

**Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC
Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 19, 2024**

1. Call to Order Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
 - a. Credentials Report/Establish Quorum Sonya Vann, Secretary Pro Tem
 - i. Voting Strength: 115 # of Churches: 63
 - b. Presentation of Business Meeting Minutes: 10/14/2023

**VOTE: Adoption of 2023 CAG Annual Meeting Minutes
Motion Approved**

2. Conference Board of Directors Report Duana Russell-Thomas
 - a. Presentation of Slate of Board of Directors and General Synod Delegates — per concerns brought to the attention of the Chair, it was decided that the vote for Board of Directors and General Synod Delegates was not presented to the delegates according to the By-Laws. Therefore, a vote for these issues will be delayed until a Special Called Meeting can be scheduled giving time for all materials and information to be disseminated according to the bylaws of the MMSCUCC.
3. Board Committee Reports
 - a. Personnel Committee Report presented by Rev. Dane Sommer

Break – Meeting break at 9:55, Reconvened at 10:15am...

**VOTE: MOTION to Approve Revised Business Meeting Agenda (see attached)
1st Liz Deveney Trinity UCC, 2nd by Greg Schmelig, Parkway UCC, St. Louis
Motion passed by 95%. Approved**

4. Amendment to the By-Laws presented by Duana Russell
 - a. Description of changes presented

VOTE: MOTION TO postpone vote on By-Law Amendments made by Rev. Gary Schulte and 2nd by Rev. Joshua Rau, Emmanuel UCC, Jackson. Motion Approved to postpone the vote on the by-laws.

5. Outdoor Ministries Report
 - a. Camp MoVal Redevelopment Process presented by Glenn Svetnicka, Associate Minister of Outdoor Ministries (see attached written report)

6. Youth Ministry Report presented Rev. Jay Wiesner, Associate Youth Minister, gave verbal report
 - a. Looking to teen recruitment and working with many churches to make this happen
 - b. Continue relationships with Camp MOVal
 - i. Most recently CYE event was cancelled because of low participation. Looking to increase participation in consideration of camp MoVal seasonal model shift.
 - ii. Regional Youth Event -100 participants including adults. Felt it was a robust participation considering it was the first since Covid-19.

7. Core Ministry Team Reports:
 - a. Empowering Congregations, Rev. Lisa Martin (written report included)
 - b. Pursuing Justice and Equity (written report included)
 - c. Creating Community, Carolyn Stecher
 - i. Heritage Group, Youth and Older Adults Ministry are in partnership to help in Creating Community Core Group.
 - ii. Reached out to Conference and extended invitation to attend and participate in Conference Events that help to remove any barrier to participation.
 - iii. Addressed need for changes to MOVal to create community for older adults ministry.
 - iv. Persons in Ministry retreat, Synod and lay in general to help create more connections in larger Conference
 - v. Reached out through e-Courier and other means of communication to help in distribute information.
 - d. Visioning the Future (written report included)

8. Finance Committee Reports:
 - a. 2024 Review of Budget vs. Actuals by Rev. Vicki Hampton, Conference Treasurer (see attached presentation)
 - b. 2025 Proposed Budget by Rev. Meredith Jackson, Finance Committee Chair (see attached presentation)

**Vote: Approval for Board to access up to \$100,000 from reserves in emergency.
MOTION to approve the Board access up to \$100K from emergency reserves to cover expenses/budget deficits.**

Motion approved by 90%

Vote: Adoption of proposed 2025 budget (from Board, does not need a second)

Motion Approved by 90%

9. Conference Minister's Report, Rev. Mary Nelson
 - a. Recognitions:
 - i. Recognized the attention that had to be given to unexpected areas of concern. Recognized the members and staff of MMSCUCC who support the work of the wider conference. Recognized the work of Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Damien Lake in his efforts to reduce the search and call numbers which are lower than they have been in the past 4 years.
 - b. Outdoor Ministry Updates:
 - i. Sale of carbon credits from Shannondale camp was a hugely important opportunity that required attention and much oversight. In addition, the sale of form TAMBO sight paid off residual conference indebtedness and provided an opportunity for additional funds to be set aside for areas and commitments of the larger mission of the conference.
 - c. Resumed the Persons in Ministry Retreat which will be include in the years to come.
 - d. By-Laws revision was the work of the board and the smooth process of getting this work together.
 - e. Hosting for General Synod and working with Kansas-Oklahoma Conference to create a memorandum of understanding to work together given the different governing bodies and processes.
 - f. Local Arrangements Committee is gathering and working together.
 - i. Denise Bainbridge, Co-Chairing this committee.
 - g. Conference lacks statements and resolutions that make it difficult to make more general statements in the public arena or of public witness.
 - h. Shared desired goal to work with the conference as Settled Conferenced Minister

- i. Shared her desire to go into a year of Jubilee next year. Welcomed suggestions, volunteers to carry this year forward.
 - j. Call to think about new ways of being in unity and together with the larger conference.
10. Appreciation for 2023-2024 Board of Directors Members, Duana Russell-Thomas
11. Adjournment of Business Meeting at 12:09 pm. 1st by A. Asselmeier 2nd by L. Deveney to Adjourn.
- a. Motion Approved, meeting adjourned.**
12. Closing Worship, with Installation of Conference Leaders, Communion

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Sonya J. Vann, Secretary Pro-Tem