

Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ  
Conference Council Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 13, 2012 **FINAL, APPROVED COPY**

Present: Wes Hurt, Rev. Jeff Whitman, Jacquelyne Tyler (AM only), Laura Mignerone, Laura Dierberg-Ayers, Jerry Cundiff, Ron Wendle, Rev. Marc Wessels, Rhonda Stockglausner, Les Kemp, Alan Gatewood, Joyce Bathke, Jeff Fulk, Dannie Burk, Rev. Mark Roberts (AM only), Rev. Dale Parson, Cindy Moeller, Jack Wendleton, Jeremy Force, Ken Ulmer, Mauri Peaco, Gus Ella, Andy Mockridge, Mary Lou Datema (arrived at 11:30 AM)

Absent: Connie Brooks, Steve Buchholz, Don Frandsen (excused)

**Call to Order**

Wes called the meeting to order at 8:48 AM

Marc Wessels then lead the conference council in an opening worship.

**Approval of Conference Council Minutes**

Dannie made a motion to approve the minutes from our June meeting. Cindy Moeller seconded with the following corrections: Mark Roberts and Cindy Moeller are listed twice. Laura Dierberg-Ayers is misspelled. Motion passed with corrections.

**Approval of Conference Annual Gathering Minutes** - Noted Correction: CHHSM instead of CHISM. *These minutes will be approved at 2013 Conference Council meeting.*

**Treasurer's Report**

Ken presented the financial report of the Conference (including Shannondale and Mo Val), and noted that we are headed in the right direction; however it looks like our deficit will be in the \$150,00 to \$175,00 range,

It was noted that if each church would give a donation of \$3 a member on toward Outdoor Ministries on MO Val or Shannondale Sunday, it would reduce the deficit for outdoor ministries. Shannondale Sunday is in the spring, Mo Val is in the fall.

**Conference Minister's Report**

Jeff provided a written report with the following highlights:

- Jeff is eligible for sabbatical September - December 2013. Jack Seville will fill in during this time on a part-time basis.

- The first meeting of CAG planning committee was held. Jeff has contacted Dr. James Forbes (one of the 10 best preachers in English speaking world, according to Forbes), and is waiting for response.
- There is real value in the conference worshipping together on Sunday morning. Overwhelming result of evaluations was to stay at a college campus rather than hotel. Our average attendance is about 225.

Council provided Jeff with input regarding CAG.

### **CHHSM Membership – St. Andrews Resources for Senior Citizens**

Jeff introduced Diane Matheny, CEO, St. Andrews Resources for Seniors System. Diane made a Power Point presentation on St. Andrews Resources for Seniors System (STARSS).

**Joyce made a motion that we recognize STARRS as a covenant partner of the Missouri Mid-South Conference and recommend them for membership in CHHSM. Jacquelyn seconded. Motion carried.**

**Ken made a motion that Council recommends that CAG steering committee focuses on education and the connection(community) aspect of CAG. Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried**

### **Executive Committee report:**

This committee was charged to develop a sub-committee from CAG for review of the by-laws.

Wes discussed the process for the Conference Minister Evaluation and goals that were developed in consultation with Jeff. 26 evaluations were sent out and 16 were returned. Wes reiterated that we do not publish these goals since they are personnel matters.

Wes sought approval to contact associations for formation of PRC (Pastor Relations Committee), consensus reached by council.

### **Committee Reports**

**Leadership Development:** Joyce reported. Laura Ayers has agreed to chair committee. Conference Deacons is off to a great start, and Joyce reminded us to continue to recruit deacons. Committee discussed having drop boxes in our churches that could be used to suggest people for Conference leadership. Committee provided a brief orientation for new Council members.

**Finance and Administration:** Dannie reported. Jeff and Mike McKee have been working on securing the money that we loaned to Greater Vine. Committee is working on budgeting for the following year to tighten things up a little bit, and they propose a couple of changes to by-laws. They would like to have an audit possibly every three years with a Friendly completeness report done on the off years. This will save the Conference money.

### Defunding and Retention of Fund Accounts

Ken noted that there is a degree of incompleteness in our funding account report, so the committee developed 6 criteria they used to support these accounts (see document) They reviewed 7 years of data to see how active these accounts have been.

The committee did meet with Mike McKee regarding these accounts. Mike said that he saw no legal barriers to defunding anything that was on our accounts list, since we do not have donor transmittal correspondence on these accounts

**Dannie made a motion that we recognize funding for these proposed actions of fund listing accounts page 2, table 1. Rhonda seconded Motion carried.**

**Dannie made a motion; (coming out of Finance and Administration Committee.)that the conference directly trade \$106,420.72 in outstanding funds for \$106,420.72 in pool debt. The remaining \$72,264.21 of the Mo-Val pool debt is forgiven. Motion carries.**

### OCWM Covenanted Ministry Update

Dale passed out a HO for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2010 .vs 2011 OCWM Comparison Analysis, and a draft copy of an OCWM brochure. Budget and Finance has allotted 20,000 copies made for about \$1,000 to be used by Conference Council, Deacons, and congregations. Each church will receive a few copies of this brochure and be invited to ask for more copies, if needed. Money is provided from "Strength the Church" funds.

### Defunding and Retention of Fund Accounts - cont'd

**Dannie - Finance & Administration (coming out of Committee) recommends that Conference Council close unfunded asset accounts of \$385,607.57 as listed in table 3 of document entitled "proposed action on fund accounts document 10/12/2012."** Motion carried

**Nollman Property** - The sale of this property was about \$98K.

**Carbon Credit Conversion** - Council Executive Committee serves as the Board of Directors for Limited Liability Corporation. Dannie encouraged council members to e-mail Ken or Dannie suggestions regarding how they want that money designated in the conference budget. Jeff also wants council to consider a formula for deciding how this money will be allocated (what percent of the sales will go towards Shannondale/Conference, etc.)

**True Vine (Holy Ghost church)-** Committee also would like suggestions regarding this. If the money comes in that they owe, where do we want that money to come in at?

**Local Church Committee:** Mauri reported that committee spent time getting new members up to speed regarding the work of the committee. Marc reported dates for Jazz Nativity: Dec. 8, 3 & 7 PM (Webster Groves) Dec. 15 - 7 PM St. Peters KC, MO

**Motion (out of Committee) Youth Covenanted Ministry be accepted and put into place. Motion carried**

**Wider Church Ministries:** Cindy reported that they brought new members up to date regarding history of this committee. Committee shared a written report from Jeremy Force as well as Camp Mo-Val 2013 Rates and Fees. The Shannondale committee is putting together a template for a covenanted ministry, and Cindy is gathering names from each association for this ministry. Cindy reported that we are celebrating our Jamaica 20 year anniversary. Jeff and a few others are leaving for Jamaica on Oct. 31 and returning on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. Cindy reported that she would like to have 4-5 people that would be willing to serve on the Congo committee.

**Cindy (out of committee) moved that 2013 camp Mo Val Rates and Fees (see HO) be approved by the council. Motion carried.**

**Old Business - none**

**New Business:** Marc updated us on Mission 4/1. The Missouri Mid South Conference website has lots of ideas as well as a manual people can download. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the official kick-off. There is a small steering committee gathered - their job is to enable and encourage congregations to participate.

**Joyce made motion that council affirms to encourage all of our associations, congregations and agencies to participate in mission 4/1 earth. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.**

**Creative Faith Project Update** - Workshop on November 3 at St. Paul's UCC in Hermann following the theme of Epiphany, and on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Raytown, MO with an emphasis on Holy Week. Marc noted that there will be late fees enforced for these events.

**Dannie made a motion that the 2013 Conference Annual Gathering be held at Drury University in Springfield, MO June 7-9, 2013. Mauri seconded. Motion carries.**

**Joyce made a motion that the Missouri Mid-South Conference become a "Faith In" Conference and invite local congregations to join us as "Faith In" congregations. Jack seconded. Motion carries.**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM with the Lord's Prayer.