

**IOWA CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 12, 2009**

Members Present: Nelson, Altenbaumer, Guffey-Lewis, Darmour-Paul, Stonebraker, Howie, Lof, Schmidt, Hanon, Mears, Noer, Sargent, Benda, Boege, Lang, Douglas

Absent (with prior notice): Eastin, Jares

Absent (without prior notice): None

Also Present: CM Pleva, ACM's Jensen, Havelka, Stoik

The Board of Directors met at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Cedar Rapids. The Chair, Laura Lof, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

BOD 2009-19. Noer/Nelson to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of April 18, 2009 as presented. Approved unanimously.

Conference Minister's Report

CM Pleva presented the Conference Minister's report. Because of the press of events attendant to the move of the Conference offices and the Annual Meeting, there was no written report. CM Pleva reported on the following matters:

1. *The progress of the move.* Everything is proceeding satisfactorily and it is expected that the staff will be working out of the new offices by the week of June 22.
2. *Expiring Terms.* CM Pleva expressed his gratitude to the following members of the Board whose terms have ended in 2009: Cheryl Lang, Luverne Schmidt, Jim Benda, Dennis Eastin, Karen Jares and Peter Wenzel. Each of the directors received a personal copy of the book *News to Me* as a token of the Conference's appreciation for his or her service.
3. *Sabbatical.* CM Pleva will have served as Conference Minister long enough to be entitled to take a sabbatical as of October 1, 2009. He has applied to the Louisville Institute for a grant to help defray the cost of sabbatical study and employment of an interim conference minister. If he receives a grant, his sabbatical must be taken sometime during the period beginning March 1, 2010 and ending August 31, 2011. This item will be discussed further with the Board at its August meeting.

Report of 2007-2008 Audit

BOD 2009-20. Nelson/Schmidt to accept the Independent Auditor's Report for the

periods ending on December 31 of 2007 and 2008 as prepared by Jacobsen & Company LLP. Approved unanimously.

OCWM Adjustment

BOD 2009-21. Nelson/Noer to recommend to the Annual Meeting that it adopt the following resolution: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that the ratio for sharing congregational giving to OCWM with the national setting of the UCC be increased to 37% if the total undesignated congregational giving for OCWM exceeds the budgeted amount for 2010 by at least \$10,000.” Approved unanimously.

Unified Governance

BOD 2009-21. Lang/Altenbaumer to ratify the informal action of the Board directing CM Pleva to submit the following resolution to the 27th General Synod:

GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Prudential Resolution Submitted to the 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ By the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ June 4, 2009

SUMMARY

This resolution addresses the need for streamlining the governance structures of our denomination so that we use the best principles of good governance while ensuring inclusiveness, diversity and effectiveness for our national mission and ministry. It argues for clarifying accountability while improving the ability to plan, implement and fund mission strategically. It requests that the General Synod support the concept of unified governance and direct the Executive Council to bring a proposal for implementation of same to the next General Synod.

BACKGROUND

The national setting of the United Church of Christ, led by our Collegium of Officers and in response to an evaluation conducted in 2003, has been studying and developing proposals to improve our governance structure through streamlining and integration of decision making.

Our current form of governance, with five separately incorporated ministries, inhibits nimble, coordinated and timely response to Church-wide opportunities and challenges. Strategic planning, decision making and implementation are difficult at best when each individual board must take action separately.

Good governance is marked by

- Effective deliberation focused on the good of the whole,
- a unified decision-making process that ensures strategic thinking and planning,
- a comprehensive overview of the resources needed and available to accomplish the mission,
- faithful oversight of resources, both human and financial,
- deliberate evaluation of the effectiveness of the mission and its implementation, and
- the ability to develop positive public relations and attract significant financial giving to its mission.

It was anticipated that proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments would be presented to this General Synod to begin the process of implementing the result of this work and according to these principles, but in March one of the covenanted ministry boards failed to take the final step necessary to bring the proposal to this Synod.

This resolution invites the General Synod to endorse the concept of single governance and establish a process by which to adopt the same in as expeditious a way as good and faithful process allows.

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

The Biblical and Theological rationale is taken from ‘Recommendations to be considered during the fall 2008 Board and Executive Council meetings by the Governance Follow-Up Team II (GFT II).

The national setting of the United Church of Christ, in community with its many honored historical predecessor instrumentalities, agencies and societies, carries out four essential functions for, with and on behalf of our Local Churches, Conferences and Associations.

1. The national setting is a sign of unity, convening biennially as the General Synod, and proclaiming a unifying vision for the whole United Church of Christ—a vision informed by our Statement of Faith, the Preamble to the Constitution and the ever present voice of the Still Speaking God. This vision is summarized in God's call to the United Church of Christ to be a “united and uniting church,” a “multi-racial, multi-cultural church,” an “open and affirming church,” a “church witnessing to peace with justice” and a “church accessible to all.”
2. The national setting nurtures relationships within and beyond the United Church of Christ, including relationships among United Church of Christ ministries and institutions in all settings, and with ecumenical, interfaith and global partners.
3. The national setting equips and strengthens vital and faithful ministries of Local Churches, leaders and other settings of the church.
4. The national setting, in partnership with all other settings, demonstrates God's transforming love and justice around the world through social justice advocacy and public witness and by sharing life and resources through critical presence with God's people and creation at the point of deepest need.

These four roles have been shaped by a rich historical legacy reaching back far beyond the fifty years of the United Church of Christ and have been embodied in varied ways in structures that have sought to be the faithful stewards of that legacy. Our Reformation heritage reminds us that we are “reformed, yet ever reforming.” As a result, our past shapes and educates us, but does not finalize who and what we are.

RESOLUTION

Whereas considerable time, energy and material resources have been invested in a faithful effort to produce a single-governance model which will further the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ, and

Whereas the people of the United Church of Christ, represented by their delegates to General Synod, have not been given the opportunity to discuss and debate proposed changes which have been more than three years in the making,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirm the principle of single governance for the national setting of the United Church of Christ, based on structures which will facilitate strategic planning, monitoring and oversight of the national setting's work, and support effective resource development, and

Be it further resolved that the proposal developed by Governance Team II and affirmed as a sufficient basis to restructure the national setting by the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministry Boards at their Fall 2008 meetings be used as the basis for this reorganization, and

Be it further resolved that the General Synod requests the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministry Boards to bring to the Twenty-Eighth General Synod a proposal for a single governance board with Constitution and By-Law changes necessary to begin implementation of that single governance board, and

Be it further resolved, that the General Synod requests the Executive Council to appoint a Working Group composed as it deems to be in the best interests of the UCC to guide this work in preparation for action by the Twenty-Eighth General Synod.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Executive Council is requested to implement this resolution.

Approved unanimously.

Center/Learn/Search

BOD 2009-22. Guffey-Lewis/Boege to confirm the appointment of John Byrne to replace Charles Knicker on the Center/Learn/Search Oversight Committee. Approved unanimously.

Strengthen-the-Church Offering

CM Pleva reported to the Board that the Conference is entitled to keep one-half of the proceeds of the annual Strengthen-the-Church offering. He requested that the Board authorize the use of these funds to underwrite the cost of engaging nationally recognized presenters at continuing education events.

BOD 2009-23. Sargent/Lang to authorize the use of the Conference's share of the proceeds from the annual Strengthen-the-Church offering to underwrite the cost of engaging nationally recognized presenters at continuing education events. Approved unanimously.

Nominations

CM Pleva presented the report of the Conference Nominating Committee.

BOD 2009-24. Schmidt/Boege to approve the report of the Iowa Conference Nominating Committee with the addition of the nomination of Sharon Guffey-Lewis to serve as an at-large member of the Board of Directors for a three-year term commencing in 2009. Approved unanimously.

BOD 2009-25. Lang/Nelson to appoint Joseph Deal to a three-year term on the Mayflower Homes Board of Trustees. Approved unanimously.

BOD 2009-26. Guffey-Lewis/Boege to accept the appointment of Brian Wohlhuter to serve as a representative of the Southwestern Association on the Board of Directors for the remaining term of Karen Jares, who has resigned. Approved unanimously.

Informational Items

CM Pleva presented the following informational items to the Board:

1. The meeting dates for the Board of Directors for 2009-2010 will be as follows (time and exact location to be announced later):
 - a. August 28/29 (Board retreat)
 - b. October 24
 - c. January 30
 - d. April 17
 - e. June 11 (to be held at Grinnell in conjunction with the 2010 Annual Meeting).
2. Copies of the following proposed policies or proposed amendments to existing policies were distributed to the Board for review:
 - a. Personnel policy
 - b. Financial Development plan
 - c. Endowment policy
 - d. Safe Church policy revisions
3. The Des Moines Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has withdrawn from participation in Iowa Religious Media Services.
4. The Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ has prepared a resolution of witness that it hopes will be submitted at an upcoming General Synod. It was distributed to the Board at the request of the NCN Conference.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Mary Stonebraker, Secretary