

**UUPCC Board Meeting  
Friday, August 24, 2012  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Roger Bertschausen, Kelly Crocker, George Davenport, Ann Gary, Bruce Johnson, Beverly Moore, Cathy Perry, deForest Ralph, Diane Rollert, Gary Smith, Dick Van Duizend, Executive Director Cathy Cordes

**Members Absent:** Scott Prinster

**Also Present:** Margot Fleischman

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by conference call on August 24, 2012. Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Chair Smith noted the passing of deForest Ralph's wife, Martha Ralph, and conveyed the condolences of the board.

**Minutes**

**Van Duizend (M), Bertschausen (S)**

**Voted: To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2012 meeting as amended.**

**Treasurer's Report**

We are operating in accordance with our budget and even a little better. To give a snapshot, on June 30, UUPCC had \$328,444 in our CDs and bank accounts. \$161,531 of this cash is restricted, pledged as such to specific projects. This means that UUPCC had \$166,913 of unrestricted, available cash at the end of June.

**Travel Committee Report**

Gary noted that we are having a very successful travel season. She provided some details: we have had 196 travelers: 40% were congregational trips (7 total trips) to Transylvania-- Transylvanian ministers and others traveled along on 3 of these; 20% choir trips (1 big trip from Atlanta) to Transylvania; 25% from public group trips (April and June) and the ICUUW October Convocation pre-post trips (3 separate itineraries); 10% to India (7 people) and Philippines (13 people on two trips).

Our initial estimate for excess revenue is about \$30,000. Cordes noted that we have been experiencing very favorable exchange rates, which is contributing to the financial success of the travel program. Gary also noted that a new cancellation policy will be instituted for 2013, which will be 10% plus non-recoverable costs, and also that we are still trying to work out the best way to accept credit cards without having to absorb the cost of credit card fees.

**GA Feedback**

Smith invited Board members to give feedback about the UUPCC GA experience. Ralph inquired if we had a report on the international groups meeting that occurred during GA. Cordes noted that since GA, there has also been a follow up meeting that Van Duizend attended. Originally, this coalition of international groups worked primarily on sharing space and doing joint programming at GA. A lot of the recent discussions have centered on information sharing, especially regarding Africa. Van Duizend remarked that the level of communication has improved and that

there is a great deal more comfort and trust within this coordinating council. One tangible example of this is the sheet of advice about “do’s and don’ts” of entering international relationships. Smith also noted that there were significant technical difficulties with the international workshop, but other events were very successful.

### **Philippines**

Bertschausen explained that given the problems in the Philippines and the lack of certainty that may have occurred, he felt it important for UUPCC to communicate clearly about what we know and to develop some common language about how to talk about this issue with our partnered congregations. Cordes and Smith have drafted a letter to send to congregations with Philippines partnerships about this situation as a follow up to the report that Rebecca Seines sent earlier this year. **Cordes will distribute to the board the Rebecca Seines’ letter for the Board’s reference.**

### **MOU with UUA**

Smith thanked Gary for her efforts in reworking the MOU. Smith will be meeting with UUA President Morales in early September to continue this discussion.

### **Board Travel**

Cordes noted that at a previous meeting the Board voted an amount up to \$1800 for Van Duizend’s upcoming travel to India for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UUNEI, but that it would make sense to increase this limit because the airfare was higher than expected and also expenses were not taken into account.

**Rollert, (M), Bertschausen (S)**

**Voted: To increase the amount allocated for Van Duizend’s Board travel to a maximum of \$2250. (Van Duizend not voting)**

Smith remarked that he is looking forward to his trip to India, and Cordes noted that Gary, Ralph, and she will travel to Transylvania in October for the ICUUW meeting. While she is there, Cordes will meet with the leadership at the TUC and the Seminary.

### **Seminarian Program**

Bertschausen explained that things are moving very slowly, and there are some questions that need to be answered by the Seminary. We are still hoping to launch by next spring.

### **Faith without Borders**

Smith expressed his impression that Faith without Borders is a good outline of ways we can work together with other groups much more effectively. Prinster will be working with Steve Dick and others on moving this forward, so Board members with questions or comments should forward them to Prinster.

### **Board Goals**

Smith encouraged Board members to keep the report of the priorities from the meeting in Appleton handy during board calls so that the document can remain relevant and the Board can measure their progress.

1. UUPCC Governance / Policies – Cordes noted that priorities were intended to focus both on creating financial policies, which is underway; and creating personnel policies guidelines,

which seems like something that is not so relevant given our small staff. What we need is a review of the staff compensation. There is no standing personnel policy, although at the Appleton meeting, Prinster, Gary and Van Duizend served in this role. There has not been a committee to examine what we are doing in detail. **Smith, Van Duizend and Davenport agreed to work on this.**

2. New Institutional Partnerships – Cordes noted that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to our website to allow everything to be in one place for churches that need partners. In Appleton we looked at long-term strategies about congregations that might become partners. We have also worked with Eric Cherry to invite congregations to become partners, which has been effective. Going forward using this model, Cordes will be working with Christine Robinson in Albuquerque to work to find partners for Kenyan churches.

3. Sustaining Institutional Memberships - The top strategy for this is that Board members will make phone calls to churches in partnership, both those that are working well and those that are not. Gary and Cordes are working on the questionnaire and list of churches to contact and hope to have it ready in September.

4. New individual memberships – Gary has been working with UUPCC staff to improve membership renewals for people who have traveled. We are about to send out a mailing to target these individuals in the next membership mailing.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Cordes reported that she had a personal visit to Transylvania with Bedford's congregational trip, which was absolutely fabulous. The group from Bedford stayed five days in the village, but at the end of the stay, they took 15 villagers with them to do historical tourism to visit important places of religious and cultural significance, including a very emotional and meaningful experience at the top of Deva. The Bedford church covered the expenses for the villagers. Cordes got great feedback from ministers she met along the way and will write up this concept so that other partners can do it.

Cordes had a chance to talk with people at TUC headquarters. The staff is expanding by about 4 people, which will change the organizational structure. The biggest news out of the TUC is the reunification with the church in Hungary. The way this affects the UUPCC is that now there will be an opportunity for better and more effective communication. Larry Coburn has been acting as the networker for Hungary, so he will be a great help as we proceed.

Cordes circulated a draft letter that will be sent to all ministers in the UUA and the CUC regarding issues that have come up lately with individuals, particularly from Kenya, who may misrepresent themselves as UU ministers in contacting North American UUs. The purpose of this letter is to let people know whom they can go to when they have questions. A suggestion might be to make this letter into a brochure, balanced with the positive aspect of partnership work, but helping congregations engage internationally with care. Cordes noted that she is working with ICCU and UUA and is moving with caution regarding developing partnerships in Africa.

Regarding Uganda, Cordes and Davenport briefly discussed the status of Tulsa's program to send volunteers to the New Life School. Davenport noted that Mark Kiyimba will be visiting Tulsa and that they will meet to discuss concerns about how this program is going.

Regarding the question of whether there is an actual congregation in Kampala, ICUU has a process that they go through to certify churches as emerging groups; Mark Kiyimba has completed the questionnaire, and Steve Dick and Jill McAllister will be traveling to Uganda to do interviews and determine the status of this group.

**2013 Winter Board Meeting**

The Winter Board meeting has been planned for January in Alexandria VA followed by a one-day conference for regional partner church groups. Meanwhile, Shelter Rock has written to offer their facilities as well. The Board will consider meeting at Shelter Rock in 2014.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2012, noon Eastern.  
Meeting adjourned 1:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Beverly D. Moore, Secretary

Approved by the Board Sept. 14, 2012