

BOLM Meeting 3

August 30, 2022, 6-8pm

Present: Gayla Jo Slauson, Nancy Flint, Barry Welliver, Tezenlo Thong, Kaitlin Kahrs, Debbie Peterson, Susan Wheeler, Annie Arnoldy, Myrna Prentice, Diane Martin, Joan Richard, Mark Cumming, Linda Cockett, Michelle Aldrich, Sue Yeager, Sandy Brown, Cheryl Brown

6:05pm - The meeting began. Nancy shared a devotion posing "Why I am a United Methodist". The question was posed to provide one word that means to you to be a United Methodist. Answers included connection, worshipful music, grace, welcome, journey, missions, kids, justice, methodism, love, quadrilateral, the 3 rules of John Wesley.

The March minutes were approved unanimously.

BOLM Positions:

The discussion of current officers for BOLM was brought to the table.

Sue Yeager is stepping down from her duties as Secretary/Member of BOLM and was thanked for her attention to detail and meticulous minutes/note taking over the past 9 years! Cheryl Brown has accepted the position of Secretary. We will also look for someone to fill the Young Person's representative position.

Communications Sub-Committee – The following BOLM members will be on a new sub-committee. Barry Welliver, Diane C., Myrna Prentice, Nancy Flint, Gayla Jo, Cheryl Brown and Kaitlin Kahrs (as administrative support. Barry has noted we should move with awareness towards increasing diversity of BOLM members.

Information Updates:

Reimbursement for Annual Conference (AC) – *Annie Arnoldy*

We are preparing for the October conference (part 2) online. Members discussed whether or not to revise the mileage reimbursement policy for laity. Both Clergy and Laity have access to reimbursements but awareness of policy was not well known amongst Laity. The group, led by Annie, collectively reviewed the *2020 Guiding Policies and Procedures, P100, Travel Allowance to Annual Conference*. 20% of people who attended AC requested reimbursement. All suggestions needed to be submitted to the rules committee. We should encourage local church laity or equalization members to attend the online AC October 21-22. Registration will open Sep 1 and close Oct 10. People registered previously for AC in June do not need to register again. There was discussion about Oct AC and when to start on Friday. 1-5pm? 9-5 pm on Saturday? The Laity consensus was that a 2-6pm time would be ideal, and was recognized by Annie to be presented to the AC planning committee. Jared O'Kegley-Gibson will send a reminder confirmation email to people who are already registered.

Kaitlin will compile her and Cheryl Brown's notes and Cheryl B will take notes for meetings and prepare the minutes which will be reviewed by CCLL.

Linda Cockett reminded the group that The United Women in Faith Annual Gathering will be taking place in Cheyenne, WY, from Oct 7-8, 2023

Responsible Leadership:

Barry Welliver

EG: A Table for All

Questions ZBOLM members might consider:

We need to have conversations about how we move forward as United Methodists.

Has your church/district held space for open and honest dialogue around Church affiliation to remain or leave the UMC? If so, what have you learned? If not, how you might begin or be a part of a conversation?

The Mountain Sky conference has been listed as a conference requiring “extra” punitive measures (2019) or churches wishing to leave the UMC. This information is shared openly at this source: <https://wesleyan covenant.org/2022/08/12/let-our-people-go/> Is this new information for you? What is your understanding of this stance?

Why does the UMC require churches to place property in the trust with the denomination? Can you explain its biblical origins and align it with the Methodist vision?
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-discipline-2501-requirement-of-trust>

What general apportionments ministries are funded by apportionments? What impact might this cause at the conference/district/local church level?
<https://www.gcfa.org/media/2284/bod-references-to-apportionment-payments.pdf>

We will have big decisions to make in a year or 2 when we have another General Conference.

Disaffiliation Continued

Discussion about how we CCLL might help districts in providing information/answers to those questions.

There was discussion about how BOLM can help churches navigate these questions. How much are the churches talking about disaffiliation, etc? BOLM needs to be proactive in getting information out. We need to provide basic information and guide people towards these conversations.

The AACLL has general information. Churches do not need to vote to stay with the UMC. In order to disaffiliate, the local church council votes first and then a 2/3 majority vote of the church conference is required to determine whether the church will stay or go.

Deadline for churches to disaffiliate is 12/31/2023.

Mark C: He plans to reach out and offer assistance to churches to let them know about resources.

Barry W: This is an opportunity for church to look at where they've been, where they are now and where they are going in the future. What is the vision?

Sue Y: Are churches waiting for General Conference to happen to see what the UMC will look like before they make a decision about disaffiliating.

Michelle A: Some people have gotten tired or apathetic and have already left.

Barry W: Connectionalism is so important for us.

Nancy F: Each of us needs to be able to articulate why are United Methodists. How can we be persuasive with others if we can't articulate it?

Western Jurisdiction report out.

Episcopal Elections will be in November.

MSC legislation (both know: Minimum Compensation; Rules Changes; Disaffiliations).

All legislation will be posted on website to review before AC.

10/18/2022 - Legislative overview. Will be online meeting for all clergy and lay member of AC at 6:30pm

Other, including Bishop nomination/affirmation process.

We are electing 3 Bishops. Information is to be posted on the MSC Website, linked [here](#).

Other Reports/Business:

Kaitlin will send out a Doodle Poll for our next meeting. It will take place the second week of October.

Closing Prayer:

Michelle A. closed the meeting with prayer.

Additional Resources for the topic of Disaffiliation

["Is the UMC really...?" Part 1](#)

["Is the UMC really...?" Part 2](#)

["Is the UMC really...?" Part 3](#)