

Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry
USA Wesley Foundation
February 16, 2017

Members Present: Jenni Hendrix (Secretary), Levi Gardner, David Goolsby, Rob Thomas, Bessie Hamilton, Stuart Worth, Dric Williford, Bill Hamilton, Scott Hohn (Chair), Kevin Krist, Misty Barrett, Frank Moore.

A Devotion was offered by Scott Hohn at 10:00am.
Stuart Worth offered a prayer.
Campus Ministers were dismissed until their interview.

Interview with Rev. Hamilton- AUM

- Letter's of Support were forwarded from 4 local churches. Scott has asked that they might also have letters of support from these churches. Pensacola shot for 10 giving \$4k.
- Bessie recused herself from this process.
- The board decided that it would pick this conversation back up after the interviews have been made with the remaining campus ministers.
- Specific expectations and goals will be given.

The Following Campus Ministers were interviewed:

- **ASU- Charity Starr Mitchell**
- **UWA- Kitsy Dixon**
Need to re-do Nominations report
- **Tuskegee- Wallace Nobles**
Wallace will be ending his interim ministry at the end of the Spring 2017 semester.
David Goosby will be encouraging the Tuskegee Board to do an exit interview with Wallace
When asked what Tuskegee needed form the board, Wallace said a location.
- **Huntingdon- Woods Lisenby**
- **Auburn- David Goolsby**
- **UWF- Stuart Worth**
- **USA- Johnny**
- **UWF- Stuart Worth**
- **Auburn Wesley Foundation- David Goolsby**

Elaine Brown from Troy Wesley Foundation was not present.

Business Session Minutes

New Policy

Scott asked the board to create a policy on what to do when a Campus Minister has a conflict with the annual meeting in which they are interviewed.

- The board approved Scotts decision to invite Elaine to our next meeting so that she could satisfy the requirement to meet annually with the board.

- After discussion about supporting our campus ministers and fulfilling our responsibilities, the discussion was tabled until our Meeting in May.

Nov. 29- Minutes Approval

1st-Bill Hamilton; 2nd-Frank Moore; Approval-Unanimous

October 11- Minutes Approval

1st-Frank Moore, 2nd-Bill Hamilton; Approval-Unanimous

Talent Fund-Leadership Retreat

David Goolsby and Stuart Worth, on behalf of the campus ministers requested \$2000 from the board to help lower the cost of attending the Leadership Retreat on February 24-26th. This grant would lower the cost by \$25 for each person. The check is to be sent to Stuart Worth at the UWF Wesley Foundation

1st- Bill Hamilton; 2nd-Misty Barrett; Approval-Unanimous

Talent Fund- Board Training

Scott Hohn, asked for a grant to make Hotel rooms available for those attending Board Training at Frazier UMC on April 7-8, 2017. This will allow attendees to come for the fellowship events on Friday night and stay for the training on Saturday.

1st-Bill Hamilton; 2nd-Misty Barrett; Approval-Unanimous

What to ask the Bishop

Scott asked us what the Board members would like him to ask/include in his conversation with the Bishop in the coming week:

- What are his plans concerning appointing v. hiring a Campus Minister at Tuskegee?
- What is his desire for Campus Ministries in the Conference to do?
- What are his plans with the Auburn Cooperative Parish and how has it worked thus far?
- What would he like to see happen at AUM?
- How do you want us to relate to our Methodist Colleges?
- Are there any plans around resuming a conference staff person for HECM?
- How are we measuring fruitfulness, accountability, and discipleship in our Campus Ministries and how do we hold them accountable?
- How can we move past the barriers of our denomination's background and racial history to be in ministry with one another?

Approve changes for Financial Guidelines

1st- Bill Hamilton; 2nd- Bessie Hamilton; Approval- Unanimous

AUM

After some discussion, it was decided that we will discuss with Bishop Graves how to go forward next step with AUM.

Prayer was offered by Misty Barrett and dismissal at 3:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenni Hendrix, Secretary

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
Addendum to Minutes from 2-16-17 Meeting

- On March 27th, Rev. Scott Hohn, Board Chair, sent the following letter to the board.
- 9 members responded, all votes were unanimous to approve the letter and to send it out.
- On April 3, 2017, Scott send the following letter to John Brooks, DS of Montgomery-Prattville; Robbins Sims, DS of Montgomery-Opelika; Elvyn Hamilton; Bessie Hamilton; and a BCC was sent to David Graves, Bishop; Jeff Wilson, DS Elect of Montgomery-Opelika; and Jenni Hendrix, BHECM Secretary:
- The Letter reads as follows:

Rev. John Brooks, Dr. Robbins Simms, and Revs. Elvyn and Bessie Hamilton,
The following letter is a proposal for a way to move forward to establish a Wesley Foundation at Auburn University in Montgomery (AUM). Your feedback will be appreciated in this conversation about how a Wesley Foundation can be established on the campus of AUM.

Our annual conference's Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) does not currently have a procedure or policy in place on how to start a new Wesley Foundation. We have been trying to figure out how to start an AUM Wesley Foundation as we have been moving forward in this process. As we are moving forward, we are gaining greater clarity of what needs to be done.

The BHECM met with a group from The Source and from AUM on November 29, 2016. After hearing a report from Revs. Elvyn and Bessie Hamilton, the BHECM discerned that there was a need for a Wesley Foundation on the campus of Auburn Montgomery. The BHECM came up with a list of requirements to be met, including a request for "letters of support from local churches who will be in partnership with AUM's Wesley Foundation." Four letters expressing support to form an AUM Wesley Foundation were received from the pastors of Cain Chappell, Hope Hull, Metropolitan, and Perry Hill. Based on these letters and based on the meeting on November 29th, we discern a need and a desire among United Methodists in the Montgomery area to form an AUM Wesley Foundation.

The BHECM does not have the financial resources in 2017 to fund a new Wesley Foundation at AUM. Our funding for 2017 has already been allocated to our current seven Wesley Foundations. We have asked for an increase in our budget for 2018, and if the annual conference approves this request, we *may* allocate funds towards an AUM Wesley Foundation in 2018. In addition, the BHECM does not have the human capital to do the hard work necessary to promote and begin a new Wesley Foundation. Most of the members of the BHECM live outside of Montgomery, and they volunteer their time to serve on the BHECM. Therefore, the two Montgomery districts and the local churches within these two districts need to take responsibility for starting a new Wesley Foundation. The BHECM sees its role as one of coaching and advising those who will be doing the work of establishing an AUM Wesley Foundation. The preliminary work and financing for an AUM Wesley has to come from the two Montgomery districts and from their local churches. The BHECM *may* make a decision whether to include an AUM Wesley Foundation in future funding, but an AUM Wesley Foundations will need to be established and active before we will fund them in the future.

The above paragraph is not meant to discourage the establishment of an AUM Wesley Foundation, but it is meant to realistically define what the BHECM can and cannot do in this process. We suggest the following steps as a way to move forward. The purpose of completing these steps is not simply to gain the approval or blessing of the BHECM. The purpose of these steps is to facilitate the process of promoting an AUM Wesley to the local churches and United Methodists of the Montgomery area and to United Methodist alumni of AUM. These are the steps that our BHECM suggests:

1. Develop a task force with at least 9 members. Both the Montgomery-Prattville and the Montgomery-Opelika districts will be responsible for selecting the membership of this task force. The task force should be broadly representative of the immediate vicinity of AUM and include laypersons, clergy, and people connected with AUM. The task force will also have representative from our annual conference's BHECM.

2. The task force will solicit letters of **financial** support from local churches who will be in partnership with AUM's Wesley Foundation. We need to hear that local churches are committed to giving financially to support this ministry.
3. The task force will develop a **detailed** budget with both anticipated funding and expenses. The budget should list specifically how much funding is anticipated from different sources, and the name of those sources should be listed.
4. The task force will develop a **detailed** calendar of ministry events. The purpose of this calendar is to explain to local churches and to local United Methodists what the AUM Wesley Foundation will be doing.
5. The task force will promote an AUM Wesley Foundation among local churches and to United Methodists in the Montgomery area.
6. During this process the task force will work to develop an AUM Wesley Foundation Board that will be in compliance with our Annual Conference's Campus Ministry Guidelines which can be found on our conference website.

We acknowledge that the process listed above will require hard work, but if the two Montgomery districts and their churches feel led to establish an AUM Wesley Foundation, then God's grace will prove sufficient and lead to this ministry happening.

The BHECM affirms the campus ministry that The Source is currently conducting with AUM students. We are grateful for how The Source has ministered with college students, particularly with AUM students, and the BHECM urges The Source to continue with their fruitful ministry.

We look forward to hearing your wisdom and feedback on how we can move forward with this process.

In Christ,

Scott Christopher Hohn

Chair, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Jenni Hendrix, BHECM Secretary
4-3-17