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Conference Council Minutes August 22, 2015

**TOPIC: Conference Council Meeting**

**Members present : Chase Peeples, Bruce Moeller, Judi Privitt, Cindy Nuelle, Ken Ulmer, Alan Gatewood, Steve Bucholz, Rhonda Stockglausner, Allen Fluent Betsy Rezicek, Carl Phillips, Laura Dierburg-Ayers, Laura Mignerone, David Mehl, Joyce Bathke, Cheryl Howard, Linda Stenger, Mark Ferbet**

Members Absent: Wes Hurt, Phiwa Langeni, David Rauch, Bill Seymour, Donna Smith-Pupillo, Jeff Weyrauch, Jeremy Force, Jeff Fulk

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| **When** | August 22, 2015—10:00 a.m. |
| **Location** | Columbia UCC |
| **What to Bring** | Minutes/Updated documents on Conference Council Web Page/Consent Agenda /Your Lunch |

**Each Ministries Committee Chair should come prepared to report on the covenanted ministries assigned to them.**

**Please note—topics may be re-arranged on the agenda based on presenter’s needs.**

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| **Topic** | **Presenter** |
| Opening Devotional | Dale |
| Consent Agenda/Minutes for Approval | Linda |
| Orientation (Part 1) | Laura Dierberg Ayers |
| Standing Rules/New Business Documents | Ken |
| General Synod Update | Allen/Joyce/Dale |
| Conference Minister Search Team Update | David |
| Conference Minister Update | Allen |
| Treasurer’s Report | Ken |
| 2015 CAG Eval./2016 CAG Planning | Dale/Allen |
| Vision Implementation Update-Planning for Nov.14 CAPE | Joyce/Allen |
| Local Church Ministries Report | Donna |
| Wider Church Ministries Report | Cindy |
| Leadership Development Report | Laura |
| Finance & Administration Report | Carl/Wes/Mike |
| Mo-Val Update | Jeremy/Rep from Covenanted Min. |
| Shannondale Update | Jeff/Rep from Covenanted Min. |
| New Business | All |
| Closing Prayer | Allen |
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| **Next Step/Action** | **Who is Responsible?** | **Deadline?** |

Dale open the meeting with a devotion adapted from General Synod opening worship, Unexpected Places. Council members shared their Unexpected Places.

Members of the council introduced themselves and new members were welcomed.

Cheryl/ Steve moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Joyce did an orientation for all council members with special emphasis for the new members. She reminded the council of the staff in the Conference office and what they do. Laura explained the contents of the notebook. She also discussed confidentiality. Each member needs to sign a Confidentiality Agreement, Conflict Agreement, and a Commitment Agreement. Joyce announced that the council was expected to contribute to the Friends of the Conference--2015 Challenge. Pledge cards were passed to each member. Some suggestions were made for improvements The money will be spent for new initiatives.

Steve/Mark moved that the council accept the Friends of the Conference—2015 Challenge. Motion carried.

Ken updated the council on the standing rules and Introduction of New Business. Joyce stated that those need to get out to the churches early. Steve/Ken moved to accept the new standing Rules and introduction of new business. Motion carried.

Synod Update. New youth members, Olivia Becker and Coleen Fikes were delightful and wanted to do it again. Synod is very expensive and delegates need to make a commitment to report back to churches in the conference.

Ken suggested that we make a video to highlight events at Synod. Most controversy was about the Israel/Pakistan issue. John Dorhauer was elected as General Minister and President of the UCC. Traci Blackmon received the Antoinette Brown Award. The Search Committee took advantage of the Synod to get the word out about our search. Delegates need to remember to fill out survey sent by National.

David gave an update on the Search Committee. General Synod was helpful in getting the word out. There were 15 profiles, three chose not to continue, five were eliminated, five are still in process, and two are scheduled for in depth interviews.

Allen presented a written report. There are many people who are involved in very important ways. Conference needs to be more supportive of new pastors. New Beginnings is available for small churches to look at their purpose and what they want to do. Center for Progressive Renewal is offering coaching for pastors.

Dale reported that the Western Association with be meeting with KO Conference for the Fall Meeting. Da Vita McCallister and John Dorhauer will be speakers.

Ken reported that finances are as expected. See attachment at the end of these minutes. Legacy materials need to be shared with churches that might be in the process of closing.

CAG overall had good evaluations. CAG 2016 is in the planning process. The planning committee needs to be formed and a keynote speaker needs to be chosen. Possible topics; church vitality and sacred conversations on race. Chase will help with CAG 2016. Some suggestions for improvement: change to fall, change to Fri, Sat, Sun., get the word out better, childcare and children’s programing.

Chase/Bruce moves to empower Dale to negotiate with speakers and the 2015 Conference committee will stay in place with the addition of new members. Motion carried.

Visioning Team is planning the Conference Annual Planning Event (CAPE) on Nov. 14 at Columbia UCC. Members are Rick Oberle, Joyce Bathke, Sue Simmons, Felicia Scott, Allen Fluent and Dick Hamm. There will be breakout sessions for attendees to learn more about the conference. All Council members need to plan to attend.

Local Church Ministries—Donna was absent so Joyce reported that the committee was working on CPR and Women’s Retreat

Wider Church Ministries—What is happening with Congo and Jamaica?

Leadership Development—The Ministry is always looking for names. Betsey is going to be working with the Deacon program.

Finance and Administration—Carl reported they have a new member, Linda Stenger. The fund from the Church of the Open Door will support a scholarship. The completeness review team (2 members) is focusing on 2014. The completeness review team from 2012 looked at 2013 financials briefly. 2013 will not have a complete review. Carl was on the team and assured the council that he found no discrepancies for 2013. Finite Carbon and ARB has approved Shannondale, LLC so we may finally be able to sell some carbon credits.

Finance and Administration presented the revised charter for the Communications Covenanted Ministry. See attachment below. Motion carried. A consultant is coming on board to help set up the process. Changes in social communication and some form meeting technology will be part of the plan.

Shannondale was featured in the Rural Missourian.

No report from MO-VAL

David asked to go into executive session to reaffirm compensation for the new conference minister. The Council came out of executive session with the following motion. Laura/Steve moved to include Joyce and Ken in on the negotiations with the new conference minister. Motion carried.

Leah Gunning Francis will be doing a LIFE Retreat, Sept. 11-12.

Jason Pernell will do the Schmiechen Lecture on Oct. 7

Chase moved to adjourn.