Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

Conference Council Meeting

Friday, October 04, 2013

Present: Wes Hurt, Rev. Mauri Peaco, Rhonda Stockglausner, Connie Brooks, Rev. Andy Mockridge, Les Kemp, Gus Elia, Rev. Laura Mignerone, Rev. Alan Gatewood, Mary Lou Datema, Dannie Burk, Rev. Ken Ulmer, Judi Privitt, Joyce Bathke, Rev. David Mehl, Cindy Moeller, Mark Ferbet

Staff Present: Rev Dr. Allen Fluent, Rev. Dale Parson, Jeremy Force, Jan Aerie

Absent: Jacquelyne Tyler, Rev. Rick Riedel, Linda Stenger, Jack Wendleton, Rev. Steve Buchholz, Laura Dierberg Ayers, Jerry Cundiff, Jeff Fulk

Dale opened the meeting with devotion.

Call to order: Wes called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM

Revision to Agenda: Saturday 10:30 and 1 PM will be flipped. (committee reports at 10:30 and approaches to CM search to 1 PM so that Allen can be here).

Dannie moved to approve Executive Committee minutes. Cindy seconded with minor revisions. Motion carries.

Rhonda moved and Mauri seconded to approve Conference Council Meeting minutes with minor revisions

Treasurer’s Report – Rev. Ken Ulmer

We are experiencing some shortfall of OCWM (about 22K). Ken circulated a report on OCWM giving from MMSC churches which compares 2012 and 2013. He asked each Council member to review their congregation’s status and to confer with their church leaders if their 2013 giving is not at 75% of the total from 2012.

Summary Financial sheet – The net result of all three conference endeavors (Conference, MoVal, and SCC) is a shortfall of $64, 570.Looking forward Ken Ulmer is hoping to reach the same amount as received in 2012

Combined Balance Sheet – Our assets have decreased $110,000 since December 31, 2012. $50,000 of this amount is the draw we did to cover cash flow needs in March.

The comparative report on revenue and expense for 8/31/13 displays the net results of each of the conference endeavors.

Conference – ($107,551)

MoVal -- $27,025

Shannondale -- $15,955

Ken noted that the two camps are not draining the Conference share of MMSC funds this year.

He provided an update on Unexpected Expenses for 2013. Marc’s death benefit was the only amount due in a lump sum. Jeff Whitman will receive compensation through December 31, 2012 rather than a lump sum payout. The Sabbatical Fund Reserve that accrued during Jeff’s time with MMSC will provide reimbursement for sabbatical expenses until December 31, 2012. The remaining balance in the Sabbatical Reserve Fund will be remitted in his last paycheck on December 31, 2012The General Fund checking account has a balance of $141,3030.95. It is good when the balance is above $100K.

Balance Sheet - Assets available for cash flow support are $60K. Ken reported that the Unrestricted Funds account on the balance sheet has a total of $197,940 (unrestricted funds). He noted that 137K is restricted and only $60K is unrestricted.

Moval -- We are 66% through the year and MoVal income is above this percentage. MoVal operations are expected to result in a surplus for FY 2013. Ken stated that the year-end surplus is planned to be used for capital expenses (facility improvements, equipment, & furniture over $2,000 per item) for Mo Val.

Worker’s Comp – We changed carriers on October 1, 2013. Our previous carrier terminated our coverage us because of a high claims experience in the last 3 years.. Doug Dischinger (Conference insurance agent) has found us coverage, we are in the MO pool.

Wes asked for clarification on the Osage head rights income

MMSC received some of the mineral rights of the Osage reservation. The donor gave it to the Church on the Osage reservation and when the church closed, it then passed on to MMSC. Wes is concerned that those rights are intended to be for Osage people. Following a discussion, it was requested that the Finance & Administration Committee identify destinations for spending these funds. Wes is hoping that we can have relevant information prior to CAG 2014. Ken will contact the Council for American Indian Ministries as part of investigating options to contribute these funds to Native American folks, hopefully connected to the Osage Nation.

Ratification of eVote re: resignation of Rev.Jeffrey Whitman – Wes Hurt

Wes gave a recap regarding communication. Jeff wanted to wait until fitness review results could be revealed. Jeff asked Joyce and Wes to reconsider this allowance however based on the formal motion that came out of council, they could not. Essentially, it was decided for Jeff to send a letter, dated Sept. 10th stating his resignation as Sept. 1st. This letter needed to be hand delivered to Wes in the next few days. Wes did receive the letter stating that he was resigning effective Sept. 1st. Wes sent out an e-mail asking everyone send in their e-mail vote to approve of disapprove.

State law requires us when using e-voting that every member must vote and the vote must be ratified at next scheduled meeting.

Andy moved ratification of the electronic vote to accept Jeff’s resignation as stated in letter. Mary Lou seconded. Motion carries.

Report on Rev. Whitman’s Adjudicated Fitness Review - Wes Hurt

On September 12, Wes received an e-mail from Jane Porchey and Karen Miller and a phone call from Iowa Committee on Authorized Ministry. Jeff was told by phone, e-mail and formal letter, next original complaints, STL Committee on Ministry, then Wes. Wes was told to wait until he was told to wait until he received formal notification from STL association. Wes then read parts of the letter from STL association. Wes sent this correspondence on Sept. 13th.

The outcome of the review was conditional Affirmation of Fitness with a prescribed program of growth for the Rev. Jeffrey Whitman.

Wes fielded questions – IA conference will supervise the program of growth. Jeff can circulate an active profile during this time. There is a section in the profile that requires Jeff to indicate that he is under a prescribed program of growth..

Allen stated that when a profile goes out, it means that the UCC (Committee on Ministry) believes it is a profile that is worthy of circulating.

BREAK at 8:13 PM

Meeting reconvened at 8:39 PM

Report of the Acting Conference Minister – Rev. Dr. Allen Fluent

In the limited time that he has been here (15 days), he has been through a lot of orientation. He has met with treasurer, moderator, staff, administrative team and lawyer. He is about to leave for 3 day tour in Cleveland. All interim ministers will be oriented at that time. Western association was pleased with turnout of staff at their meeting. STL association will be meeting tomorrow morning, so staff will not be present for that. He has started to work with a few churches with search and call or conflict of some sort. He commended Dale for his work in trying to cover all of the churches. It has been a really heavy task and Allen hopes he can lift some of that burden for him.

He is aware of the amount of visioning we are doing. Dick was delayed by the need for us to balance the visioning team. He is meeting with them for the first time in October. Jan has begun her work with the listening sessions and the subject of strategic innovations. Allen believes the work of the conference is to examine our structures and relationships since it will be a different shape that it has been before.

Listening sessions – asked for feedback regarding this. What is the need for this? How much tension is out there? How many people want an opportunity to talk about it?

Andy – Some have the perception that our conference is throwing the money away.

Ken – many people see the addition to staff rather than the reduction in staff as before. People feel that all we do is to ask for money and don’t get anything in return.

Dannie feels that as a council we need to be more participatory

Allen suggested:

\*a few groups (new clergy, annual event for seminary students, other ministries of the conference) should gather to see how they are doing, look at small churches that are doing great ministry, and churches that might be feeling left out right now.

David stated that relationships that we formed and are forming are crucial right now.

Gus wondered if we could have a conference staff writing an article that would be stated for the church newsletter.

Praying for the conference as well as what the conference does in ministry is important. It helps folks to see that the conference is more than a structure.

Mary Lou wondered if we could also feature a conference council member in E Courier.

Dale will share what he has regarding clusters to Jan and Allen

**CAG Site Selection Update – Dale Parson (Renee Cordes, Coletta Eichenberger, Jan Barnes, Frank Houstead, Bob Atkinson, Adrian McClain,**

Committee met today at the Truman Hotel. According to by-laws, Council should set date, theme, etc., but committee recognizes that these items will be presented to Council.

Group is very pleased with facility – especially those with disability. Facility is ours for weekend. One hundred twenty five rooms rooms for Friday and Saturday night $64/night.

Dale also asked what the committee wants for outcomes for this meeting. Committee agrees that we don’t want to get caught up in discussion that creates discord and discontent. They would like to offer resources that will feed the participant spirits. We will have a faith sharing luncheon on Saturday. We did this many years ago and would like to reinstate that again. More times for fellowship and meaningful worship.

POSSIBLE THEME: “Dreaming God’s Dream”

Committee is aware that it will be a definite time of transition in the life of the conference.

Geoffrey Black is confirmed for the gathering. Lillian Daniel’s name was presented. This Odd and Wonderful Calling. She is a transformational pastor.

Committee needs help with working through the dates -- June 13-15 is also Father’s Day weekend. Planning group is convinced that we have to do something --- they are thinking about starting on Thursday night (preconference annual gathering pregathering). Separate registration cost based on segment attending. Friday would be workshops (multiple choices). Meeting part of gathering would be Friday night. We would conclude on Saturday evening.

Deaconess Foundation is celebrating 125 years. Starsky and Dale are talking about ways they can celebrate this event (possibly Deaconess Foundation hosting a breakfast on Saturday)

Next Planning meeting: November 1st – 11-4 pm

Judi will look into “Google Docs” regarding setting up a document that would allow others to sign up for potential roommates (splitting costs)…..

Wes wants the committee to know that we are very supportive of the energy and vitality that we see from their initial planning.

Jan Aerie – Minister for Strategic Planning

Jan passed out a document listing the things that have occurred during her two months with us. She invited conversations from Council members regarding any information presented here.

Meeting recessed at 10:11 PM.