

# OMA Minutes November 11 and 12 2001

## Mensch Mill, Pennsylvania

Sunday 3:30

**Present:** Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, Bud Schroeder, Bryan Breault, Gary Halstead, Dana Fisher, Judie Luther, Curly Stumb, Dale Dressler

**Absent:** Greg Pitman, Sharla Steever, Betsy Matten, Dave Knight, Barbara Broadbent, Kirsten Turner, June Boutwell (National Staff).

Our opening worship was led by Curly

Discussion of agenda for tomorrow

Jeff informed the board of changes in the lives of Betsy and Sharla that may take them away from this board. Betsy has resigned her position with Penn Central Conference and will be moving out of the conference. Sharla will be leaving her position at Placerville and going back to teaching. She is still eligible to stay of the board since she is still in her region. Former board member, Jan Lovig also left her position in OM and stayed on the board from the West Central Region.

The board Adjourned to dinner and to resume Monday Morning

The meeting commenced at 9:15 Monday morning and was opened with worship led by Judie

Approved minutes of Consult (pre - post and consult business meeting with minor corrections).  
Approved by consensus.

The board used the minutes from March 15 to guide the agenda.

**Discussion on how we include UCC camps and Outdoor Ministry programs in OMA and what are the criteria.** The board will make a formal request to June Boutwell asking her to help network through the national staff to gather information on potential camps that could be included. **Dana and Greg will continue to work on this.**

There was discussion on how we narrow the scope or define what sites or programs could be added to the OMA membership. It was felt that programs run by UCC Associations and Conferences should be included as well as churches that own a site and run OM programs. >>It was felt that individual local churches that run a program at a site not owned by them or a UCC entity should not be included.

Regarding Deering Center- It appears from correspondence received by Jeff that a program connection with a UCC entity is not in place. We welcome the leadership of Deering Center to participate in OMA events but the relationship cannot be formalized without them first establishing a formal relationship with their conference or a church in their conference.

With these guidelines the Conference/Association/Church becomes the certifying body rather than OMA.

**Work Camps** Curly – The board decided that they needed to talk about a site for Consult so we could then discuss that site as a possibility. Deering Center is another possibility since work camp sites and OMA membership are different issues. **Curly will continue to work on a workcamp site for 2003.**

Jeff has not been able to contact Kirsten. **Bryan will attempt to contact her and get an update.**

Minutes from the board meeting in March of 2000 are still lost in Frank Russell's computer.

Dana reported that "700 Goes to Camp" was successful. 7 persons from the national office participated. People made lots of good connections not only with the camps but also with the local churches. June Boutwell participated at Silver Lake and was able to talk with several campers who were considering ministry as a profession. Curly related success with two visitors in his program. John Thomas wrote an article in the UCN regarding camping and his experience at John's River. Other sites have expressed interest in participating in 2002. **Dana will continue to fine tune and coordinate this program with June.**

Mickey has met with National Christian Ed committee regarding the history of NACOM and OMA.

Work on the OMA brochure continues. Jeff wrote a proposal for additional money from the national UCC office. Jeff said that June believed that the money would be available. \$4,000 is already earmarked in OMA budget and we are looking for another \$4,000.

Gary reported that the t-shirt day at General Synod did take place. He felt that there needed to be a more formal announcement concerning what day the delegates were to wear the shirts. Gary needed to scramble to make sure that display was set up.

~~Jeff reported that \$10,000 of OMA money is now in a CD.~~  
*This money is in the checking account*

Constitution - Jeff gave history of constitution. **Gary and Dale will continue to work on updating the constitution and By-laws.** We would like to vote on them at the 2003 Consult. **Jeff will have the text sent to Gary and Dale.**

A concern was raised that we need to find a parent organization. Individual board members could be subject to lawsuits. If we are under the UCC National then UCCIB could provide us with insurance. **Jeff will contact National Office to investigate how we might formalize our relationship. He will also continue talking with Michael Downs regarding insurance coverage for OMA.**

**Gary will investigate how the Association of Conference Ministers is covered by insurance for liability.**

**Bryan moved that Jeff spend up to \$400 to purchase insurance for the board from UCCIB.**  
**Bud second - vote passed**

Jeff reported on Job postings on Web site.

Dan and Vicky Force are now working with Mickey at Pilgrim Pines.

Curly informed us that Eric Johnson resigned his position at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds.

**Judy will continue working on demographic information.** Precept may be a tool to gather this information. Indiana-Kentucky Conference has the system now and the National UCC office may follow.

**Information exchange program between camps.** Setting up a list serve was talked about but if the participation is not large people drop out and it doesn't work. It was suggested that we sponsor a round table discussion at the next Consult to try to generate interest.

**International partnerships** Jeff reported for Greg. Handed out draft of "Guidelines for Placement of International Volunteers" from K.C. Akley at the National Office. It was stated that working through this program increases the chances of getting someone with a faith background. Camp counselors USA also does a good job of matching to faith background. **Jeff and Dana will look over draft and return to KC.** They will recommend that she put together a cover letter and flyer to send to sites.

Broke for lunch at 12:00

Tour of camp after lunch

2:35 reconvened

**Financial report by Jeff for Greg**

See attached report

Jeff also handed out a sheet showing a support summary from conferences and sites. It was reiterated that support is voluntary. Suggested donations are \$250 per site and \$50 per individual.

**Consult 2003**

Sites under consideration are – Placerville, South Carolina - DuBois, Illinois - SlumberFalls, Texas.

Geographical considerations - Mid continent works well considering what sites we have visited for Consult since 1982.

Looked at various issues related with each camp - Beds, showers, local attractions, staff, airports,

Jeff, Dana, & Dale adjourned to make calls to the three sites to ask clarifying questions. No answer at the first two so they ~~came~~ went to ask the board for permission to make the calls as the planning committee and make a decision. Permission was granted by consensus.

By consensus the board authorized the planning committee to conference call each site with questions of the board and then to make a decision.

Concerns included:

Pews or chairs in the worship area at Placerville?  
Type of Showers at Placerville (private or gang type)?  
Worship area at Slumberfalls?  
Bed space at DuBois (are all beds lower bunks)?  
Meeting space at all the sites?

Discussed National Council of Churches curriculum distribution and promotion at OMA sites. Bryan expressed frustration that these brochures were not readily available even after several calls to several people. Jeff concurred. It has been very difficult to get information in a timely manner.

At the last board meeting we had hoped to sponsor an ACA Accreditation workshop as a tag on for this meeting. Jeff reported that UCCIB has backed away from sponsoring an event.

**Dana and Curly offered to work with anyone who may be interested in seeking ACA accreditation. Dana and Curly will investigate setting up a retreat and then seek some funding help from UCCIB.**

Risk management plan workshop. **Jeff wants to work on this in the future.**

Grants. Dale reported on The Lilly grant and resources for finding grants

**Voted to accept Betsy Maten resignation from Mid Atlantic region.**

**Gary will work on finding a replacement for the OMA board from the Mid Atlantic Region.**

**If Sharla does resign Jeff and Judy will work on finding a replacement from West Central region.**

Discussed dates for next board meeting and Consult 2003. **Planning team will investigate dates w/consult site.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully Submitted  
Dale Dressler