that shouldn't be missed. Ms. Artt invited members to invite friends and others from their conferences.

General Synod 2017 will use a water motif, and have water somewhere on the stage. The Committee meeting next October will be the last chance to give staff any sense of what they would like to see happen. The staff will then move into full production mode. The Committee will convene in early February at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, to do a venue review, to see what's possible, and to generate ideas.

## **REPORT OF THE JWM MANAGER**

Mr. deBardelaben first gave thanks for everyone's prayers for his family.

Mr. deBardelaben said that the Justice and Witness Ministry report is available on BoardMax and includes the timeline of staff work leading into General Synod. He then went on to provide updates to the Board on the work of the Ministry.

- One of the important documents brought to General Synod in Long Beach was related to the Doctrine of Discovery. Material was sent to churches with the assistance of Neighbors In Need who partnered to produce the Biblical reflection. The Doctrine of Discovery is a 500 year document regarding European confiscation of natives land.
- There was a justice revival in Milwaukee about three weeks ago. Mr. Royster was the preacher at this one day event. There were between 150 and 175 participants in attendance at Plymouth Church which included workshops and plenaries. The following day, staff visits were to local churches. The plan is to partner with Mr. Royster's congregation in Philadelphia for next year's event.
- Members of the Justice Peace Action Network send out public policy alerts weekly to encourage members to take action on present issues from a justice and faith perspective with representatives. This year 32 opportunities were taken, which represents an impact on 22 thousand points of connection with public officials through tweets, Facebook, etc. Board members were invited to add additional emails to send alerts.
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2015 was successful. Ms. Traci Blackmon was the opening pastor for the event. There were scholarships given to 12 youth. The topic of mass incarceration was the pre-event topic. The whole day was spent on learning how mass incarceration systemically affects households and communities. The 2016 event in April, will focus on "Lift Every Voice, Racism, Class and Power." Typically 1,000 people attend the event that includes 100 UCC folks. The event is held Friday through Sunday evening, and on Monday there are lobby and Hill visits to share stories on how communities are affected by decisions made on the Hill.
- In the midst of updating or adding to the curriculum for Sacred Conversations on Race, White Privilege, Justice Leaders, Engaging and Developing, Environmental Justice, and Our Whole Lives.

- At the Committee meeting a Chair and Vice-chair were elected, Mr. Goodwin-Chair, Ms. Shipley-Vice-chair.

## **REPORT OF THE LCM EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

Mr. Guess began by acknowledging Committee Members and thanking Chair, Kevin Peterson, and Vice-chair, Yvette Wynn, for their willingness to serve.

His reality is lived through the staff of Local Church Ministries (LCM) as they serve to do their best work with stellar and visionary leadership. LCM and its staff are facilitating major conversations, expansive new resources, robust evaluations, and inspiring models of ministry that are serving the most critical needs of churches, authorized ministers and committees on ministry. They always work in close collaboration with Conferences that assist them in doing their work.

He then highlighted snapshots of some of the incredible work of which LCM is engaged.

- So far this year, the New Beginnings Assessment Service has worked one on one with 43 local churches, 260 church leaders and 12 different Conference that have committed themselves to making big bold decisions for the future of their ministries.
- Later this fall LCM will welcome new congregations and new beginnings from Minnesota and Missouri Mid-South, and early next year churches from Northern California-Nevada. This, in addition to 87 congregations that have completed New Beginnings, and are being surveyed this fall to determine how their big bold decisions have impacted their ministries,
- The Faith Formation Team is facilitating inspiring models of ministry to connect churches with others who want to come and see the excellence of what they are doing.
- Three weeks ago a working group was convened to fundamentally rethink the approach to confirmation in the United Church of Christ. This is a way to move the UCC from a schooling model of Christian education, to one vested in the full Church and full life experience of lifelong faith and theological formation.
- The five year Habakkuk working group is charged with rethinking the Manual on Ministry, which hasn't seen any substantial re-visioning in 20 years. It is working faithfully and diligently to create a living manual that is grounded biblically and theologically that will guide those that are authorizing members of the United Church of Christ to lead an ever evolving Church.
- Launched at General Synod was [woodtothefire.org](http://woodtothefire.org), the UCC's new crowd funding website. Geared towards bringing in new and dynamic ministries of the UCC in closer proximity to donors, and to help churches learn how to make a compelling case for their exciting ministries. Under the leadership of Mr. David Schoen, the Center for



Progressive Renewal and the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship, the site has raised more than \$12,000 over 12 weeks in small donations with grassroots support.

- This spring, 23 applications were approved for new church starts in the UCC, out of 41 good applications, and those grants will total just under \$400,000,
- LCM financially supported three new church planning events that were successful this year.
- The National Setting, with the help of CARD, has re-committed to robust research and evaluation, to share honestly and accurately what is seen happening across the life of the UCC.
- LCM is working with the University of Colorado to do an extensive program evaluation of the UCC.

The LCM Committee will continue moving forward in looking at the big issues that face the local churches, and work to determine how to better position staff to support them.

## **REPORT OF THE WCM EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

Mr. Moos introduce the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Tanner, and Vice-chair, Mr. Coy.

Mr. Moos shared comments and information on some of the initiatives and work that is coming from Wider Church Ministries.

- The Haystack Society Endowment Fund was launched at General Synod in Long Beach, and has about \$350,000 invested. The goal is a half million dollars, and well within reach.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing Endowment fund was launched last year, and the goal for that is \$1 million dollars by the end of 2017.
- Another initiative with mission personnel and funding them, so launched personalized fundraising. Four individuals have been placed by this funding mechanism in Thailand, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Within the next five or six months, there is hope to make a placement in East Timor. Not sure how many will be placed under this mechanism, but it is still a learning process.
- The Young Adult Service Community is a high priority with leadership development. There has been significant success that is pushing this initiative to the next level. There are several components. Mr. Denton's Conference has hosted, and more host churches are needed. Another parallel program coordinated with the Alliance of Baptists is the Summer Communities of Service has had similar success.
- The Middle East Initiative was launched at General Synod and the Disciples Assembly this summer. Global Ministries, which is a partnership between the UCC the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, will move into the 20 year anniversary of Global Ministries next year.

- Christian presence is very much declining in the Middle East and has been for various reasons. We are working with partners and helping to strengthen the Christian presence.
- There is a highlight on the justice and human rights that is being done. Advocacy is at the core of Global Ministries. It is a distinct calling amongst Northern American agencies.
- There have been a lot of inquiries and questions about what the United Church of Christ is doing about the refugee crisis. The refugee crisis becomes a tragic family inheritance. Wider Church Ministries has been at it for a long time as Global Ministries and as predecessor bodies. It is funded by One Great Hour of Sharing and direct donations.

The presentation and more information is available on the Global Ministries site.

## **REPORT OF THE DANIEL HAND FUND COMMITTEE**

Ms. Shipley reported on the 1880's origin of the Daniel Hand Fund which began with a donation of \$1 million by a businessman of the UCC to promote the building of schools, primarily at that time, for recently freed children of slaves and children yet to come. That fund has turned into a broader scope of institutions of higher education that are now a part of a scholarship program. This fund that started out at \$1 million now comes in at a little under \$10 million. It now provides scholarship assistance to six institutions of higher education. This year it will be five of those institutions along with the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans. This is the only scholarship fund that has to be approved by the Board. The Executive Committee took action at its meeting on Thursday that will allow the Daniel Hand Fund Committee to operate as the other committees, making direct disbursements of their funds.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Bonds reported on behalf of the Executive Committee relating to the Daniel Hand Fund. She shared a little more information about some of the institutions that receive the scholarships. She then shared the recommendation that came from the Executive Committee to authorize the disbursement of funds, as shown, from the Daniel Hand Fund and the authorization that such funds in future years be disbursed directly by the Daniel Hand Fund Committee without approval by the Board of Directors. This comes from Committee and needs no second.

## **DANIEL HAND FUND**

**It was VOTED:  
15-10 UCCB 21**

that the United Church of Christ Board authorize the disbursement of funds, as shown, from the Daniel Hand Fund and the authorization that such funds in future years be disbursed directly by the Daniel Hand Fund Committee without approval by the Board of Directors.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Bonds reiterated that she will be setting up, within the next three week a Search Committee for the Executive Minister position in Justice and Witness Ministries, followed by a conference call of the full Board of Directors to affirm the nominees to the Committee.

Mr. Dorhauer shared information about the soon to be formed Strategic Planning Team. He invited Board Members to forward names of under 40 UCC folks that are invested in the life and future of the United Church of Christ's mission and whose wisdom, passion and creativity will help build the future the UCC is looking for. This groups charge will be to assemble a mechanism to do a six month or one year broad look at stakeholders. The names should be forwarded to Ms. Bonds, Mr. Dorhauer or Mr. Bolden. He then asked whether the Board wanted this to be a six month or one year project. There was a suggestion received to make it a six month project, as it may have an impact on the Constitution and Bylaw provision and would need to be communicated in a timely manner.

## **MEETING FEEDBACK**

Ms. Bonds solicited feedback from Board Members relating to their experiences of the meeting. Following are some of the thoughts:

- The laughter was brought back and made the air lighter.
- Phenomenal meeting, but there was a feeling of being trapped in the space.
- There were opportunities s for generative thoughts, and creativity, which loosens things up and members were able to laugh more.
- Affirmation of the good mood and spirit. A little better than previous meetings.
- Appreciated the creation of the possibility of mentorships, and volunteers.
- Felt welcome! Relational vitality was wonderful. Movement would have been good. Did not like being limited to same table for three days.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Board Chair who was not dictatorial and kept the schedule on point and on time to achieve the work.
- It is really a new day.
- Having large print materials in advance was good.
- Meeting had a good flow.
- CCM hopes to figure a time for a summit with leadership of Church.
- The introductions of new members was weak, wanting to know more than a one word description.
- Would like to know more about the work of committees.

- Encourages a website where the agenda is posted as soon as possible in a preliminary form, and after minutes are approved are shared on that same website. [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) which is open to the public.
- There was diversity of worship and invitational experiences.

Ms. Bonds provided notice of the March 17-19, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors before calling the order of the day, the time being 10:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell Farrow  
Recorder