

CABINET MEETING  
Northwest Ohio Association - United Church of Christ  
Saturday, March 7, 2015

PRESENT: Brian Anders, Dan Busch, David Culp, Sharon Flickinger, Jim Henry, David Jones, Doug Ricci, Don Rock, Rebecca Erb Strang, Becky Sunday

ABSENT: Susan Bishop, Kristi Brown, Jon Komperda, Robin LaBolt, Donna Overholt

Meeting called to order by Brian Anders, Vice-Moderator

DEVOTIONS: Brian Anders

MINUTES: *Motion by Dave Culp to accept the Cabinet Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2015 with correction Doug Ricci was not present, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Ricci, motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Jim Henry reporting

Financial report: Jim noted there was no significant change since January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding YTD finances. Discussion this day centered on unrestricted cabinet designated funds. Jim explained these are funds not donor given but funds set aside by Cabinets over the years to cover expense "in case" there would be expense in a specific area (i.e. General Synod Delegates the year the Synod was supposed to gather in Hawaii). These accounts have been kept on the books over the years even though the specific events have passed. In reviewing the list, specifically four funds that appeared as unrestricted were discussed and moved to the donor temporarily restricted list –those being, Discretionary Fund, Retired Clergy Luncheon Fund, Ministerial Aid Fund and Student-In-Care Emergency Fund. ***Motion by Becky Sunday to adjust net assets to properly reflect the unrestricted, cabinet designated funds for 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky Erb Strang, motion carried. A 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Becky Sunday to undesignate all remaining unrestricted cabinet designated funds, except the Sabbatical Leave Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky Erb Strang, motion carried.***

Budget Report: Discussion centered on the drop in OCWM giving over the past many years. At the present time we have a retention rate of 57-43%. The question was asked as to what other Association retention rates were and it is believed they are 55-45 at Western, but they have an endowment fund as a resource; 40-60 by Eastern; Sonka is 25-70 and Central Southeast is 27-73. By comparison Sonka and Central Southeast are about the same size as Northwest. The Conference retention rate is 65-35. Based on the 2014 OCWM year-end giving total of 346,521., the 2015 OCWM giving budget has been reduced to 350,000 (from 377,400) changing the bottom line to deficit 13,644 for year-end and that is with an increased retention rate of 60/40 which is still unknown at this time. Jim stated Northwest is at bear bones as far as reducing expenditures any further – leaving salary adjustments open for the 2016 budget. ***Motion by Dave Culp to recommend the revised final 2015 budget as printed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Jones, motion carried with two abstentions. Motion by Becky Sunday to accept the 2016 goal budget with adjustments of OCWM to 350,000 and salary adjustments as appropriate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Henry, motion carried.***

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** – Brian Anders reported all discussion focused on financial reviews.

**OFFICE BUSINESS**

***Motion by Becky Erb Strang for the Association to cover all disability insurance for Staff employees, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Rock, motion carried.***

**DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL MEETING**

Plans and preparations for the Annual Association Meeting to be held April 25, 2015 at St. Stephen UCC, Sandusky are all coming together. The facility is excellent, all on one floor. Theme is "Unexpected Places," with the guest speaker Rev. Phil Hart. Plans are underway for a joint choir with the three UCC churches in surrounding areas of St. Stephen.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Lay School – No report

Church Growth and Transformation Team/Covenant Fund/Church Development - No report

Personnel Committee - No report

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

Witness & Proclamation – Don Rock reporting

- Met January 22, 2015 working on filling vacancies.
- Will continue to submit articles for “The Vine” regarding Green Project, church websites, etc.
- Want mission to be publicity for church events – discussion of different ways for free advertisement.

Stewardship & Caring – Doug Ricci reporting

- Continue to report in “The Vine” faith practices.
- Next meeting will be at the All-Team meeting in May.

Church & Ministry –submitted by Donna Overholt

- Exit interviews with Rev. Steve Voelker, Rev. Scott Johnson and Rev. Michelle Dyar.
- Installation for Rev. Darrin Harvey, First UCC, Galion will be held April 12, 2015.
- Adam Bohland will be interviewed for ordination at our March meeting.

Faith Formation – David Culp reporting

- Continue to work on Extravagant Welcome and Hospitality Practices.

## **REGIONAL COORDINATING TEAM REPORTS**

Auglaize Valley – No meeting

Lakeshore – No meeting

Sandusky Valley – Dave Jones reporting

- Nothing since last report. Next meeting will be March 16, 2015.

## **OHIO CONFERENCE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – Becky Erb Strang reporting**

- The Ohio Conference Board of Directors is asking each Association Cabinet to select 4-6 members to attend an all cabinet and all conference meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Dublin for the purpose of discussion why we do what we do –and speak the truth in love with one another as covenant partners. Those suggested this day that could attend: Brian Anders, Robin LaBolt, Sharon Flickinger, Mary Powell, Dave Culp, Doug Ricci.
- Conference is very close to selecting a UCC Ministries Coordinator.

## **ASSOCIATION MINISTER REPORT – Dan Busch**

- Northwest is at its lowest point in vacancies in the past 10 years.
- The Village will be presented as a new church into our denomination at the Spring Association Meeting.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- All-Team Meet - Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30-2:30. Place to be announced. Cabinet will also meet this day.
- Excellence in Ministry should have representation on Cabinet
- May have found General Synod Cookie Chairman from NWOA.
- Buses available for General Synod Sunday Service, leaving Tiffin Mall, \$20, contact Darla Metz.

## **New Business/Meeting dates**

Cabinet Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2015 – time for Cabinet Meeting and place to be announced. Devotions ???

All Team Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2015. 9:30-2:30. Place to be announced.

Annual Meeting – April 25, 2015, St. Stephen UCC, Sandusky

Annual Meeting – April 30, 2016, Calvary UCC, Crestline

Annual Meeting – 2017 -

Meeting adjourned 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Flickinger, Association Secretary

**Team Leaders and Representatives please provide written reports.**

