

Volunteer Executive Director for OMA-UCC Proposal

As I was cleaning out my office recently I came across the 1985 Consult 5 photo from Pilgrim Pines. It is interesting to reflect on how far OMA-UCC has come from those days, when we had a National Outdoor Ministry Committee staffed by a half-time national staff person.

At that time we felt we were doing a lot by having a Consult every two or three years. Today, without the national staff person, OMA-UCC puts on a yearly gathering, works ecumenically to conduct a national certification program, works ecumenically to offer a member benefits program, strives to keep sites and conference connected in a “system” that is more diverse: conference owned and operated sites, independently operated sites, sites managed by outside not-for-profits, conferences without sites that are conducting programs, along with program models that are quite different.

The landscape is daunting, and I commend everyone on the OMA-UCC board for their willingness to serve. There are, unfortunately, many talented site directors unwilling to serve on the board because they see service as being too time-demanding – and keeping the network of sites and directors informed and engaged *is* difficult and time consuming.

I do not believe that OMA-UCC is in the position to hire a part time Executive Director as all the other Associations have done and, at the same time, it would be great if we could expand our Association to include the United Church of Canada, the Disciples of Christ, and others who are not included in a denominational association.

I would like to propose that the OMA-UCC Board of Directors add me to the Board as an ex-officio Executive Director charged with the following tasks:

- to keep the membership growing and expanding,
- to work with the Board Chair to help set agendas for the OMA-UCC Board of Directors,
- to take on tasks that OMCA-UCC Board members wish assistance with,
- to keep our membership and contact web page up to date,
- to serve as the key contact for conference ministers, UCCR camps, and non-camp conferences,
- and that to work with the OMA Board Chair to relate to national UCC and OMC

In order to accomplish these tasks, I envision the need to attend board meetings and national meetings, and make visits to camps in the summer. At the same time I would need to talk with folks across the country and answer emails. I am not looking for a salary, but what I would need is an expense line item of maybe \$3,500.00. At the same time, the OMA-UCC board may be in a position to decrease the size of the Board and thus utilize the savings to help with these costs.

Thank you for your consideration

Bill Bourdon