

OMA Board Meeting
March 1, 2006
Merom Conference Center

Members Present

Mid Atlantic Bruce Druckenmiller (07 1st term) Jeremy Force (09 1st term)
New England Leslie Desrosier (09 1st term) Kathy Duckworth (07 1st term)
Southern Charles Stark (09 2nd term)
Great Lakes Dale Dressler (07 2nd term)
West Central Sharon Haun (07 1st term) Judie Luther (09 2nd term)
Western Barbara Broadbent (07 2nd term) Kaila Russell (09 1st term)
At Large Ira Williams (07 1st term) Michael Simms (09 1st term)
National Staff Da Vita McCallister

Members Absent –

Southern (07 vacant)
Great Lakes (09 vacant)

Leslie shared opening Ash Wednesday Worship

Introductions

Accept the agenda - approved by consensus

Approval of the minutes – approved with corrections by consensus.

Financial Report – Kathy handed out report and a letter from Sue Meyer who audited the books for 2003, 2004, 2005 and found them in good order.

Discussed dues and when and why folks, camps, conferences, might want to pay them. How do we encourage them to pay dues? Bruce suggested a letter in the beginning of the year requesting dues for the year. Then two letters in the fall – one thanking those that paid and one that asks again. Kathy suggested that we, as board members make a follow-up call to those camps that have not paid and explain why we feel it a value to us.

What value can we add to an OMA membership – Group purchasing, free administration/facilities manual, Intellicorp group access, networking, list serve, web links, and other benefits both tangible and intangible? Ira, Mike, and Greg Pitman will work on this and bring us something in November.

Judie will write a letter to sites and conferences. She will send the letter to regions to add the regional members name to the letter. Before the letter goes out board members will call conferences to get updated information. We will then let Charles know any updates we might have. We need to make the calls very soon.

There was a question if Sue Meyer is a CPA and if the statement that a real audit was done is actually true if she isn't a CPA. Judie will get clarification on whether the audit was truly an audit done by a CPA and we will accept or reject at November meeting.

Sharon raised the issue of a disclaimer needed on the web site that those listed as members of OMA are not bound by the resources contained in the links as if they are expectations. "These resources are not recommendations..."

Motion to accept financial report. Ira – Bruce –Passed by acclamation - Rah Rah Kathy

Judie now has a debit card for OMA business.

Web site-

Domain name is registered through 2008. Charles is going to search for another host. He will do more updates and a redesign. Send Charles info to post so he doesn't have to hunt it down himself. Send pictures, essays, interesting links, etc.

Charles has also set up a web based email list for sending out HTML emails, newsletter, etc. to members etc. to announce changes to web site etc.

Dale will send Charles a web page with a map of US with links to sites.

Board membership –

Cynthia Speller said yes for Great Lakes (09 1st term), Bill Bourdon said yes for Southern (07 1st term). Cynthia will finish an 09 term and be eligible for one more 4 year term. Bill Bourdon will finish an 07 term and be eligible for one more 4 year term.

Discussion of ethnic and racial diversity of OMA board. The Constitution and By-laws have no statement on diversity of the board and/or in outdoor ministries. Do we need to reflect the diversity statements of the national church?

Dale moved that the board review the constitution and bylaws in 4 years. Barbara second.

Discussion

Dale feels that a constitution and By-Laws should be a document that doesn't change as often as the board changes. They are meant to be fairly permanent. Since we just passed several changes at Consult XV we need to live with them for a while before we change them.

Kathy suggested that board instructs the nominating committee to strongly consider diversity when recruiting new members.

Others felt that the diversity issue is too important to put off beginning to make the changes in four years.

Motion failed.

It was decided that we would discuss bylaw change and it will go before the membership at Consult 2007.

Barbara suggested that we consider becoming ONA

Motion that we change the language in section 3 B to read “The board directs the nominating committee to give special consideration to race, age, gender and sexual orientation, when considering nominations to the board” and that this will be presented to consult in 2007. Mike - Bruce second.

Friendly amendment to change language to “diversity” instead of listing categories of people which we don’t discriminate - by Dale. Amended motion reads: ... The board directs the nominating committee to give special consideration to diversity, when considering nominations...

Motion and amendment passed

Da Vita

Announced that there is a \$1,000 grant for consult from the Deering money for Consult XVI

Da Vita explained the budget for her area of ministry at national, the history of the fund and how the Deering money fits in. The interest available is ~\$13,000 each year. Individuals and sites need to make application for a grant to her and the appropriate national staff makes a determination of grant application. Historically it has been used for programming and most probably will continue to be used for programming.

Judie asked Da Vita to be present at Consult and explain the fund. Barbara asked if the Board or an OMA person could be included in the process of reviewing grant applications and awards. Da Vita explained that there may be some resistance to bringing people into the process who are not a member of the staff that has a fiduciary responsibility to administer the funds. Barbara asked for a consulting role rather than for a voice in the final determination.

Da Vita invited us to put together some thoughts and/or recommendations for administering the fund. Dollar limits per site? Dollar limits per program? Etc?

General Synod Display – Ira Leslie and Kathy are still planning to organize the display depending on financial considerations. The display table may be \$1,000 or more. Da Vita may be able to make display space available in her area.

Da Vita told us about the “What Matters to You?” program. Send into National your thoughts and a picture of what matters to you. For youth, young adults, outdoor ministries. This is not a UCC campaign. It is a YYO program (Youth and Young Adults and Outdoor Ministries).

Da Vita talked about changes in the calendar and that there may be an opportunity to insert a recognition of OMA as a related organization but since their might be a reduction in the amount of space available it may be even more difficult to add something. Da Vita will keep an eye on this for us.

All church mailings – Da Vita can give us access to the all church mailing if we want to use it. There are costs involved. 3,000 addresses.

Three things she can do for us and encourage us to do.

OMC brochure out in All Church Mailing

Distribute OMC or other brochure in the packets that are handed out to tours groups that come through the Church House

Add on our web site links to the YAYA website. Dale will send her the map with links to sites.

Mike asked if we could be added to the UCC web site in a more prominent place. Da Vita can not promise results but will see what she can do.

Da Vita stressed that she knows how important OMA is and asks us to make sure we don't assume that she is not interested if she is not able to respond to calls, emails, etc. right away. She pledges to return all contacts within 48 hours.

Seminary Brochure –

Ira has not heard if it is indeed complete. Dale thought Jeff had said that it was.

ACA workshop –

Not able to do it this spring but will try to do it this fall. Judie stressed that we need to make sure it happens with plenty of lead time. Jeremy will pull together info before the end of March.

General Synod –

Ira was ready to give it up due to price but now is renewed interest with Da Vita's offer of space. More people will be there with the “You all come” synod where more people are invited. There is a potential for more parents attending that we could give our material too. We will have our own space our own table within the Local Church

Ministries/Worship and Education area. Kathy Leslie and Ira will have more details on the display in November.

Background Checks –

Don Clark told Ira that the new procedure for Parish Life and Leadership (\$140 background checks) is not binding on other entities in the UCC. Charles will put links on the web for those sites that some of our sites already use (with a disclaimer that sites are not bound to use these procedures).

OMA Mission Review –

There is a link on the web site that might be interpreted as our mission statement. It is similar to what appears in our Constitution and by-laws. A revised version appears below:

Recognizing and affirming Outdoor Ministries as a significant partner in the ministry and future of the Church, the mission of the Outdoor Ministries Association United Church of Christ is to advise, connect and advocate on behalf of the network of persons responsible for outdoor ministries in the United Church of Christ, so that we may work together to meet their needs and find common solutions, deepening and broadening the understanding of the intradependence of the whole of God's creation on behalf of the whole church.

By consensus the board affirms the version that appears in the constitution with minor grammatical corrections. Charles will update the wording when he updates the site.

OMA National recognition Real time update

- OMA is on the UCC web but several clicks deep – we are not under the ministries tab. Da Vita will see about making OMA a part of a larger collection of outdoor ministries resources under a new link similar to the Youth link and the Young adult link.

Curriculum

Mike encourages us to help write the curriculum. He had a good experience. There has been some frustration as some names were given to persons who organize the writers but they were never contacted. Mike helped write the senior high curriculum for this summer and was applauded by the board.

Regional Reports – Shared info from our regions

Da Vita asked that we send her brochures from each camp.

Da Vita has offered to come to our sites in our regions for special events, retreats, a visit with the director or youth person etc.

Consult Planning Team Report – Barbara

See separate minutes for Planning Team meeting

Miscellaneous items:

Kaila offered to do a basket weaving during the experiential time.

Da Vita asked if we could collect upcoming events from regional meetings at consult to put together a master schedule that may be posted somewhere.

Motion to add Cynthia Speller Great Lakes (09 1st term), and Bill Bourdon Southern (07 1st term) to board Leslie - Barbara passed.

A reminder that each of us on board contact the conference ministers in our region to invite them to Consult real soon.

Ira updated us on Volunteers in Service and there is a new person in charge of volunteer services Mary Shaller Blaufuss -

Respectfully submitted

Dale Dressler
Secretary