Council Minutes, Saturday, January 16, 2021, via ZOOM 10 AM – 3 PM

Conference Council Meeting Attendance, Saturday, January 16, 2021 10 AM – 3 PM ZOOM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raygan Baker</td>
<td>[X] Patsy Finster</td>
<td>[X] Theron Jones</td>
<td>[X] Brian Wetzel</td>
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<td>Richard Brabham</td>
<td>[X] David Gregory</td>
<td>[X] Maria Restivo</td>
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<td>Barbara Broadbent</td>
<td>[X] Tami Groves</td>
<td>[X] Jim Ross</td>
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<th>Ex-Officio Members</th>
<th>[X] Diane Weible</th>
<th>[X] Rob Parrish</th>
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The Opening Prayer/Welcome at 10:01 was led by Jeannie Hobson. The Covenant of Respect was read, followed by a brief Check-In by everyone. Revisiting the housing allowance for Diane Weible was added to the Agenda, and the amended agenda was approved M/S/P, and a quorum was declared.

**MOTION: Approve regular Minutes – November 21, 2020 M/S/P**

**MOTION: Approve executive session minutes – November 21, 2020**

The December email approval of the housing allowances was affirmed.

A discussion questions on “How To Be An Antiracist” – Chapters 7 & 8 was led by Diane Weible.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rob Parrish

Our apparent insolvency is due to the presence of the 50 K PPP loan. We don’t qualify for new state or federal PPP loans. The projected OCWM in the ongoing 2021 budget seems attainable. This is the first time in recent years that we haven’t shown a deficit at the end of the year.

**MOTION: Accept treasurer’s report. M/S/P**

**Annual Gathering Report:** Melissa Tumaneng/Raygan Baker

1. AG Theme is "The Elephant Speaks: Listen, Reflect, Learn."
2. Selected the pericope for AG. James 1:1-27 is what we’ll integrate into the AG events through the year. A shorter focused version is James 1:19-20 (RSV) and titled Hearing and Doing the Word.

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness."
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There is a new Manual on Leadership [MOL] in draft form, created by Daniel Ross-Jones. It addresses all aspects of service to the Conference. Since our bylaws stipulate that the slate of involvement be presented to the Annual Conference Meeting so that Committee members can start serving on July 1, we need to split the slate. One recommendation is for the Conference Council to extend their service until the October Annual Gathering Meeting. And the other Conference Committees have their slate presented at the upcoming March meeting.

MOTION: To empower Council to fill and approve nominations for conference committee positions that will expire on June 30, 2021, and bring the final slate to the October 2, 2021 Annual Gathering meeting for affirmation. M/S/P

MOTION: Current Conference Council members will continue to serve until the October 2, 2021 election. M/S/P

MOTION: Authorize FABC to get an official appraisal of Camp Cazadero property. M/S/P

3. March 13 Agenda is as follows. Specific length of time per item TBD after Council meeting. Also, TBD what time of day to set aside.
   * Worship/reflection
   * Council slate for 2021-22 (Vote)
   * Budget (Discuss & vote)
   * Camp Caz Property (discuss & vote)
   * Benediction
   All times will not need a second motion because they come from Council.

4. Began brainstorming the May 22 AG Workshop, what that may entail. Will firm up more in February.

5. The AM Business Committee will meet to update the Standing Rules, Section B dates. We anticipate June 1st for when the brief descriptions of (new) proposals are due.

MOTION: Accept AG report. M/S/P

PTA Resolution – Teaching Hard History: American Slavery in K-12 Education. We have been asked to sign onto this resolution.

MOTION: Approve signing onto the PTA Resolution. M/S/P
Background checks: Background checks are fully explained in the MOL, with the Praesidium being preferred. Cost is much less than before. Plan is to require them every two years for everyone involved in Conference Leadership and Ministry, lay or otherwise. The MOL is in draft form at present, but should be finalized soon. There was consensus on this issue.

We need a new Leadership Recruitment Committee, and Vice President Jim Ross indicated that he was unable to chair it at this time, so we appointed Al DeBella and Brian Wetzel as co-chairs. Members should be from all associations, and not Council Members. Total of 8, per bylaws. If anyone has a recommendation, please give them to Al and Brian. Also, if you have anyone in mind for any of the open slots on any of the committees, let them know that also.

“Juneteenth” is a very important date within the African American community.

MOTION: We acknowledge the Take The Pledge movement and establish a holiday for Juneteenth. M/S/P

Conference Minister Report: Diane Weible

Conference Minister SMART Goals for 2021

a. Support Churches: Pandemic and Post-Pandemic support including but not limited to conflict resolution, mediation, consult, preaching, Conference-wide sermons, resources, Youth and Camp Program discernment. Coming together to address the major issues facing our society related to pandemic and inequality—the problems are too big for us not to be doing this work together.

b. Nurture Ministers: Pandemic and Post-Pandemic support including but not limited to expanded Communities of Practice groups, phone calls, Zoom offerings for support, Recorded sermons, Weekly Coffee Hours, Support the work of Committee on Ministry.


d. Staff Supervisor: Administration structure; Support staff to be as equipped as possible to carry out their work.

e. Personal Goal: Continue to focus on work/life/exercise balance that prevents burnout and allows me to be more effective in my work and play, which includes Sabbatical. Commit to taking days off as I understand better how too many days without a break prevents me from showing up as my best self.

Various Updates

- Supporting Churches
  - Search and Call in Pandemic
  - Resource and support for a number of churches
- Uniting for Justice
  - Racial Justice Training ongoing. Watch the weekly newsletter for specifics.
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- Let’s Talk About Race
  - How do we come together to address the huge issues facing us as a country? How does The Church respond? What is our individual and collective role in this?

- Nurturing Leaders
  - Coffee Hours Reinstated
  - Recorded Sermons being well received and used.
  - Clergy Clinic
  - Committee on Ministry Life-Long Learning Requirements update. Creating a dashboard to make it easier on all.

- Staff
  - 2021 Sabbaticals
  - Staff Support

  **MOTION: Permission to continue up to 10 hours per week to help office. M/S/P**
    - Manual on Leadership: The draft copy has been given to Council Members to make suggestions before the February meeting.

Housing allowance. Diane has requested a modification of the allowance approved in December, upping the amount to $48K.

  **MOTION: Approve new $48 K amount, effective immediately. M/S/P**

Camp Updates:
Richard updated the Camp Cazadero situation. With the temporary suspension of the spring fed water system until May 2022, all camping operations are also suspended. Due to the lack of a place for Jeri to move to, she is living in the staff trailer at the barn and supplying her own water, as our guest. Her employment with the conference ended December 31, 2020.

Jeannie reported that Camp Tamarack has been buttoned up for the winter, The insurance payment was made, but the check has never arrived at the office, so it is being replaced.

  **Task Force Reports:**
  Richard introduced guests Holly Allen, Tyler Dickie, and Jason Hubbard, members of the Caz Financial Feasibility Group. They made a power-point presentation updating the progress.

  **MOTION: that the task force bring us several budget levels that we could fiscally hold on to the campus for three years [more figures] M/S/P**

  Jeannie reported that the Youth and Outdoor Ministries team is working hard on their report for all aspects of their goal, including the Resolution on Racism from October.
Camp Tamarack Dates. Given that there is hope with the arrival of the vaccine, dates for camps at Tamarack are: Junior Camp, July 18-24, Junior High, July 25-31, and Senior High August 1-7. All subject to State and County health officials approval.

**MOTION: Approve dates, as noted above. M/S/P**

Maria discussed planning a virtual FEB Camp for two hours one day for High School youth. Date to be determined. The Council blessed the idea.

**MOTION: Adjourn to Executive Session at 2:09 PM M/S/P**

Return to regular session at 2:25 for closing prayer by Diane Weible

**MOTION: Adjourn M/S/P**

Future Meetings:
- NCNC Council meeting; Feb 20, 2021
- Special Conference Meeting March 13, 2021
- Workshop Day #1 May 22, 2021
- Keynote Address & Interactive Discussion August 21, 2021
- Discernment Sessions & Business Meeting September 11, 2021
- Annual Meeting/Business Plenary October 2, 2021
- Workshop Day #2 November 13, 2021