

**General OMA Membership Meeting  
November 7, 2012  
Cleveland, UCC Church House**

**Consult XIX:** November 4-7, 2013 at Blowing Rock Conference Center in North Carolina. Bill Bourdon, site manager of Blowing Rock is looking forward to partnering with John's River Valley on this event.

- Bill gave an explanation of Consult for new members at our meeting.
- Suggestions for the event included: Inviting Christopher Grundy for music, Developing national strategic plan for Outdoor Ministries, a Facilities management program, worship focused on NCC curriculum

**Budget Report:** Financial Report was given by Treasurer, Bill Bourdon. He also gave an explanation of Deering Funds and how they are distributed. Sites who have received the Deering Grant in the past year reported on how they used their grant money.

**National Council of Churches Representation:**

Leah Atkinson Bilinski reported on the new partnership with Chalice Press as well as future plans for the group. Leah would love to receive input from OMA regarding the curriculum. There will be a meeting regarding the curriculum at Camp Mack in Midford, Indiana April 8-11, 2013. She is looking for 2-3 others to attend this gathering with her. Please contact Leah if interested. This request will also be added in a letter to the OMA general membership.

**Religious Affiliated Camps:**

RAC is seeking representation from the OMA community to help with planning of workshops and events. It is requested that this person is from an ACA accredited camp. Let Jeremy know if you are interested in serving in this role. This request will also be included in written letter to OMA general membership.

**ACA Accredited Camps:**

The following UCC camps have ACA Accreditation:

Mensch Mill, Living Waters, Johns River Valley, Covenant Hills, Pilgrim Lodge, Templed Hills, Tower Hills, Pilgrim Park, Pilgrim Pines. It was noted that there is an insurance savings if ACA accredited. We are all encouraged to become part of the wider ACA community.

**Mission 4/1 Earth:**

- OMA needs to keep Waltrina Middleton informed and updated as to what sites are doing as part of this mission.
- Kim Harris is the contact person between OMA membership and National Church.
- Ben Guess joined us as we entered into this exciting partnership. Together we brainstormed possible projects individual sites could be involved in, as well as the partnership between OMA and National.
- OMA is looking for 100% participation from OMA member sites! Each site is encouraged to come up with a project, and create a one-minute video that tells about it. (video created at camp site and including youth).

**Report from Meeting with Collegium:**

OMA board presented the general membership with insights from our meeting. Highlights from the discussion included:

- Looking for relevance and how we can partner
- Recognition of OMA as a ministry within the UCC
- They asked us some tough questions, some of which we could not answer...Do we have a national strategic plan? We are wondering if that is our purpose as OMA.
- Collegium stated that there similarity between what is happening in the local churches and our Outdoor Ministry sites. OMA is curious if this is an accurate statement.
- Suggestion of doing a survey regarding how many called clergy receive their call at summer camp.
- Work on covenantal relationship between camps, conferences and local churches.
- Blurring boundaries – shared camps and ministries – collaboration to serve our people, reaching out to other camps.
- Geoffrey Black would like to try to get OMA a seat at the table of Conference of Conference Ministers.
- We need to make distinction between Outdoor Ministry and our sites. Looking down the road, where do we stand?
- We are an extension of the local church, so we need to find ways to get into the local church and establish relationships.
- We are all fighting for the same resources that are dwindling.
- An incredible amount of trust is put on our camp managers. Even when they are doing their very best job, they are a huge liability to the conferences.
- Our camps can grow our youth programs and local churches.

This meeting was an exciting first step!

**National Youth Event Report:**

General membership was informed about the impact OMA had on the event. Many thanks to Tim Hughes and Kim Harris for their leadership at NYE.

**General Synod Resolution:**

Anne Hughes presented the revised resolution. She gave background of the resolution process and reminded us that one of the main goals was to raise awareness on the national level - As we gather together as a body, we want to be acknowledged as part of the ministry.

There was rich discussion about the tone and intent of the resolution. It was suggested that if anyone had further input they should contact Anne in the next couple of days.

A comment that was shared at the end of our gathering created a moment for pause...

We are not just in the business of changing lives, but rather, saving lives. It is our responsibility to minister to the church of today and the church of tomorrow.

M/S/P to adjourn.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kaila Russell, OMA Board Secretary