

OMA Board meeting November 21st, 2003 At Irons Homestead RI

Members Present: **New England** Kathy Duckworth (07) Bryan Breault ((05) **Mid Atlantic** Bruce Druckenmiller (07) Gary Halstead (05) **Southern** Charles Stark (05) **Great Lakes** Jeff Puhmann-Becker (05) Dale Dressler (07) **West Central** Sharon Haun (05) Judie Luther (07) **Western** Barbara Broadbent (07) Dave Knight (05) **At Large** Ira Williams (07) Kirsten Baumgart Turner (05)

Members absent: Southern Bud Schroeder (07)

8:30 Friday night

Regional reports

Great Lakes

Sharon Davids has left Illinois Conference. Jeff reported that they have eliminated the administrative position. Site managers are still at each site.

Western

Hawaii Board is full of dedicated people but there has not been movement forward lately. Kirsten has resigned from the camp board. Kirsten's new pastor is excited about Outdoor ministries so there may be some new excitement coming into the situation.

Mickey Stone was just a couple days away from evacuating Pilgrim Pines due to the fires in California and the wind changed. She stresses disaster awareness and suggests that the Consult Planning team consider a workshop on the topic.

Mid Atlantic

Mench Mill construction has begun. \$500,000 worth of environmental regulations has added to the cost. They have hired a development director to take over Gary's development portfolio.

Southern

Charles passed out a letter regarding their new "Christian hospitality" program at Slumber Falls.

West Central

White Memorial shared programming with the Disciples of Christ folks. This has increased number of campers greatly.

New England

Financial issues in New Hampshire conference has created some cuts in their funding of Horton Center.

Kathy - numbers down 15% at covenant Hills but that still put them at 85% of capacity.

Irons Homestead filled every camp this year. (Capacity is 25)

National

June reported that there have been more layoffs in the national office. Curriculum is ready June brought a copy. National Youth event material is also available as well as various other materials.

Saturday Morning

Financial Report

Jeff gave the financial report in Bud's absence. See attached report. Spending was in the red approximately \$10,800 for the year

Balance in the checkbook as of the meeting is \$16,545.

Expenses for 2003 included ACA Camp survey, a brochure that we contributed to for the NCC, and some monetary help to publish the NCCC Administrators Handbook.

We now have liability insurance for the board.

Pacific Northwest conference still owes money for Consult 13 for program fees for the folks they sent. It has not been paid. Letters have been sent to request payment. The consensus of the board is that we forgive the debt in recognition of all the assistance they gave us during Consult at Camp Adams.

Consult Planning Team

Gary gave a report on the planning team's work on Consult 15.

See minutes from panning team meeting - attached

There was much discussion of the site choice of Silver Lake. It was decided that we need to be very intentional that we make it possible for the directors (Tim and Ann) at Silver Lake to participate as much as possible both at consult in 2005 and when the OMA board meets there in 2004.

Moved by Charles a seconded by Barbara to add Bryan to the Planning team as a means to help Tim and Ann with hosting.

Kirsten suggested adding a nature specific workshop i.e. connection to God through God's creation.

Kathy spoke on Pre-consult plans - How to minister to challenging campers. We may want to consider opening up pre-consult to other folks in the area that may be interested in this topic.

Bryan suggested that the big "get their attention this is going to be a great event" happen in September rather than December.

Bryan suggested that we all be intentional to put the Consult event on our websites. And the PDF file of the September flyer on the OMA Website. We can all link to that.

Gary Iran Kathy and Bryan will visit Silver Lake on December 8th to make a final determination concerning the site for Consult XV (2005)

Discussion of Constitution and by-laws:

Existing bylaws were never passed except "in principle". (See minutes from March 28th, 1995) This gives the board the leeway to rewrite the constitution to be presented for official approval at the 2005 consult.

The board discussion gave direction to the constitution and by laws task force to come up with a

draft and then a recommendation to the board for the fall 2004 meeting.

Motion: Terms of each board member are 4 years. A board member may succeed themselves for one more term no board member may serve for more than 8 consecutive years.

Kirsten – Gary 2nd

Passed

Motion: Unexpired terms will be filled by appointment by the executive committee of the board in consultation with the respective region.

Ira - Bruce 2nd

Passed

Motion: Board members going off the board can not serve another term until they have been off the board for two years.

Ira – Bryan 2nd

Passed

We discussed current board members, year elected, first or second term and class – See attachment for current list.

Discussed committees that should be provided for in the constitution

Consult committee -

Nominating committee - chaired by vice president

Finance committee - The treasurer will be on this committee

The president will appoint other committees or task forces at his/her discretion as need arises.

Jeff read the auditors review of the books. See attached report.

Dates for Spring board meeting

Last weekend in Feb or the first weekend in March.

Jeff will call Silver Lake to see if the Feb date is available.

Dates For Consult XV 2005

First weekend of March

Jeff will firm this date with Silver Lake.

Sunday Morning

Said our Goodbyes to Ira

National goes to camp update. Bruce reported:

Lorin Cope visited Southern Conference Camps

Steve Johnson went somewhere

June Boutwell visited N-Sid- Sen

Ken Brown Also paid a visit to a camp

We are hoping for better participation next year

ACA accreditation writer's workshop.

Curly proposes 2nd or 3rd weekend in November (2004) at John's River Valley camp. Curly would run it with Greg and or Mickey. \$1,000 from UCCIB is committed.

Chose 2nd weekend and OMA board will also meet before during or after the event.

Work camp

It was discussed that it is difficult to plan this around Consult. Other dates were discussed. It was decided to leave it up to the work camp task force and give them our blessing. This will be an OMA sponsored event.

Motion We will ask Greg Pitman and Curly Stumb will organize a work camp on behalf of the OMA Board and that this event will be officially sponsored by the OMA board.

Gary - 2nd Charles
Passed

ACA benchmark survey

CD of results will be available to those who participated will be available for \$10. They extended the deadline again.

Camp Attendance Survey

Judie shared results of survey on camp attendance. Most camps were down as much as 10-15%. One was down 30%. Any increases were modest. ACA has seen similar results.

Insurance meeting with Tim White.

Tim would like to meet with us. **Jeff and Gary** will meet with him as representatives of the OMA Board.

NCC curriculum.

Some sites are changing the name from "Join the Party" to Join God's party etc. June needs readers to review 2005 curriculum. They need curriculum writers for future years. Things are improving with timing, getting evaluations and new writers. Supplemental CD/materials will be sent out in the future. Camp song book/CD are also planned for future releases.

Jeff is paying a writer to write an adult and an intergenerational piece that fits with the curriculum for 2004. Bryan Sirchio is writing a song. Jeff will be asking for \$50 for his supplemental material.

Meeting with NCCC

Jeff and Bud went this meeting for OMA last year. **Jeff offered to go again this year.** We have donated money to produce an NCCC administrative manual and Jeff will be there to check on the process.

Outdoor Ministries brochure - Feedback

Most of us are using it with our displays, groups, committees etc.

There may be some value in showing the depth and breadth of the ministry of Outdoor Ministries. Bryan explained that this brochure was designed to be eye catching with lots of pictures rather than a lot of text that could illuminate the depth and breadth of Outdoor Ministries in the UCC.

Bryan asked for direction as he develops a recruitment brochure for colleges and seminaries.

Bryan said he will do the layout and he asked for someone to help with content. Jeff will help with the text.

Approved minutes from the spring meetings at Slumber Falls 2003 with corrections.

Regional Meetings

Barbara asked for an update on regional meetings. Could OMA offer support to help these happen? If participation is down and expenses are up who is responsible for deficits? Can OMA Board put some weight behind these events to assure that they happen? Sites in the region could put up some seed money to help with the initial expenses?

Perhaps Deering money could be used as seed money for regions to hold meetings (abetments) in the off consult years.

Encourage regions to work towards gearing the gathering to be to cooks, maintenance, housekeeping, board members, etc. as consult becomes more of a Director/manager/program gathering.

Jeff and Dale will produce a document explaining the concept of regional meetings to encourage them to happen. They will distribute a draft to board members for their input. They will try to have a document to share at the spring meeting.

Took some time to say goodbye to Kathy

Deering Money -

Deering was sold to an independent organization with some history to the UCC. After a year, the funds have been consolidated and internal controls have been established. June has worked to make sure we will be able to begin to use of the income from the Deering moneys in 2004. To be used only for the support of Outdoor Ministries. June will do grant requests to draw funds for use. 2004 income stream is projected to be \$15,100. We would need to make proposals to June if we want to use any of the money. Any one of the constituents of the UCC can apply for the funds. Programs that could possibly be funded i.e. Ecucamps, sabbaticals, vocational camps, summer internship ministry, OMA intern, regional meetings, consult support, etc. Some of these projects can be partnered with other ministries in the UCC that could bring some of their own money to the project.

There is a grant proposal form that will need to be submitted by the requesting group. June can send the form to anyone who is interested in applying.

Bryan asked if we could request a portion of the money be designated to be set aside to be used by OMA. June encouraged us to ask the question but she was not the person that would make that decision. Local Church Ministry would be the decision making body on how the money is ultimately used.

Jeff and Kirsten have agreed to work on proposed guidelines for the use of the Outdoor Ministries Fund.

Motion:

June and Jeff will work on a grant proposal to the OMF to help underwrite the writers workshop.

Charles –Bruce 2nd

passed

Adjourned to say good bye to Dale, Gary and David and then to worship together.

Respectfully Submitted

Dale Dressler

Secretary

Addendum

November 20-21, 2003

Consult Planning Committee

Gary: Convener

Barbara: Scribe

Other Planning Committee Members: Kathy, Ira, Jeff (ex-officio)

Preliminary Theme: Surprise! God Calling: (based on 2005 NCC Outdoor Ministries curriculum)

Workshop planning will begin with a survey of past participants asking and expanding upon the following questions:

What workshop would you like to lead?

Which of the possible workshops would you go to?

What other workshops would you like to suggest?

The Committee's Workshop Ideas:

Program

Hospitality

Traditions that benefit and deter

How to support special needs campers

Program driven building design

Spirituality with young campers

“Surprise! God's Calling” orientation to the curriculum

Labyrinth, building, temporary, using with various age groups

How to think theologically in outdoor ministry

Non-traditional arts & crafts at camp

Operations

Food services, best practices

Maintenance, best practices

Housekeeping, best practices

Management

Models for structuring/developing OM boards /committees

Crisis response/Disaster preparedness

Nightmares/Learning from our mistakes

Marketing to the local church

Conference program

Hosting the local church program

Marketing your camp's retreat business (outside groups)

Funding

Fundraising

Capital Campaigns
ACA certification
Technology
 Website design/Photography
 Registration software
Site development from scratch
Envisioning the second ten years
Personal policies dos & don'ts
How to create a budget (other than inheriting one)

Staff

Permanent staff relations & nurture
Long-term summer staff
Volunteer short-term staff
Recruiting, interviewing, hiring (choosing), training, supporting,
background checks)
Keeping energy going throughout the summer
Intentional faith development
Sabbatical planning
Self care /nurturing your own spirituality

Reading Room idea: (An alternative to having a bookstore) Ask each person to bring their three favorite books (labeled) and people can look at them and buy on their own. Secure in a room with comfortable chairs, tables etc. Provide a way to get online to order things immediately.

Also ask people to bring camp store items and names of distributors

Possible workshop leaders:

Mark Burkhardt (board development)
Nancy Ferguson (curriculum project manager)

Addendum

Outdoor Ministry Association - United Church of Christ
Board Terms
November 2003

Region Elected	Class	1 st or 2 nd Term*	Year
New England			
Kathy Duckworth	07	1	03
Bryan Breault	05	2	99
Mid Atlantic			
Bruce Druckenmiller	07	1	03
Gary Halstead	05	2	99
Southern			
Bud Schroeder (TREAS)	07	2	99
Charles Stark	05	1	03
Great Lakes			
Dale Dressler (SEC)	07	2	99
Jeff Puhlmann-Becker (P)	05	2	97
West Central			
Sharon Haun	05	1	03
Judie Luther (VP)	07	2	01
Western			
Barbara Broadbent	07	2	01
Dave E. Knight	05	1	01
At Large			
Ira Williams	07	1	03
Kirsten Baumgart Turner	05	2	01
National Staff			
June Boutwell			

* Terms are 4 years. Filling a 2nd term means the board member is not eligible for re-election. Some board members will be serving less than 8 years (if they chose to stay on for another term). This allows each region to have staggered terms and assures that no board member would then be serving for more than 8 years.