

Summary Board of Directors Meeting – January 13, 2018

The Board of Directors gathered on Saturday, January 13, 2018 to conduct the work on behalf of the New Hampshire Conference. Our day opened with a thoughtful worship lead by our transitional Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Charles Buck on this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. He reminded us of Dr. King's words: *"Our goal is to change a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."* How powerful and pertinent are those words as we are called through our mission of changing Lives!

The Board affirmed its continued support of Horton Center as an important ministry of the New Hampshire Conference as we met with Tim Hughes, recently hired as Acting Director of Horton Center. Our time with Tim was a highlight of our board meeting. Tim enthusiastically shared his background, including many years as the Director of Silver Lake Camp in Connecticut. He delighted us with numerous examples of his areas of interest, including music and a life-long love of working with youth and how he infuses his joy and passion into the camp setting. Tim also reiterated the belief that camp often provides the introduction for many of our young people to a life-long spiritual journey, resulting in relationships that last a lifetime. He clearly also brings a wealth of knowledge and ideas to strengthen the camp program and operations. We welcomed Tim as he officially begins his work on January 16th which will be followed by a week of orientation at the Conference in late January. Tim is clearly committed to making Horton Center "vital and viable".

Charles Buck as our Transitional Conference Minister continues to be engaged in all settings of our church. His work at the wider church includes participation in United Church Funds board of directors, New Hampshire Council of Churches, the Northern New England Conference Ministers and the Council of Conference Ministers. Since mid-November he visited 11 churches and attended association meetings COCM meetings. His other key activities include ongoing discussions with Lynn Bujnak, Vermont Conference Minister and Deborah Blood, Maine Conference Minister, as they explore possible areas of collaboration including

outdoor ministers, conference staffing for finances and communications and search and call support and consulting on a region-wide basis. He is quick to note however, that there are no plans to consider merging, but the areas mentioned will help each conference to creatively support our shared ministries. In addition, Charles continues to work with Ruben Rajala, our Horton Center onsite manager, to monitor and coordinate repairs to the road to HC as a result of storm damage in the early winter. As authorized by the Board in December, Charles is also overseeing work with Kaleidoscope and UCCR, two consulting firms focused on camp operations. Contracts have been signed and data gathering and analysis work continues, with initial reports expected by March 1st. Follow-up and next steps will include evaluation of the results, site visits once Horton Center is accessible in late spring, creation of a vision for Horton Center, followed by the development of a strategic plan.

In keeping with its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board reviewed preliminary financial result for the year. While we are encouraged by the Our Churches Wider Mission giving which exceeded the total pledged by the local churches, we anticipate ending the year with a budget deficit slightly higher than planned. A shortfall in the camping program of nearly \$38,000 is a major contributing factor to that overall deficit.

It was a very productive and laughter-filled Board meeting!

Thanks be to God!

Marcie Miller, New Hampshire Conference President