

**Outdoor Ministries Association Board of Governors  
of the United Church of Christ  
March 12th, 2002**

Meeting convened at 8:00 pm

Present: Jeff Puhlman-Becker, Dana Fisher, Greg Pitman, David Knight, Dale Dressler, Curly Stumb, Judy Luther, Barbara Broadbent, Kirsten Baumgart-Turner, Bud Schroeder, Gary Halstead, Bryan Breault (arrived late)

Absent: Sharla Steever,

Introductions - What was the best thing that happened last summer?

**Regional Reports** - Staffing Highlights

Resignation of Karl Swenson, Moon Beach Managing Director

Amy Wick newly hired at Pilgrim Point

Arden Fritz retiring in May of this year from Pilgrim Pines.

Vicky and Dan Force coming on Staff at Pilgrim Pines.

Sharen Davids is new as the Outdoor Ministries and Youth ministries Staff in Illinois conference

Eric Johnson Has left Blowing Rock. Steve McDowell is acting director

Betsy Matten has left Hartman Center

Adjourned 10:15 pm

Reconvened 9:15 am

Approved minutes of November 11, 12 2001 with corrections - \$10,000 is not in a CD but is still in the checking account.

**Consult Planning report** - Theme stepping into the river twice Maren Tirabassi and Bryan Sirchio will lead worship and music. Preconsult will cover risk management issues with an emphasis on giving us the tools to make our camps safer.

Dates - Dinner on Feb 28 to Breakfast on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The planning committee asked board members for workshop ideas.

Judy reported that UCCIB has decided not to offer a discount for camps who are ACA accredited. It was an idea floated last year by UCCIB as a way to encourage camps to become accredited. **Jeff will write a letter to UCCIB for clarification and possible reconsideration.**

**Financial Report** - Greg

See attached reports or contact Greg for copies

Bryan requested that a letter be sent to remind members of dues. **Jeff said that one would be sent out in the Fall.**

**Scholarships to Consult** - Discussed using some of the money in our checking account for scholarships to Consult. Ideas that were discussed were to underwrite registration fees for camps to send groups of people i.e. a group of up to 5 registrants for \$500. **Jeff will look into consult costs and how much it may take to underwrite registration if we still charge for room and board.** It was decided that we would offer scholarships on an **as needed individual basis for consult XIV.** We will look into a scholarship structure for Consult XV

We also revisited the discussion of hiring an OMA intern from a seminary to relate to camps. Gary asked if the National church could help pay for this position? It was suggested that we form two committees one for scholarships and one for an internship.

**Dana will help Jeff with the internship.**

**We tabled further discussion of the scholarship issue until the November meeting.** We would work towards offering individual scholarships Consult XIV.

**"National Staff Goes to Camp"** (previously known as 700 goes to camp) - Dana Airfare is paid by national office. The hosting camp provides R&B. **Dana is sending a questionnaire to help place the National staff person in an appropriate setting that will make the best use their gifts. There will also be a questionnaire going to sites to assess what their needs are and to enable June and Dan to find a good match.**

Jeff sent a letter of thanks to John Thomas for National Staff Goes to Camp and an invitation to attend consult 14

**November OMA board meeting** - Bryan suggested that we meet in Cleveland in November. The consensus was that we would do this. **Jeff will contact June to see what week day dates she would be available in November.**

**ACA Accreditation writing workshop** - It was decided that we would organize an ACA accreditation writing workshop (min 5-6 people), We will try to schedule ACA writing workshop and board meeting one after the other to help board members consolidate flights. **Curly and Dana will organize the ACA workshop.**

Jeff explored our **legal relationship with the National Church** as a way to obtain insurance for our board and for the activities we sponsor. He was encouraged that they will be exploring this further. At this point we are still not insured because we are not a legal entity and we are not incorporated. We can investigate insuring the Consult as an event. If we cannot be legally tied with the National Church we would need to look at being legally incorporated. We are exposed to risk when we run and endorse Consult. Since we do not endorse any camp that is not already tied to a conference or association or church of the UCC we are not exposed to liability from our member camps.

**Dana noted that we need to budget insurance for consult. ~\$400**

**Brochure Grant from the National Office** - \$4,000 is now in our account. This is added to an earlier grant of \$4,000 for a total of \$8,000 The brochure is in the works. **Jeff will email the text for the boards input. Jeff will send Bryan the text and Bryan will send final text and pictures to his printer for publishing.**

**By-Laws are on hold until we hear from the National Church regarding the status of our relationship**

June is looking for someone to work with **multiculturalism in the church** They need someone who can sit on a Committee.

June is also looking for someone to help write the NCC curriculum. Jeff, Greg, Gary, and Barbara gave names of folks in their areas that might be qualified. **Jeff will mail forms to Greg Gary and Barbara.**

**Board will not meet during the post Consult trips.** Rather the board will be encouraged to go along or take a day of rest after Consult.

**OMA workcamps** - Curly informed us of history of OMA workcamps and possible projects for future. Future options include Deering Center, a project in Rhode Island (which needs more research), and Back Bay Mission. Maybe Deering or Slumber Falls this fall and Back Bay in Fall of 2003. It was suggested that we explore SALSA as an Educational component of the experience if the workcamp is here at Slumber Falls. **Greg will talk to June and then directly to MA conference** to see whether a Deering project would be appropriate given that the state of the relationship between Deering Center and the MA conference is not clear. **Decision within the next three weeks so workcamp info can go out with Jeff's next letter to membership. - Curly will chose a date.**

There was an Educator's meeting in Baltimore and Jeff sent a display. June says there was a fair amount of interest from participants.

**OM directory** - It has been difficult to find those camps are owned by individual churches and associations. We refined the criteria that camps can be included if a local church owned camp is available for wider use. It was decided to keep directory on the website for ease of use, ease of updates, etc.

Bryan suggested that we link our websites and the OMA site to John Thomas UCC news article.

**National council of Churches Outdoor Ministries** - Karen Tate is our representative. It was suggested that we should have someone who is in a better position to relate the concerns of this board and who can then regularly report back to this board. After a brief discussion **the consensus was that the representative should be a member of this board.** We need to find out - when, were and how often this person would meet with the NCC OM committee and the length of terms. **Jeff will call Karen to gather more information.**

**Religiously Affiliated Camps of the ACA** - We used to have a representative to the when we were NACOMM. **Greg will research the responsibilities of this position and the benefits.**

**OMA board membership** - Gary is looking for replacement for Betsy. He suggested that we look to the new York Association since they are interested in becoming more active in OMA.

Sharla may be interested in staying on even though an OM site no longer employs her. It is possible that she would need to take time off without pay to attend. The general consensus was that we cannot offer payments to board members to serve. She will stay on for the time being.

**Mission statement** - It was discussed that we need to investigate our mission statement and revise/revisit at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45

Dinner at the River Walk in San Antonio