

Common Table Meeting

December 2, 2021

Those present in person were Terry Bain, Don Jamison, Steve Summers, Lester Kurtz, Kim Young, Martha Stokes, David Dommissie, Bev Myers. Those present on Zoom were Doug Forrester, Ryan LaRock, Megan Saucier, and Aaron Fitch.

The meeting opened at 10:05am with a prayer by Martha Stokes. Steve invited Lester Kurtz (of CEMCA) to introduce himself, since this was his first meeting. He then shared a devotion based on 1 Peter 3, about lethargy and flow. Where are we placing our hope?

Martha Stokes had nothing specific to report.

Doug Forrester reported from the Cabinet that they are continuing to work on the District Initiative to move towards eight districts. They will be making presentations to see how the process is evolving. There will be more information forthcoming shortly after Christmas.

The minutes from October 21, 2021 were approved without amendment.

David Dommissie reported that financials for the month of November has not been closed yet, but appears that there will be little change from September and October trends. December/early January will be a good indicator of how things will go in the future. CFA will meet in January to begin the 2023 budget. The new financial software is now available to local churches on the conference website. Pastors and treasurers can pull statements with live information. Treasurers office staff has been assisting in training. Human Resource software is being set up now, and will be deployed in January. This should assist in having better overall HR policies and procedures. David thanked Steve and Kim for their help in this process.

Kim Young reported that our GCFA HR consultant met with the staff in November, and was well-received. Work is in process for the implementation of Paycom accounting system, which will help with compliance, which has not previously been strict about time and attendance, mostly impacting the camp coordinators.

Kim asked for Common Table thoughts on how we value the camps. All God's Children Camp, Camp Rainbow – do we want them to continue to be ministries of the conference? Discussion ensued. Don Jamison moved that the Common Table *Create a committee to investigate making these camps integrated parts of enhanced ministries of the conference.* Terry Bain seconded the motion. It was approved. Steve Summers indicated that he needed to step back from this issue due to a connection with a church interested in taking over one of the camps.

David noted that as we consider these ministries, we need to be sure we work with camp personnel according to the new policy that takes effect January 1, 2022, so that everyone is complying and we're sure we are following labor laws.

Kim noted that we would hear more about the Diversity and Inclusion staff position in the new year.

She also announced that a new Administrative Assistant in Connectional Ministries has been hired. She will start on Dec. 6, 2021, and it was noted that she will be part of a team that resources all directors and associate directors.

Ryan LaRock reported that the board has been considering salary grants and property grant requests. The board looks at local board structure and financials as part of their decision making.

ODU, VCU, VT received property grants this year. As part of the salary grant decisions, the board voted to reinstate partial funding for CNU's campus ministry.

The board is receiving preference forms for campus ministers deciding if they want to stay or move. He addressed the process for making decisions about new campus ministers.

ODU (Old Dominion University) campus ministry had a successful work day. Many youth were involved in this. Local board continues to grow and work on the ministry.

Ryan asked if there could be an opportunity to celebrate the missions of our campus ministries at an Annual Conference in the near future. Steve noted that our annual conference is the top supporter of campus ministries in the connection. He will bring this possibility to the Bishop, as she determines the agenda.

Don Jamison reported for the Grants Committee. He made note of the definitions of Special/Sustaining Grants, Benevolence Grants, and Program Grants. He made a motion on behalf of the Grants Committee to accept Proposal #1:

In light of expected funds being left over from the 2021 program campaign in excess of \$ 40,000 and the shortfall by about \$ 65,000 to satisfy Special and Sustaining Grants, we are proposing to move \$ 40,000 from 40-04500 Emerging Funds to 10-01410 CT Special and Sustaining Grants in January 2022. That money would be divided as per the current ratio of 70% to Special Funds and 30% to Sustaining Funds. We also would like this to be a standing approval for future years, if there are excess funds in the Emerging fund by November 15th of each year, that the Grants Team could move that excess to satisfy needs in Special and Sustaining if they exist.

Both parts of the proposal were approved by the Common Table.

On behalf of the Grants Committee, Don moved the approval of Proposal #2:

Special Grants for 2022

<i>Dist</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
A	Crew 62 (St. Matthews UMC)	\$1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
A	Summer Music Camp (Washington Farm UMC)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
D	Backpack Ministry (St. Luke's)	\$ 5,130.00	\$ 5,100.00
D	We Dream Music School (Red Valley UMC)	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,100.00
ER	Next Level STEAM After School		

	<i>(Impact Church SoNo)</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
ES	<i>Journey to the Cross (Franktown UMC)</i>	<i>\$ 500.00</i>	<i>\$ 500.00</i>
H	<i>Rebuilding Hope (Clover Hill UMC)</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
JR	<i>Spring Run Elementary Outreach (Bethia UMC)</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>
JR	<i>Chester UMC Preschool</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>
L	<i>Bethlehem Preschool</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
Rd	<i>Homebound Virtual Ministry Cntns</i>	<i>\$ 4,200.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,200.00</i>
RR	<i>Micah Ecumenical Ministries</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
S	<i>Go Pantry (Central UMC)</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
YR	<i>Bethany UMC Summer Music Camp</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
YR	<i>Community Family Dinner (Warwick Memorial UMC)</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 9,400.00</i>
	Totals	\$87,610.00	\$84,000.00

The motion was approved.

On behalf of the Grants Committee, Don moved approval of Proposal #3:

Sustaining Grants for 2022

<i>Dist</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
A	<i>Rising Hope Food Ministries</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,100.00</i>
D	<i>Henry Fork Service Center</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>
ER	<i>Club Sandwich (Wesley Grace)</i>	<i>\$ 5,400.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>
Rd	<i>Belmont UMC Community Resource</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,300.00</i>
Rd	<i>PACE Center</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,500.00</i>
Rd	<i>Sherbourne Food Pantry</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>
Rd	<i>Backpack Ministry (Skipwith UMC)</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>
Rn	<i>Kids Soar (Trinity UMC)</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,300.00</i>
S	<i>Help (Glossbrenner)</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 4,300.00</i>
	Totals	\$58,900.00	\$36,000.00

The motion was approved.

On behalf of the Grants Committee, Don moved approval of Proposal #4:

Program Grants for 2022

<i>Project</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Recommended</i>
<i>United Methodist Day at the General Assembly</i>	<i>\$ 3,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,500.00</i>
<i>Conference Youth Council Leadership Retreat</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>
<i>UM Commission Consultant</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
<i>VA Conference History Update (with caveat that they can reapply with more information about how funds will be used)</i>	<i>\$20,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>

Ryan LaRock noted his appreciation to Steve and David for their work on the Boy Scout issue. David and Steve both responded with his thanks to the clergy, as they are aware of the toll it is taking on them in the local church.

Future meeting dates were noted:

- January 13, 2022 — 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- March 31, 2022 — 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- May 12, 2022— 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- July 28, 2022 --- 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- September 8, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- October 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)
- December 8, 2022 -- 10:00 a.m. (Thursday)

Kim Young reminded the Common Table that there had been some discussion in previous meetings about moving some of the meetings to Saturdays. There will be further discussion of this at the next Common Table meeting.

As there were no other items of business, and the meeting was concluded at noon with a prayer by Martha.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Myers, for Joshua King, secretary