

UTO Board via Zoom January 21, 2020

Present: Sherri Dietrich, President, Joyce Landers, Vice-President, Jane Jellison, Prov I, Vernese Smith, Prov II, Rosamond Daniels, Prov III, Diane Gabbard, Prov IV, Gail Donovan, Prov V, The Rev. Chris Plantz, Prov VI, Maggie Noland, Prov VII, Kate Mietus, Prov VIII, Caitlyn Darnell, Young Adult Rep, Lorraine Candelario, Appointed Member, The Rev. Canon Heather Melton, UTO Staff Officer, The Rev. Matthew Cowden, Executive Council Liaison, Isabelle Watkins, JCE Intern.

Excused: Hilda Lamar, Prov IX, Kathy Mank, Treasurer, Michelle Walker, UTO Associate Staff Officer.

Unexcused: Sedona Jacobson, Young Adult Rep.

The meeting was called to order by President Sherri with a prayer. Joyce Landers was appointed to serve as secretary. The minutes from the previous meeting October 23-24, 2019 were discussed. Lorraine pointed out that she had been omitted from the attendance record. Lorraine moved to approve the minutes with that one correction. Vernese seconded the motion. **Motion Approved.**

Financial Report

Sherri announced that there was no new financial information to present since the accountants were still processing the 2019 numbers. A new report will be made available when it is completed.

Scholars Conference Update and Travel

Sherri reported that there have been 16 presentations submitted thus far. A selection committee comprised of Sherri, Dr. Sandra Squires (past UTO president) and others from Bexley Seabury Seminary will review all submissions and choose 6 presentations. The UTO Board will meet following the conference April 25-26. Although board members are required to attend the board meeting, they are not required to attend the Gratitude Conference on April 23-24, 2020.

Committee progress

Sherri reminded everyone of the upcoming deadlines for several of the committees. Any committee associated with printing or publishing documents that will be handed out at General Convention must have their documents submitted by August. The prayer book committee needs to meet soon and begin soliciting prayers. The educational materials committee needs to revise brochures and educational items that will be handed out as well.

Granting Timeline

Joyce made a report on the timeline for the upcoming granting cycles reminding all members of important dates. The purpose of the meeting with Global Partners was discussed and members were encouraged to attend. Heather reminded all Province Representatives to stress to their constituents to visit the evangelism webpage and read the toolbox section.

YAS! Grants

Heather announced that we will most likely only receive two applications this year. The board shared their thoughts on how we can reimagine these grants. The board is still committed to reach out to young adults and to clergy, however, it is clear we will have to find new ways to accomplish those goals. Following discussion, Chris made a motion for UTO to invite Bexley Seabury Seminary into a 3-year partnership to sponsor a Julia Chester Emory Endowed Chair to focus on the theology of gratitude and the history of UTO as part of our historic grants process honoring the tradition of funding deaconess programs. Caitlyn seconded the motion. **Motion passed.** This new position will move forward pending Executive Council approval. Chris made a motion to create a delayed deadline for historical grants as well as separate criteria and application forms. Diane seconded the motion. **Motion passed.** Joyce and Heather will work on this. (See approved motion at end of minutes.)

Joint ECW/UTO Board meeting

The NECW Board has invited us to join them during their meeting in Baltimore May 14-16, 2020. Sherri, Joyce and Isabelle will travel to Baltimore and join them for dinner on the 15th. They will also meet with venues, caterers and restaurants to plan the Triennial opening reception which is scheduled for June 30, 2021. Sherri invited board members to share any questions or items they would like her to discuss with the NECW Board.

UTO Member Mapping

Heather has created a membership map. She plans to mark those dioceses that have strong coordinators versus those who either do not have a coordinator or may need some help. All province representatives are asked to meet with Heather soon to discuss each diocese in their province. The purpose of this is to identify future UTO leaders and those who may need extra support from the board.

Booth at Rooted in Jesus Event

Heather, Gail and Isabelle will be attending the Rooted in Jesus event in Atlanta, Ga. They will maintain a booth and distribute items to participants.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Sherri.

Approval of the Historical Grant Application Process February 2020

The United Thank Offering Board at a regular meeting of the Board approved utilization of a different application process for grant applications that the Board deems to be within the historical scope of the work of the United Thank Offering. This different application process will acknowledge the unique nature of these historical grant applications. (Historical grants are currently defined as those which do not necessarily fit the focus but follow in the path of decades of granting. For example, the Julia Chester Emory Internship is in the historical lineage of the UTO Missionary grants to send and support missionaries.)

The new application process for historical grants and applications was approved by the Grant Committee on Thursday, February 6, 2020 and submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board for final approval. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the work of the Grant Committee on February 7, 2020.