

Agenda for SWA Executive Council meeting
Thursday, 10/19/23 @ 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, **Members-at-Large:** Lori Powell, Kay Hallanger, Janet Pugh, Bev Davis, Paul Hodel
- Missing: **Vice Moderator:** Tanya Sadagopan, **Board of Directors Rep:** Gayle Tucker (or Sara Rabe),
- Opening prayer - David Mickle
- Approve Minutes from September 21, 2023 Unanimous
- Social Concerns Committee Report - Jessica Taft (*moved up the agenda as Jessica and her partner were coming down with Covid. We wish them healing.*)
 - Continue to be concerned that people are intimidated by grant writing and do want to pursue a workshop at the annual meeting. The process would include requests for Catalyst Grants.
 - Moves that we contribute our annual amount of \$600 to the ecumenical group MOSES. (*MOSES is a non-partisan interfaith organization that works to promote social justice with a focus on ending mass incarceration. MOSES is an affiliate of WISDOM.*) Request approved unanimously.
 - (*Secretary's note: MOSES does not appear on our Financial Report. If this is contribution without a grant proposal to Social Concerns, should it be a line item? If not, was is necessary to vote on this donation?*)
- Board of Directors Report No one present
- Associate Conference Minister's Report - Rachel
 - Recently had a retreat to welcome new clergy to the conference. It was a well done and supportive event. Rachel was pleased to meet these newcomers to our conference.
 - In the midst of an onslaught of anti-transgender bills in the Wisconsin legislature - 7 as of now - the Wisconsin Council of Churches has been doing well to organize faith-related responses including protests and rallies. 6 UCC clergy attended the most recent, a good showing for us.

- In response to a question, the discussions on the role of the Association will proceed. A task force has not yet been named. The task force will address the process of a conference-wide discussion, not address the issue itself.
- Treasurer's Report - Don Taft
 - Printed Reports and Comments are on file.
 - Don expressed extra thanks to Tracy Hague for her skill in producing individualized form letters to congregations who are behind in their dues. It is good to have such skills available to us.
- Division on Church and Ministry Report - Ruth Bradshaw
 - Clergy mentors
 - Report attached
- Budgeting discussions:
 - Review of money released from last months actions.
- Change of Bethlehem Project name to Palestine Justice Working Group and keeping the group still in the SWA.
 - A motion supporting the change of name as noted above, moved Marlea Gilbert, seconded Bev Davis, was unanimously approved
 - After receiving again the Mission Statement of this group, we discussed the claim that this was a group of the Wisconsin Conference. In order to make that claim, they would need the approval of the Board of Directors. The SWA will support this group with the funding approved last month and with interest in their progress while they pursue the connection to the Board of Directors.
- Annual meeting discussion continuing from last meeting. (Topic and join with SEA annual meeting.)
 - We received a written proposal to conduct our SWA Annual Meeting in conjunction with the SEA Annual Meeting at a location to be determined.
 - Marlea moved and Don seconded a motion to approve the joint meeting. Agreement was unanimous. The Council did not vote on the specifics of the proposal but referred the planning of details to a joint Annual Meeting Planning group to be formed soon.

- We did understand that SE had planned for April 27, 2024 and there were no objections to that date.
- Review of positions opening up at the May 2024 annual meeting. Discussion postponed to December.
- FYI- the Nominating Committee(David Mickle, Rev. Tanya Sadagopan, Rev. Ann Beaty, Rachel Bauman(ex-officio), Kay Hallanger, and Lori Powell) met Wednesday, November 8 @ 4:00 PM
- New business - No new business
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

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

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

Division of Church and Ministry of the SWA
Report for Executive Committee SWA
October 19, 2023

1. This month we met with licensed authorized minister, Kay Hallanger. Kay is a member of First Congregational in Baraboo and she is serving Trinity UCC in Portage and Trinity UCC in Endeavor. She is doing great work and the churches have quite a bit of vitality even though they are small.
2. We are received good reports from clergy mentors who are supporting licensed authorized ministers.
3. Rev. Ruth Bradshaw's last day at Olivet- Columbus will be November 12. Rev. Lex Liberatore's last day at Lake Edge-Madison will be November 19. ACM Rachel Bauman will lead the liturgy of release at both churches.
4. An ordination service for Christina Schoenwetter is planned for this Sunday, October 22 at 2 pm at First Congregational Church in Madison.
5. A service celebrating ordination in the United Church of Christ for Katya Ouchakof is planned for Sunday, November 5 a 4 pm at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg.
6. A one-day license to perform a wedding was granted to Gretchen Viney. Gretchen is a member of First Congregational Church in Baraboo. She serves as the licensed authorized minister at First Congregational – Grand Marsh.
7. Finally, the DCM accepted David McDonald's resignation of standing. Background information: A concern was raised regarding a possible violation of ministerial ethics. The DCM held a special meeting and reviewed the concern in a redacted

document that did not include names or identifying details. The DCM decided that if the concern were true, it raised questions regarding fitness. The fitness review team for the Wisconsin Conference began a fitness review. David McDonald resigned his standing and so the review was halted. If David McDonald seeks to regain his standing at some point in the future, the fitness review will begin again where it left off. The UCC database records the resignation as “with bias”.

(Secretary’s note: Due to the resignation, the fitness review is considered finished and therefore its existence and conclusion is no longer confidential.)

Ruth Bradshaw submitted this report and presented it at the meeting.

