

**Committee on Ministry – Oversight Group**  
**Meeting Minutes September 16, 2020**  
Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** Jack Acri, Kim Cran, Jeffrey Gerber, Cheryl Goggans, Steve Johnson, Kathryn Ketchum, Doris Powell, Nayiri Karjian

At 10:02 AM Jeff opened with prayer followed by short check-ins.

**Talmadge/David Brumbaugh update**

No new news and no responses to emails. Nayiri is unsure if the mediation process is happening. We still want to hold David responsible to undertake leadership trainings.

**St. John's, Massillon/Bonnie Jean Montgomery**

The law suit brought by Jean is currently in the hands of the insurance company and lawyers.

**Don Nichols**

Don left a voice message for Nayiri saying he is planning to send another letter with the same complaints. Nayiri talked to Don's pastor, Kevin Stewart, who then talked with Don. Don is holding off for now but indicates he is unwilling to undergo psychological assessment.

**First Congregational, Conneaut**

Pastor Frank Walford has been there about three years. He has some health issues but is a good pastor. There are some power issues with a family in the church but nothing has been communicated directly. He is part-time with two licensed pastors. Jack Acri is willing to assist if situational support is needed.

**Healthy Practices**

Upcoming: 10/1/2020 Digital Church – Cameron Trimble via Zoom

Possible "bonus" Healthy Practice on 11/11 (Wednesday): Wellness and Self-care. Nayiri is sensing some burnout and anxiety among pastors. This would be before Thanksgiving and after the elections. We agreed to offer Healthy Practices credit for this event.

**2021 – February, May and Fall Ideas:**

We may become the Association to do Boundary Training for the Heartland Conference.

General discussion on topics:

- Pastoral Care Learnings from the Time of Covid... Funerals with limited attendance,
- White Privilege or other racial concerns
- Digital boundary training: what to do when people just show up, ethics of pastors leaving (who now can be easily accessed online), collegial relationships
- Issues of belonging – how we can use online presence to spread UCC welcome
- How to reach out to high school population with online presence.
- Local church owning its ministry in new ways (some lessons from the Generosity event).

Summary: How to Be Church: a Series of Learnings from Ministry during Covid

New Boundaries issues

Pastoral Care (funerals, staying connected, responding to needs...)

Faith Formation and Ministries of the Church

Evangelizing, "Membership"/Belonging (living in community)

"Stewardship"

What's going to be different when we come back? (Don Hill)

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

**Upcoming Committee on Ministry Meetings (via Zoom):**

COM-Oversight – Wednesday 11/4; COM – Thursday 12/3

Submitted by Doris Powell