

UUPCC Board Meeting  
August 12, 2016  
Minutes

**Members Present:** Executive Director Roger Bertschusen, Richard Van Duizend, Ann Gary, Eric Meter, Eric Cherry, Carol Cook, Anne Greenwood, Morgan McLean, Melody Moberg, Andrew Weber

**Members Absent:** Diane Rollert, Rick Irwin, Catie Scudera

**Also Present:** Amanda DiMiele (Recording)

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by Zoom video conferencing on August 12, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 11amCST/noon EST.

**1. Introductions: Van Duizend**

In recognition of three new board members, meeting participants introduced themselves.

**2. June Board meeting and Annual Meeting minutes: Meter**

- June minutes approved.

- Annual Meeting minutes do not need formal approval, but the board does need to okay the minutes for distribution to members. No immediate changes were recommended, but Van Duizend asked that board members review the minutes and notify Meter of changes.

**3. Chair Report: Van Duizend**

- Van Duizend purchased and delivered thank you gifts to board members who completed their terms.

- At GA, Meter, Bertschusen, Van Duizend, and Cordes met with several members of the Balázs Scholar Board. Two concerns came to the fore:

(a) Cost. The current cost for a family runs between \$40– \$45,000 per year, and that price is likely to increase.

(b) Difficulty recruiting Transylvania ministers. Factors include (i) cost, (ii) lack of formal academic credit (which the committee is working on), and (iii) the fact that ministers' spouses are increasingly reluctant to come. It means giving up their jobs.

In terms of cost, PCC support has been helpful. Going forward, the PCC can support the Balázs Committee in two main ways:

(a) As the Balázs Committee looks to recruit scholars outside of Transylvania, they would appreciate the PCC's help in vetting candidates.

(b) The PCC can help identify a broader range of churches in which Balázs Scholars can preach while they are in North America.

#### 4. Executive Director Report: Bertschausen

- Bertschausen noted that Irwin sends his regrets for his absence as he attended to a family emergency.

Bertschausen highlighted the following from his written report:

- During the ICUU Conference and Council Meeting 2016, the ICUU adopted a new mission: “to empower emerging and existing member groups to grow and sustain our global faith community.”

- The PCC may increase its connections to the UUSC. Bertschausen participated in a conversation with incoming UUSC CEO Tom Andrews, Eric Cherry, Sara Ascher and John Gibbons at GA.

- In conversation with Bertschausen, Hungarian Unitarian Church (HUC) leadership raised two main concerns. First, they want to see more focus and time devoted to connecting with partners when groups visit. Second, they worried about the future of partnership. Many partnerships have lost energy, and individuals still invested represent a largely aging or dwindling demographic. Bertschausen has conveyed to HUC leadership that the PCC has recognized these concerns and is committed to addressing them.

- Bertschausen offered several ideas for pilgrimages:

(a) The PCC might develop a toolkit or curriculum for ministers with the goal of building greater spiritual depth into trips. Moberg agreed to send Bertschausen a simple curriculum she developed.

(b) The PCC might develop an application process that pairs North American (NA) ministers with NA groups not already accompanied by a minister.

(c) Along with partners, the PCC might help organize a kind of conference in Transylvania representing about 5 congregations (plus their partners). Each congregation and their partners would send about 3-5 people to gather with the goal of delving more deeply into spirituality and theology.

(d) The Minister’s Association both in Transylvania and the U.S. proposed an exchange involving ~3 ministers from each country coming together for a face-to-face meeting focused on spiritual and theological conversation. This conversation would continue via zoom ~once/month for a year.

(e) Gary proposed that the PCC might build funding for ministers into the cost of the trip. E.g., the price per person might increase slightly in order to cover the cost of the minister’s price.

(f) The PCC might develop training for younger ministers.

Some concerns around the ideas proposed included the following:

(a) While ideas focused on deepening spirituality on pilgrimages are good, the PCC must be careful about balance. Some trip participants report that they do not go on trips primarily for spiritual reasons. Varied experiences on each trip matter.

(b) The PCC should be careful not to privilege NA preferences over that of their non-NA partners. Nor should we unduly burden hosts if increasing time with partners.

## 5. **Treasurer's Report (highlights by Bertschausen in Irwin's stead)**

- Expected at this point to be \$74,000 in the hole, but in fact we are \$61,000 ahead. That difference is probably misleading. We received a large gift to the orphanage; mission initiatives have taken in more than they have spent, but that will not remain the case; etc.
- This is probably our best travel season ever in terms of finances.
- Expenses are higher than expected due to costs associated with the transition from Bedford, MA to St. Louis, MO.

## 6. **Youth/Young Adult Initiative: Moberg**

A number of youth and young adult initiatives came to fruition this year:

- An International Youth Camp just returned from a pilgrimage to Transylvania. Jennifer Emrich will have more to report on that in the future.
- The young adult initiative to bring young adults to the ICUU Conference and Council Meeting in the Netherlands was incredibly successful. Twenty-five diverse young adults were accepted and offered funding; 20 were able to accept. Moberg received a lot of positive feedback, including monetary support. Moberg hopes that this initiative will be sustainable far into the future.

Next steps will look toward the next ICUU Conference and Council Meeting in 2018. In particular, Moberg expressed a need to increase NA participation. (Two of the 20 young adults in 2016 were from the U.S.) Part of the problem this year was lack of clarity around financial support available to NAs. Clarifying the price should help.

## 7. **Travel: Gary**

- Best travel season yet in terms of excess revenue generated. Money is not of primary concern, but the PCC still does not want to lose money either.

## 8. **New Start/ReFresh Weekends: Bertschausen**

- Jennifer Emrich is taking leadership of New Start/ReFresh. Emrich and Bertschausen are working to establish a strong team of facilitators and plan to hold a training.

## 9. **Updates**

### a. **Feedback on 2016 GA and looking ahead to 2017 GA: Bertschausen**

- All agreed GA went well—smoothly with connections made.
- Reminder that next year, the PCC should order PCC ribbons to go on nametags.

### b. **Cathy Cordes Travel Fund—amount pledged and guidelines for use: Bertschausen/Gary**

The PCC did spectacularly well in raising initial seed money. Two sets of tasks now face the Board:

- i. Develop a set of guidelines with the Travel Scholarship Committee for the use of that money
- ii. Determine if and how the PCC will continue to raise money for the fund.

Van Duizend suggested that a new committee be established to consider these two issues. All agreed to defer this conversation until the board meets in October.

**c. Cuba Update: Cherry/Bertschausen**

- Next step is a short visit to Cuba by Rev. Jorge Espinel and perhaps one other fluent Spanish speaker in approximately the next 6 months to lay groundwork for the large participatory planning workshop.

- Concrete step regarding the above: communicate with UU Funding Program. They have made a grant to assist with the participatory planning workshop, so it is important to make clear that part of the grant will be used for this initial, shorter visit. That communication has been sent and no objections have been heard.

**d. Khasi Leadership Trip to Transylvania: Bertschausen**

The trip went well. It will hopefully lead to increased collaboration between ministers from Transylvania and Khasi Hills.

**e. Annie M. Barr Children's Village: Cherry/Bertschausen**

The initial construction cost estimate was ~\$55,000 low. The PCC will not be responsible for coming up with the difference. However, the PCC is hoping to establish a long-term partnership between a NA church and the orphanage. Such a partnership would help the orphanage thrive for years to come.

**10. October Board meeting in St. Louis: Bertschausen**

- Starts around 3:00 pm on Wednesday, October 19 and ends around 1:30 pm on Friday, October 21. Conference for Partnership folks in region from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 22. Takes place at First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

- Informal policy has been that board members pay for their own travel. If cost is prohibitive, contact Bertschausen.

- Not all board members need to remain for the Regional Conference on Sat., Oct. 22, but it would be great if some could stay and help.

**11. New Board member orientation (August 16 from 2-4 pm Eastern): Bertschausen**

- If board members apart from Weber, McLean, and Greenwood want to participate, contact Bertschausen.

**12. Other?**

Bertschausen stressed that this October board meeting is particularly important to attend given the recent PCC office transition, and the need to talk about the bigger picture.

For next meeting's agenda, Bertschausen requested a discussion about the IWC conference being held in February in California. The PCC agreed to support it, so the board should discuss that.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm CST/1:07 EST.**

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, September 9 from 12:00-1:00 pm via Zoom  
(<https://zoom.us/j/272313162>)**