Coordinating Committee 5/25/2023

Present: Dave Cundiff, Dorothy Day, Mike Huber, Judy Maurer (clerk), Norma Silliman, Jon Tippin (recording clerk), Erin Wilson

1. Spending Plan.
2. Dave presented the current spending plan for 2023-24 (see attached). Less than half of the expected revenue has been received at this time, but spending is also down, leading to a less than anticipated deficit of $2,012 (approved deficit is $5,064). Because of requests for additional committee spending, and the previously approved increase in Barclay Press support, the requested deficit for 2023-24 is $18,050. A suggestion was made to use current vs prior year rather dates (i.e., 2022 vs 2023) in the spreadsheet.
3. Should there be fundraising to close this gap? Some of our meetings are in precarious financial situations, others (e.g., Hillsboro) feel that what finances they have should be reserved for service to local people rather than given to the YM. Dave said that it may be necessary to dip into reserves unless friends feel clear to increase giving. Fortunately, committees have historically spent less than their requested amounts.
4. Mike felt it inappropriate to use the YM business session as the place to bring forward new information. This information and committee recommendations (including Finance) should be made available prior to the business session, allowing friends the opportunity to review it and discern the best course of action. Although the Finance Committee has been uncomfortable giving recommendations and would prefer leaving this to the YM Clerks, their input is important and helpful. The Finance Committee will provide input on the overall fiscal picture, but not details about specific committees.
5. Friends need to be reminded that it is unwise to get enthusiastic about things that they are not enthusiastic about supporting (Dave). Who will enforce fiscal discipline? Who makes these decisions? Perhaps it is better for committees to request more in the Spending Plan, but then exercise restraint on how much is actually spent. Sometimes decisions are based upon a vision rather than a specific, well thought out plan, in which case friends need to understand that details will need to be worked out later if there is clarity to proceed.
6. A discussion ensued about Safeguarding Committee’s request for supporting a paid administrative position, which is not included in the current Spending Plan. Erin said there are many details that need to be developed before a proposal is brought forward to the business session, such as number of hours, pay and scope of duties. There has been some discussion about having an administrative position for the YM as a whole, could it be the same person? Norma felt that this required seasoning and the time did not seem right to bring a proposal forward, but it would be appropriate to introduce the notion. Erin will send this back to the Safeguarding Committee and Judy will review past minutes in which implementation of background checks, legal implications and the like were discussed. At some point in the future, this information would go to the YM Clerks and Finance Committee, who could amend the Spending Plan.
7. What’s the process for hiring an administrative person (whether for Safeguarding or the YM)? Do we have an infrastructure to do that? This would need to be investigated further.
8. Visiting Alaskan Friends
9. Norma reminded the Committee that fundraising will be needed to provide support to these Friends. No specific request for funds from the YM Spending Plan is proposed.
10. As hosts, should we be asking permission from the native peoples who live in these lands (e.g., The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde)? Guidelines are needed for how attenders could best relate to them after they hear their stories on Saturday evening. We also need to understand the cultural subtleties specific to the speakers' Native cultures.
11. Committee Reports
12. Nominating, Faith and Practice and Nurture of Ministry reports will be on the website for advance notification.
13. Nurture of Ministries is proposing the formation of a working group to review the Bylaws as the YM has evolved to some degree over the years since they were developed. Dave felt that the individuals who were a part of the original group writing the Bylaws should be involved, especially regarding legal issues. However, that may be unnecessary if it is simply a matter concerning committee structure.
14. Other Business
15. Eli Craig was approved to join Nominating Committee.
16. Erin, Dorothy and Jon are going off Coordinating Committee, and Judy will not be continuing to clerk the Committee. However, she and Norma will set the agenda for the next meeting at which time a new clerk will be named. Mike will end his tenure as YM co-Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Tippin, Recording Clerk