

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

of the Virlina District Board - Church of the Brethren, Inc.

Thursday, June 22, 2017, 5:30pm, Camp Bethel, Fincastle, VA



In attendance (circle):

Naomi Powers (Vice-Chair), Allison Mullins (Secretary), Zach Tabor (Finance Chair), Carol Hinton (Program Chair), Kimball Egge (Property Chair), Bill Broyles, Emely D'Oleo, Sharon Flora, Brian Harmon, Charles Huffman, Junior King, Sam Light, Stephanie Naff, Barry LeNoir (ex-officio). Brigitte Burton (staff guest), Beth Heaton (staff guest), Mickey Nichols (staff guest), Jenna Stacy (staff guest).

Thank you to OMC members who participated in our June 3 Pot-Luck Dinner and our June 9 Summer Staff Commissioning Dinner & Service!

- I. Devotions/prayer – Naomi Powers, Vice-Chair.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – Naomi Powers, Vice-Chair.

III. ORDER OF THE DAY: OMC Reorganization.

Tabitha Rudy accepted the call to serve as Interim Associate District Executive Minister for Virlina District, and she began this position on June 1, 2017. **Action:** Determine whether Naomi Powers will serve as Chair through November 11, 2017. **If YES**, then Stephanie Naff will serve on the Property Subcommittee, and we call a new Vice Chair. **If NO**, then we must call another Chair from any eligible members (previous OMEC experience), then reorganize from there.

IV. Reports and Information:

- A. District Board meeting on May 20, 2017 - OMEC acting Chair, Naomi Powers, and/or Brian Harmon, OMC Rep from Board.
- B. OMEC – Naomi Powers.
 - 1. Report from June 3, 2017 meeting with Brigitte Burton. – Naomi Powers.
 - 2. Food Services Coordinator position search. – Barry LeNoir. Lots of interest; very few actual applicants. Original plan will likely change; maybe interim...(?) Barry will contact OMEC, then OMC via email poll once a candidate is selected; meeting if necessary. OMC approves hire, then recommends and/or reports to District Board. FSC is District Board employee.
- C. Mission Resource Campaign for Camp Bethel & Virlina: "Seed, Scattered & Sown" – Stephanie Naff. *As of June 20, the Seed Scattered & Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation mission resourcing campaign has 230 pledges with \$415,169.10 pledged and \$222,537.66 received. Lead gift visitation continues, and the Congregational Phase of the campaign (congregational giving over and above annual Self-Allocations) will begin soon.*

D. Subcommittee Reports:

- 1. Finance Sub-Committee (Zach Tabor).
 - a. Report from Commission on Stewardship.
 - b. Camp Bethel Income/Expense Data as of 05/31/2017.
 - c. Benefit Golf Tournament is August 23. Prizes, sleeves of balls, sponsors and participants needed; info at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf
- 2. Program Sub-Committee (Carol Hinton).
 - a. SOTM income is estimated to be \$46,292, so Barry will research why income data showing for May 31 is so much lower.
 - b. Summer Camp report and update (Barry LeNoir).

	Total campers 06.21.2016	Total campers 06.21.2017
On site camps	700	765
Trav Day Camps	199	166
Fam Fun Tues	36	4
Lil' Otters Wed	4	14
Camp Too Sweet	56	56
TOTAL THUS FAR:	995	1005
Total for year	1159 in 2016	Goal is 1250 in 2017

- 3. Property Sub-Committee (Kimball Egge).

- a. Pond work continues; hauling dirt away when dry enough.
 - b. Repairs to 568 Bethel Rd (where LeNoirs live). Mickey and his team have repaired fascia boards, removed ivy, removed shutters, repaired septic air pipe.
 - c. New projector installed in Ark; new screen on its way. Mickey & team installed electrical; Lee Hartman & Sons installed projector. Hopefully funded by Laurel Branch and Christiansburg CoBs (TBD upon Angela Carr's return from sick leave).
- E. Additional Committee Reports:
- 1. **Congregational Phase of Seed Scattered & Sown Campaign** (Naomi, Brian, Junior).
 - 2. **RV Village & Road Improvement Plan Sub-Committee.** We have selected ECI for design work for the planned 15-site RV Village. Surveying has begun.
 - 3. **Camp Bethel PEP! 5K Trail Run** (August 26, 2017) Sub-Committee: (Rob Cassell, Mike Elmore, Angie LeNoir, Daniel Pinard, Jenna Stacy, Tony Wirt) has met four times, most recently on Tuesday, June 20. Proceeds for new (used) Maintenance Truck. Seeking sponsors and participants; info at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K
- F. Camp Director's Report - Barry LeNoir.
- V. Old OMC Business – Naomi Powers.
- A. Jenna Stacy received her business credit card.
 - B. Zach Tabor has submitted our OMC revised Virlina District Van Safety Policies.
 - C. Vehicles: The August 26 "Camp Bethel PEP! 5K" will raise funds for a new (used) Maintenance Truck. Camp will also need a new minivan which will top our Wish List.
 - D. **No progress:** Review and Update of the Camp Bethel Master Site Plan. (*Available at www.virlinafuture.org*). Barry has contacted Tom Nepl (www.tomnepl.com) about revising our Site Plan maps with updated "actual" changes that have happened since 2006. Barry is not yet ready with a revised document.
 - E. **Placeholder for late 2017 and early 2018:** The Roanoke Women's Foundation Grant Application was too complex for us to make time for year, so we will explore this opportunity for 2018. *Big THANK YOU to Sharon Flora* for time and research about what's needed to complete the application. www.roanokewomensfoundation.org/Apply
 - F. **Placeholder for future thought and action:** OMC to think about ways to provide outdoor ministry/education outside of the camp program. *"Camp can be a great resource for all age groups. How can we overcome the stigmas of it costing too much or being too far away in order to advance and expand its ministry to the district?"*
 - G. **Placeholder for future thought and action:** IDEA: OMC Property Committee to recruit and promote a "Garden Team" of volunteers who maintain camp's landscaped garden areas: entrance sign; pool bridge; Ark Peace gardens; Heritage raised bed; Gym entrances... or any of these.
 - H. Other Old Business:
- VI. New OMC Business – Naomi Powers.
- A. Other New Business:

VII. Prayer and dismissal. *All are invited to Skits at Hillside at 7:15, and evening worship in Right Field (Elementary + Middle School 8:30; High School 9:15).*

Next OMC meetings:

June 22, 2017 (Thur), 5:30pm OMC dinner w/ campers & meeting at Camp Bethel.

August 23, 2017 (Wed), 6:00pm: OMC helps serve guests at the Golf Tournament Banquet.

August 25, 2017 (Fri), AT DRC: 5:15pm OMEC Meeting & 6:00pm OMC Meeting (2018 budget meeting), AT DRC.

September OMC meeting not scheduled, but can be called if necessary.

November 10-11, 2017 (Fri-Sat), Virlina District Conference, location TBD.

November 11, 2017 (Sat), OMC Reorganization at Virlina District Conference.

December 2, 2017 (Sat), 9:00am OMC and District Board Retreat at Camp Bethel.

December 7, 2017 (Thur), 6:00pm: OMC helps serve guests at Christmas TOGETHER Banquet, (*snow date Dec 14*).

OMEC Minutes 04.01.17

The Outdoor Ministries Executive Committee of the Virlina District Board met at 12 noon on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Camp Bethel with the following members present: Tabitha H. Rudy (Chair), Naomi Powers (Vice-Chair), Allison N. Mullins (Secretary), Zach Tabor (Finance Chair), Kimball Egge (Property Chair), Barry LeNoir (ex-officio)

Tabitha H. Rudy welcomed the group. Kimball Egge offered devotions and prayer. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Reports:

District Board: There were Ordinations approved by the Board. Jenna Stacy credit card approved by Board. Congregational phase of "Seeds, Scattered and Sown" moving along. Emma Jean wrapping up her job by May 7th. Executive Committee has met to discuss hiring process.

Associate District Minister: no report.

Camp Director's Report and Personnel: On the Camp Bethel Income to Expense Comparisons document as of 3/28/2017, line #75 does not match line #10 and #11 – Barry is checking on this. Numbers are up from this time last year, including SOTM ticket presales, sponsorship and Summer Camp Registrations.

Old Business:

Food Service Coordinator Position: Brigitte's last day is July 31. Letter and position description will be posted and promoted throughout Virlina and our community as of April 4th. Committee is asked to look over the letter and description then email Barry with questions or concerns before 10am April 4th. No housing will be offered onsite. Ideally the person would start May 30th with the latest date being July 1st. A suggestion was made to combine paragraphs from page 1- Food Services Coordinator at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia and page 3- General expectation of Camp Bethel's Food Services. Barry to check the Virlina District to see if there is a policy in place about a 90-day probation period. Candidates will be interviewed by OMEC then the full OMC.

Meeting dismissed for lunch then subcommittee meetings.

OMC Minutes 4.1.17

The Outdoor Ministries Committee of the Virlina District Board met at 2:00pm on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Camp Bethel with the following members present: Tabitha H. Rudy (Chair), Naomi Powers (Vice-Chair), Allison N. Mullins (Secretary), Zach Tabor (Finance Chair), Kimball Egge (Property Chair), Bill Broyles, Brian Harmon, Charles Huffman, Sam Light, Barry LeNoir (ex-officio)

Tabitha H. Rudy welcomed the group. Kimball Egge offered devotions and prayer. The agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion from Naomi and a second by Charles then by consensus. The minutes were approved from February 11, 2017 by consensus.

Reports:

District Board: There were Ordinations approved by the Board. Jenna Stacy credit card approved by Board with letter sent to David Shumate. Executive Committee has met to discuss hiring process for Emma Jean.

OMEC: Brigitte's last day is July 31. Letter and position description will be posted and promoted throughout Virlina and our community as of April 4th. Committee is asked to look over the letter and description then email Barry with questions or concerns before 10am April 4th. No housing will be offered on-site. Ideally the person would start May 30th with the latest date being July 1st. A suggestion was made in OMEC meeting to combine paragraphs from page 1- Food Services Coordinator at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia and page 3- General expectation of Camp Bethel's Food Services. Barry to check the Virlina District to see if there is a policy in place about a 90-day probation period. Candidates will be interviewed by OMEC then the full OMC.

Mission Resource Campaign for Camp Bethel and Virlina: As of March 21, the Seed Scattered and Sown Campaign has 221 pledges with \$395,569.10 pledged and \$209,204.66 received. The Congregational Phase of the Campaign will begin in early summer. The committee will be recruiting people to visit congregations. Direct people to website for information and to donate online.

Finance: Refer to Camp Bethel Income to Expense Comparisons 2012-2017 as of 3.28.2017. Line #75 does not match line #10 and #11 - Barry is checking on this. On March 23rd Harry Rhodes sent a letter to the State Corporation Commission a certified copy of a "Certificate of Transacting Business Under Assumed Name"

Program: Numbers are up from this time last year, including SOTM ticket presales, sponsorship and Summer Camp Registrations. Allison seeking SOTM volunteers for ticket sales.

Property: Items presented as issues to resolve: Stone HOP needs painting and will then be finished. The Conference room in HOP will be finished in the Fall. The Ark Pond is still under construction. Much of the dirt taken from the pond is being used as fill dirt throughout the camp. The solar powered kiln floor has been made. The bridge at HOP is needed to be replaced very soon.

Congregational Phase of Seed Scattered and Sown Campaign: Naomi Powers is Chair of the committee and reports they are laying the ground work for congregational visits. They will be getting letters out to Pastors and Church Board Chairs.

RV Village & Road Improvement Plan Sub-Committee: Met today and walked from the entrance to where the RV Village will be. Discussed the road and replacing trees surrounding it with more stabilizing trees. There is money in the Nolley Fund for engineering and design work. Re-soliciting bids needed for road improvement but we can have the RV Village without it. Once everything is worked out we just need a building permit.

Camp Director's Report and Camp Staff Reports: Barry reports Camp is busy hiring summer camp counselors and kitchen staff with many male counselors still needed. Also, there has been a huge marketing push for summer camps. Our goal for this year is 1,250 campers with 161 registered as of March 30th. Camp staff will be busy in the coming months with speaking engagements and overall prep for summer camps and Barry praises all the hard work and dedication his team puts forth.

Barry will be presenting on behalf of the OMC at Ministry and Mission in Virlina on May 6th at Oak Grove.

Camp was awarded "Virginia Trees for Clean Water" grant with 56 new trees being planted around campus to protect the watershed.

Old Business:

- Barry has re-started soliciting bids design work for the planned 15 site RV Village.

- After District Board approval Barry has submitted a formal letter to David Shumate requesting credit card for Jenna Stacy.
- We will explore an opportunity in 2018 to apply for the Roanoke Women's Foundation Grant. Thank you to Sharon Flora for giving of her time and research on this.
- Safety Policy regarding District owned vans reviewed with the committee with suggested edits to be sent back to Stewardship Committee for approval.
- OMC to think of ways to provide outdoor ministry/ education outside of camp program. We can generate more ideas to get the district involved. Camp Bethel is a great resource. Open all year, not just for summer camp. Please share your ideas with either Barry or Tabitha.
- Possibility of an option for churches to adopt different landscaped areas around camp for upkeep.

New Business: Keep in mind, camp will need a new maintenance truck and a new minivan this year. Camp is exploring their options.

Tabitha closed in prayer.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison N. Mullins