

CABINET MEETING  
Northwest Ohio Association - United Church of Christ  
Thursday, May 21, 2015

**PRESENT:** Dave Borden, Dan Busch, Catherine Costello, Sharon Flickinger, Robin LaBolt, Ward Pond, Mary Powell, Jared Ruark, Doug Ricci, Ryan Shields, Becky Sunday, Dave Voll.  
Terry Kohanski representing Witness & Proclamation  
**ABSENT:** Becky Erb Strang

Meeting called to order by Dave Voll, Moderator

DEVOTIONS: Dan Busch

MINUTES: *Motion by Becky Sunday to accept the Cabinet Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2015 and the e-mail Cabinet Business Minutes of March 26, 2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jared Ruark, motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Mary Powell – Dan Busch reporting

Reported expenses running under budget amount for first four months of year. Income reflects \$15,951.60 that was received after the books closed in January. *Motion by Ward Pond to accept the financial report, pending audit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Costello. Motion carried.*

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** –

Because of All-Team Meeting immediately preceding this meeting, no Executive Committee Meeting was held.

**OFFICE BUSINESS**

*Motion by Mary Powell to appoint Tom Thieman, St. Paul's, New Bremen to the Finance & Budget Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky Sunday. Motion carried.*

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes (not final) were distributed this day. To give opportunity for finalization -review for approval was tabled until next meeting. Compiled evaluation forms from the meeting were reviewed showing very favorable comments.....46 excellent, 22 good, 1 fair. Financial summary was reviewed but incomplete at this date.

Discussion was held regarding need to select a Vice Moderator, due to Dave Voll being voted to Moderator. (Moderator-elect was unable to fulfill his term) Announcement will be made through "The Vine" to seek Vice Moderator –layperson from Auglaize Valley.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Association Meeting will be held, April 30, 2016 – Calvary UCC, Crestline.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Meeting will be held April 29, 2017 – St. Paul UCC, New Bremen.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Meeting location was discussed, should be from Lakeshore, and will be announced at a later time.

**ALL TEAM MEETING** - today

Dave reminded us that we are constitutionally bound to have an All-Team Meeting each year. It was felt it was a very good meeting and very well attended (35 present). People liked having the meeting at the NWOA office. Agenda was good; having regional teams meet first, and then breaking into committees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Lay School – Dan reported the current year is over. There will be two sessions next year on the New Testament.

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

Personnel Committee - no report

El Salvador Team – no report

It was brought to our attention as to whether or not there should be representation at the Cabinet Meetings from the Excellence in Ministry Program. Discussion revealed we feel strongly regarding the effectiveness of the Excellence in Ministry Program, want it to succeed and grow so representation would be welcomed. ***Motion by Jared Ruark to enact allowing the Excellence in Ministry Facilitator of Facillators to serve on the Cabinet, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Ricci. Motion carried.***

Discussion followed regarding Lay School Board representation on the Cabinet. ***Motion by Becky Sunday to have the Board Chair of Lay School serve on the Cabinet, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Costello. Motion carried.***

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

Witness & Proclamation – Terry Kohanski reporting

- Will continue with same direction, fine tuning with more emphasis on green spaces and heroin issues.

Stewardship & Caring – Dave Borden reporting

- Organizational
- Reasons for being

Church & Ministry –Doug Ricci reporting

- One exit interview with pastor at Holgate (reported not too many reached out to him); two new pastors; one new licensed.
- Periodic Support of May 13 was cancelled for lack of participants and will be rescheduled for fall.
- Boundary Training will be June 11.
- Annual Retirement Celebration Gathering will be held in October at Fairhaven in Upper Sandusky.

Dan brought to our attention constraints for ordination candidates needing to meet the deadline of the April Spring Association Meeting in order for approval. Those seeking a call cannot circulate their profile until ordination approval often creating a problem for a candidate if all required work (Seminary, CPE, in-care) has been completed much earlier than the April Meeting time. Becky Sunday also voiced concern that sometimes candidates feel pushed/rushed to get all their requirements finished (in time) because of the once a year (spring meeting) deadlines. She felt ordination should be a God led process, discernment in God's time –not to check off boxes and meet deadlines in order to be approved. Discussion centered on making the Church and Ministry Team the Ecclesiastical Council to enable ordination approval; Annual Spring Association Meeting would then be for recognition of the approved candidate. There was favorable consensus of those present this day to explore/allow this process for the future. It was referred back to the Church and Ministry Team to bring forth a recommendation for the Cabinet to consider.

Constitution Discussion: In reviewing The Constitution of the NWOA regarding an Ecclesiastical Council, a problem was brought to the Cabinet's attention by Doug Ricci regarding voting privileges (as discussed/voted earlier in this meeting) on pg. 5, #17 ...voting members of the Cabinet shall consist of four elected Officers, the Past Moderator, one linking person from each of the Ministry Teams, one linking person from each of the Regional Coordinating Teams, and one representative of the Association to the Ohio Conference Board of Directors. #21 states... Additional members of the Cabinet, serving ex officio, with voice but not vote..... Under Article VIII Ministry Teams #2 states – The members of the Ministry Teams shall be elected by the Association. The linking persons of the Ministry Teams shall be selected by each Team from its members. Discussion followed bringing the following ***motion by Catherine Costello for clarification to the two prior motions of granting Cabinet positions for the Excellence in Ministry Facilitator of Facillators and the Lay School Board Chair. They shall have voice with no vote until such time as the Constitution of the Association can be changed to allow for their full participation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Ricci. Motion carried.***

Dave Voll asked who we might know in the Association who was part of the Constitution revision in 2007 or who would we recommend to be part of this review to work with Doug Ricci. Names suggested were Sam Buehrer and/or David Culp. Discussion ended with a suggestion by Dave to “look at this a little bit” and at our next meeting we can hopefully take some course of action.

Faith Formation – Ward Pond reporting

- Present a method of feedback concerning usage of Faith Practices website/material. Possible [surverymonkey.com](http://surverymonkey.com)
- Discussion of NWOA Faith Formation blog to be discontinued evolved into forming a Facebook page which will encourage better dialogue and resource sharing.
- Discussion of Rev. Scott Johnson's ministry initiative for veteran needs as an example of shared resourcing.
- Looking to partner with the Lay School on an Evangelism and Stewardship Workshop in the near future.

## **REGIONAL COORDINATING TEAM REPORTS**

Auglaize Valley – Catherine Costello reporting

- November 2015 – Youth Event sponsored by Defiance College.
- January 18, 2016 – Youth Event to be planned. (MLK Week-end)
- Summer Family Fest 2016 to be planned
- Next meeting July 9 in conjunction with the Auglaize Cluster Meeting and then again on July 23, 2015 to look at the Youth Event.

Lakeshore – Ryan Shields reporting

- Discussed how the team should function. Conversations included whether events should be geared to clergy or congregations..... and do congregations desire clustering?
- Ideas included, welcoming new pastors, group fellowship opportunities, joining existing programs, mission opportunities.
- Investigate luncheon cluster opportunities

Sandusky Valley – Jared Ruark reporting

- Fairhaven landscaping project – on-going (\$15,000 goal)
- October program TBA
- February 11 – pre-lent Taize Service, Sycamore UCC.
- Future Military Chaplain and Clergy gathering in Mansfield

Moderator Dave suggested to all team representatives that they take back to their respective Teams information from Cabinet Meetings, that is not confidential, so that communication will be a two-way street.

## **OHIO CONFERENCE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – Becky Sunday reporting**

- Big things happening regard Outdoor Ministries. There is a motion on the table to put both campsites up for sale with intent of selling only one of them when a reasonable offer is received.
- Continuing to explore Outdoor Ministry opportunities, looking beyond site specific ministries; making sacred time and space together in other ways and new places.
- Looking into ways to create an endowment to support the future of Outdoor Ministries in the Ohio Conference.

Jared questioned asking price for camps and Becky stated there has been an evaluation for each camp, but she does not know specific asking price. One site might be able to be divided for farming purposes. Jared also questioning how much selling price could be put forth toward an endowment? Dan stated there is debt of around \$300,000.

Reminder: Ohio Conference Board of Directors and Associations Meeting at Dublin Community Church on May 30<sup>th</sup>. An effort to begin again in conversation with each other about how we do things together and how we can support one another in the covenant of ministry. Becky stated that she was not aware of any particular agenda that this meeting is about; it is really about gathering people around the table to listen to one another and to start from the beginning trying to come to a consensus about doing the future any differently than we have done in the past. Those representing NWOA who volunteered this day to attend are Robin LaBolt, Mary Powell, Doug Ricci, Jared Ruark and Dave Voll.

Becky stated her term ends at the Ohio Conference gathering this September, thus also ending her Cabinet term.

**ASSOCIATION MINISTER REPORT – Dan Busch**

- Ordination of Darla Metz, June 7, 2015.
- Ordination of Adam Bohland, June 21, 2015.
- Dan will be having complete knee replacement July 20, 2015.
- September 26, 2015 Ohio Conference Annual Meeting.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Cookie Chairman for NWOA is Barb Gobs from Sycamore UCC. Doing an excellent job!
- Bus trip to General Synod \$20.00 (not full) leaving from Tiffin Mall.

Future Meeting Dates for Cabinet:

September 19, 2015	devotions Doug Ricci
November 14, 2015	devotions Jared Ruark
January 23, 2016	devotions Robin LaBolt
March 12, 2015	devotions Catherine Costello

*Motion for adjournment by Doug Ricci, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Kohanski. Meeting adjourned at 3:15.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Flickinger, Association Secretary

**THANK YOU Team Leaders and Representatives for providing written reports**

