

OMA-UCC
February 16, 2012 Board Meeting
Phoenix, Az. UCC Conference Office

Meeting was called to order by Jeremy Force

Members present: Bill Bourdon, Jeremy Force, Ryan Gackenheimer, Kim Harris, Anne Hughes, Mollie Landers, Joyce Oyler, Glenn Svetnicka, Neal Washburn, Kaila Russell, and Waltrina Middleton (National Staff Liaison)

Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Jeremy gave a brief overview of the **OMA Board responsibilities** which include: Connection with sites, planning events such as Consult and OMA-PG, oversight of the Deering Grant funds, and advocates for all.

The Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed. Our Mission Statement was read.

Site reports were given by board reps .

Sites were redistributed as we have four new board members. Sites should be contacted 2x/yr

- Bill Bourdon has agreed to contact non-member sites which include:
Michigan Conference, Shannondale, Northern Plains, Pilgrim Heights, White Memorial, Craigville, Star Island, Irons Homestead, Dunkirk, St. John's Camp, Florida Conference, Hawaii Conference and Northern California
- Jeremy Force: MoVal, John's River
- Ryan Gackenheimer: Covenant Hills, Dubois Center, Horton Center and Kaleo
- Kim Harris: Mimanagish, Pilgrim Point, Placerville, Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park
- Anne Hughes: Pilgrim Lodge, Silver Lake, Camp Adams
- Mollie Landers: Hartman Center, Mensch Mill, Living Waters
- Joyce Oyler: Tempel Hill, Pilgrim Hills, Franklinton Center, Pilgrim Cove
- Kaila Russell: N-Sid-Sen, Pilgrim Firs and Individual Members
- Glenn Svetnicka: Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center, Merom
- Neal Washburn: Pilgrim Pines, Slumber Falls

Report from Waltrina Middleton – Our liaison to the National Church Office

- The national office will comp an exhibit space at the National Youth Event for OMA to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana July 10-13, 2012. Waltrina is encouraging us to make it interactive and energetic! Kim Harris will be our OMA contact person for NYE.
- General Synod – June 28-July 2, 2013 Long Beach, CA
Waltrina has challenged us to find different ways to integrate OM into the event. Some ideas for our booth include a clothesline with t-shirts, campfire, smores, singing, technology, collective brochure, QR code for websites, including youth and young adults to help.

Other ideas outside of the booth include the possibilities of t-shirt day, (Possible t-shirt idea – My faith was formed at camp...Ask me how!) prayer, litany, song, camp choir with strolling guitarist. It is important to also include opportunities for employment, faith and vocational development in our brochures or at the booth. Remind youth and young adults that they can connect with OMA by being a counselor, a camper, resource person. Lift up with visuals of specialty camps. Offer up post high school opportunities and job training. **The OMA board is willing to offer funds to help make this happen!**

- In the future, we need a member from OMA on the NYE planning team.
- OMA has empowered the task force created at Consult to move forward with planning for these two events. Task force members include Dana Sprenkle, Bruce Druckenmiller, Leah Bilinski, Wade Zick, Tim and Anne Hughes, Kim Harris, and Natalie Becker. The task force will contact member sites and ask, "How do you want us to represent you at NYE and General Synod?"
- How can UCC News and KYP ads be better utilized to help promote OM?
- What are our next steps for the website? When we are ready for a transition to national website, we should contact Waltrina.
- CYYAM (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministry) has plans to meet at some of our OM sites. Feel free to invite them to your site.
- Food for thought...Waltrina asked us how we would like to connect with the national church? How can we develop relationships with conferences? How can we share the reality of the pain that is happening in some of our conferences and sites, and also share reasons for celebration? What is the goal, message, and proper approach to package what we have to offer as OM sites?
- The best way for Waltrina to be our advocate is to know our wishes.

OMA-PG – November 6-8 in Cleveland

Bill Bourdon and Glenn Svetnicka are working together to plan this educational event. Don Clark and Mary Klein will be our presenters. Mollie Landers and Ryan Gackenheimer will lead worship. Bill Bourdon will send out "save the date" for PG along with an invoice for membership dues and thank yous to those who have already paid. Deering Grant applications will be included as well.

Consult XIX-

It was m/s/p to have Consult XIX at Blowing Rocking Camp and Conference Center in November 2013. Planning committee consists of Glenn, Bill, Curly, Joyce, Kim and Kaila.

Treasurer's Report- Bill Bourdon

- A report was presented to the board which included an income statement and balance sheet.
- *Bill proposed that he will create a 2 year budget and present it to the board at our November meeting. This 2 year budget will be posted on the website for the general membership.*
- *Glenn and Bill will create a PG budget and email the OMA Board.*

- It was m/s/p that *Bill will have a conversation with his CPA to audit books and bring proposal to November board meeting.*

National Council of Churches Curriculum-

- Jeff Puhlmann-Becker has been liaison for years and has recently resigned.
- As we think about replacement, it has been recommended by the OMA board that the liaison is a member of OMA, is willing to commit to 4 years of service, is willing to submit an annual report to the OMA board, be available to member sites for consulting, and if possible, come to our annual meeting. Telecom meeting is also an option.
- OMA will fund yearly NCCC meeting
- m/s/p to invite Leah Bilinski to serve this role. *Kaila will call her. Jeremy will follow up with Jeff and Leah.*

Deering Grants –

Pilgrim Center received a Deering Grant 2 years ago, and the planned program did not happen. However, another program in the spirit of the Deering Grants did happen. UCCI presented a question to the OMA Board asking if they should refund the money or if it could be applied to the SHIFT music event. m/s/p that the monies be spent on SHIF, but we would like a written report on how it was spent. *Glenn will follow up with this.*

Further Discussions-

- What is the future of OMA? How do we position ourselves to be stronger in the future than we are today? Empowerment? Benchmarks that measure success accountability? Who does the work of OMA? Is it exclusively the board?
- How can OMA resource youth and young adults with info they need to help their voices be heard? These may include leadership development, faith and vocation development, stewardship and environmental justice. How can we develop relationships with local churches, asking the question, “How can we help you?”
- How can we resolve the disconnect with local churches, conferences, and national?
- Perhaps we need to ask Waltrina the question, “What can we do for the national office?” rather than “What can the national office do for us?”
- The core components of OMA is that we are a church camp, we offer faith development, we worship in an inclusive church community that does not just use the outdoors as a backdrop, but rather as intentional living in God’s sacred space.
- We are living out our mission statement!
- *Jeremy will send out an e-letter to all of our sites which will include the following: The benefits of being an OMA member, needs/expectations for NYE (brochures, t-shirts, opportunities), pictures, and info on the closed facebook group.*
- *Neal Washburn will be asked to set up a closed facebook group for sites. Board members will be administrators.*
- *Bill will check with the Presbyterian Consulting Board and invite them to our November meeting. It will be good to ask them how what they have is working for them.*

- *Kaila will contact Kenny at Merom to support facility managers gathering. Encourage a facebook conversation regarding Gary Forrester training. OMA is willing to help make this happen.*
- *Glenn will send a note of thanks to Holly for the wonderful hospitality offered at the conference office in Phoenix, as well as a note of thanks to the conference minister for meeting with us.*

Future Meetings:

- OMA Board Conference Call – First Thursday of the month – 6 AM PST
- OMA PG – November 6-8, 2012 in Cleveland- board members arrive by dinner on the 5th.
- OMA board meeting – January 30-February 2, 2013 at Blowing Rock. Fly into Charlotte, NC

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kaila Russell, OMA Secretary