

**Missouri Mid-South Conference
Fall Business Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2022**

- **Call to Order** at 11:20
- **Credentials Report** presented by Sonya Vann, Board Secretary.
- **Voting Strength 82; Churches 62.**
- **Business Meeting Minutes**
 - April 24, 2021 – **MOTION to approve the April 24, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes w/ no corrections or amendments.**
 - **Moved by D. Knipmeyer and 2nd P. Lafferty**
 - **Approved**
 - November 6, 2021 — **MOTION to approve the November 6, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes w/no corrections or amendments.**
 - **Moved by B. Mueller 2nd by J. Bathke**
 - **Vote: Approved**
- **Conference Board of Directors Report**
 - See written report as submitted.
- **Presentation of Slate of Board of Directors and**
 - **MOTION to approve the Slate of the Board of Directors as presented by the Nominating Committee.**
 - **Amendments Tammy Linningham is from Western Association not Eastern.**
 - **Vote: Approved**
- **Presentation of Slate of Delegates to 2023 General Synod**
 - **MOTION to approve the Slate of nominees for Delegates to 2023 General Synod i as presented by the Nominating Committee.**
 - **Moved by J. Bathke and 2nd D. Knipmeyer.**
 - Discussion.
 - Rita Hill, question from the floor asked about the diversity make-up of the delegation and it was clarified by M. Nelson.
 - B. Mueller, question from the floor
 - **Vote: Approved**
- **Finance Committee Report: 2022 Review**
- **2023 Budget**

- Meredith Jackson, Grace UCC (South City) presented the Finance Report. OCWM is shared with General Operating Budget of Conference, Camp MoVal and Shannondale Mission. Expenses increasing for travel and expenses as travel increases and the world opens back up. In addition, there is income from Camp MoVal because camp is happening. Giving has historically declined in the summer, but increases later in the fiscal year. In addition, there is scheduled timber sale at Shannondale which we believe will help the Conference have less of a deficit than was originally budgeted.
- 2023 FY Budget Presentation (see 2023 Proposed Budget), includes exciting new directions and represents the priorities of the conference and the Board direction to move the values of the conference. In a review of Personnel commitments, we will see an increase in HR expenses to represent a strong commitment to benefits and care of our staff. Working with outdoor ministry sites to make improvements. If we are going to be stewards of these outdoor sights they will require volunteers and funds. The 2023 Budget looks at three primary funds General Operating Fund, MoVal and Shannondale. (See budget documents in CAG materials).
Historically 1% has been drawn every 2 quarters; Board voted that we should draw 3% instead for this year every 2 quarters to represent the strong commitment to our core values and ministries. Includes the hiring of a Youth resources Coordinator funded out of the General Operating Budget and not the Western Hills funds. This addresses the ongoing need for a Youth Coordinator. The audit voted to be done in 2022, but not completed. It will be done this year and thus is also in this years budget.
MoVal Capital Campaign is budgeted to begin in 2023 FY. It is expected that the Board will contract with a agency to lead up the Capital Campaign.
Deferred maintenance at both camps is an issue and priority reflected in budget. The proposed budget for 2022, had a projected budget deficit of -\$303, 914.65. As of September 31, 2022 the Actual 2022 budget shows a deficit of -\$91,735.31. Likewise, the 2023 Proposed budget reflects a deficit of -\$190, 777.21. The plan to build out a capital campaign for Camp MoVal as well as the expected receipt of the Cornerstone Funds. Thus we as a Conference need to be aware of this and the need for financial support which will undergird the work.
- **MOTION to approve the 2023 Budget as Presented by the Finance Committee as presented by M. Jackson.**
- Discussion: Rita Hill had question... which staff receive a pension. M. Nelson responded all full time staff receive a 14% Pension and part time staff receive a 7% pension draw which includes: Transitional Conference Minister, Associate Conference Minister, Office Manager, Executive Director of Shannondale, Manager of Camp MoVal and Program Director of Camp Moval.
- **Vote: Approved.**

- Lunch Break

- Speak Outs

Conference business resumed again at 1:20pm.

- **Personnel Committee Report** presented by Joyce Bathke. Personnel Manual and New HR Policies were completed in 2022 and approved by the Board. Completed 1-year evaluation with Transitional Conference Minister and voted to extend Mary's contract through April 2024. Several staff changes throughout the year, there is a process in place to develop a job description. Amanda and Kevin were hired to lead as the Property Manager and Program Director. The work to hire someone for Shannondale is also forth coming.
- **Conference Minister's Report** presented by Rev. Mary Nelson, Transitional Conference Minister. In the 18-month time since arriving this is the first report given by Rev. Nelson. Expressed her gratitude for the leadership and staff that she works with so closely.

Noted that she came to MMSCUCC and saw the hurt and distrust of the Conference. In that time with ZOOM and through travel as the pandemic allowed she has traveled to various congregations and communities to spend time with us as we have gathered. Asked that Conference consider all the good work that the Conference has done in the past 18-months. The new realignment of the Board of Directors, Staff and Conference wide's role with the Revised ByLaws.

Spoke to the work of the Board to set-up new Core Ministries and mission statement. Now the work of the Core Ministries Teams is underway. The Conference is in need of willing volunteers who want to use your gifts to help make the Conference work.

A Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were elected today to setup the Conference Board with 6-years of Conference leadership where our finances are considered that allow for a succession and ongoing oversight of the Conference Finances.

The Personnel Manual was completed and will impact our budget, because living up to our values is costly, but important in the long-term goals of our Conference. Lifted up the staff and celebrated their work within our conference. Acknowledged the departure of the Executive Director of Shannondale, as well as, the incoming help of an Interim Executive Director. Spoke to the realignment of oversight of the Carbon Credits for Shannondale. That this shifted to the position of the Conference Minister's office. Emphasized the importance of utilizing the carbon credits for long term work and not to plug in the budget short term. A decision is forthcoming on this decision by the Board of Director.

The website is still underway, yet several setbacks have caused staff to slow down and process the information to made good decisions that will allow us to be better once the

website is up and running. A sneak preview was provided on screen showing the current website underdevelopment and expected to be up and running before the end of the year.

- **Report on Camp MoVal Redevelopment Process** by Rev. M. Nelson and the new staff leaders of Camp MoVal. Rev. M. Nelson lifted up the incoming leadership that got the first year of the MoVal Redevelopment Process in done in 6-months rather than the year projected. Spoke to the benchmarks of camp MoVal:
 - Benchmark - 200 campers benchmark, 86 actual campers
 - No cases of COVID-19 were reported at Camp when many camps were shutdown or inactive when we were up and running,.
 - Bench mark - 8 groups provide \$12,000 by December. Actually 9 groups have contracted with camp.
 - Benchmark of \$20K and as of September 2022, \$21K+ in donations have been received.
 - Amanda Schmidt and Kevin Zimmer presented on Camp MoVal, showed slideshow reflecting on their connections with Camp MoVal. Show a list of things they worked on to get camp back on track. Reported that traditional camp events are back! Woman's retreat, Conference Youth Events, Middle School Youth, etc. Future projects are MoVal, remodeling Pinewood & Hilltop, creating more accessible areas, Music Festival, and Mountain Bike Event.
 - Request for those with gifts and talents to come, volunteer and participate in the work that is MoVal.
 - Donations are important to the work of Camp MoVal and supporting this outdoor ministry.
 - Summer Schedule is being launched for 2023, earlier than most camps. Plan to run 8 weeks of camp. Ages include 7+ years of age.
 - MoVal is opened year round with various events such as the Middle School Youth Event, Cookie Decorating Class, High School Event and Women's Retreat as well as, Sunday dinner options.

- **Appreciation for 2021-2022 Board of Directors** members presented by Elaine Tebbenkamp, Board Chair.
 - Presentation of Appreciation of Board Members who have completed their terms and will be departing the Board
 - Patti Wood, Michael Mueller, Mickey Clarke, Robert VanEss, Kristin Aardema Faigh and Paul Emily.

- Next Year Conference Annual Gathering will be in October 2023. Dates and location to be announced.

- Meeting was Adjourned at 2:18pm.