

Minutes of the SWA Executive Council meeting

Thursday, 8/17/23 @ 6:30 PM

- Attending: **Moderator:** David Mickle, **Treasurer:** Don Taft, **Secretary:** Marlea Gilbert, **Associate Conference Minister:** Rachel Bauman **Division on Church and Ministry:** Ruth Bradshaw, **Social Concerns:** Jessica Taft, **Board of Directors Rep:** Paul Karch, Gayle Tucker, **Members-at-Large:** Lori Powell, Kay Hallanger, , Bev Davis
- Not present: **Vice Moderator:** Tanya Sadagopan, **Member-at-Large:** Janet Pugh
- Opening prayer
- Approve Minutes from May 18, 2023 - ?- Don
- Board of Directors Report: Gayle Board retreat will happen 17-18 of September
- Associate Conference Minister's Report :
 - Emerald grove church split. People are doing well, finishing profile. Interim coming.
 - New compensation guidelines. Based on attendance. Inflation has affected the recommendations. Intended to support congregations. Easier to understand.
 - National gathering for MIDs coming. At least two from SW hope to go.
 - Unified Fitness Review team in training in September in Daychola.
- Treasurer's Report
 - See financials and comments from Don
 - Be generous but cautious so we don't get surprised at the end of the year. We have not been billed for common expenses.
 - Camp expenses will be billed at the end of the season.
- Division on Church and Ministry Report
 - Ruth Bradshaw
- Social Concerns Committee Report
- **New business -**
 - From Rachel: Would the SWA consider releasing/assigning to the Damascus Project the \$200 that has been 'on our books' under "Lay Academy" for the past several

years? It would help underwrite the cost of the Damascus Project (in which many SWA members take part) Marlea, moves to approve. Kay and Ruth second

- Camp: Would the SWA consider releasing/directing the \$436 assigned for ‘camp scholarship fund’ directly to UCCI - Rachel
 - From Lisa Hart: “I met with Kaitlyn Boscaljon today (8/2/23) and we are hoping to have registration for the Fall and Winter Youth Faith Formation Retreats ready to open in the next week or two. I wanted to confirm that the Associations will continue to offer \$50 scholarships to help offset the cost of these retreats. I do believe these are different than the UCCI scholarships... but can’t say for sure because I don’t know what the agreement is between UCCI and the Associations. The amount varies, depending on participation. Between the 3 retreats (Nov, Feb and Mar), I would guess it is \$1000-2000 for the SWA. I’m not sure where it falls for the SEA. For background: Before we went to \$50/person, each Association contributed \$2000 regardless of whether anyone from their Association participated. This was still lower than the \$6,000-15,000 that Associations were spending when they hosted their own retreats at our camps. When we switched to \$50 scholarships, they were automatic. Eventually, we made them optional. The amount provided has remained \$50/person even though the cost of the retreats has increased significantly over the years.
 - Motion made by Don/Marlea : We have \$250 in the budget to spend for youth events such as confirmation/camp that we can offer now. If there are more attendees than that, we are willing to consider releasing funds from our restricted account. Unanimously approved. To be emailed to Kaitlyn Boscaljon.
- Budgeting discussion:
 - May want to make Damascus Project a budget line item in the future
 - New Budget consideration: From Janet Pugh: “There is \$250 in the budget for the Bethlehem partnership. A new group is forming at the Conference level, the Palestine Justice Working Group. It is likely that this will replace the Bethlehem Partnership. (Further information: I want to clarify my question about the \$250 budget item for Bright Stars. There is a new conference-wide group, Palestine Justice Working Group, that is in early formation stages. For various reasons, this group will supplant the Bright Stars group. Lisa Hart is our conference contact for this group. While it is no longer an immediate issue, I have hopes that the new group will find a need to use our budgeted funds this year. It would not be appropriate to apply to Social Concerns for funding. Since I won’t be at the meeting next week (8/17/23), I will let you know if we might include something for the September meeting. By then several things about the group might be clearer.) “-
 - Bev reports that the goal is to be informative about what is happening to the Palestinians. Following the UCC initiative. We have several questions about how these projects interact. – No specific action taken

- Meeting of Nominating Committee: David Mickle, Rev. Tanya Sadagopan, Rev. Ann Beaty, Rachel Bauman(ex-officio), Kay Hallanger, and volunteers Thursday, September 14 @ 6:30 PM Time to be finalized.

Meetings will be scheduled in January, March, May, August, September, October, and December.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 21, 2023 @ 6:30.