VSWO

***MINUTES***

***Board of Directors***

**Meeting Date: 11/11/17**

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, VSWO, was held at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA on November 11, 2017. The meeting convened at 10:23 AM, President Jody Smiley presiding, Helen Weaver, Secretary. Members of the Board in attendance were Renée Ballentine, Vice President; Edith Blake, Treasurer; Bonnie Mantta; Michelle Poore; Linda Lowry; Judy Wilfong and Ellen Greene. Members not in attendance were: Zelda Wetzel and Sylvia Ely.

**Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the VSWO Board meeting minutes for August 17 and 19, 2017 were approved as submitted. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the VSWO Convention minutes for August 19, 2017 were approved as submitted.

**Report of Convention:**

President Smiley asked Renée Ballentine and Michelle Poore to present results of the post-convention survey. Highlights included:

1. Convention scored high overall. Very positive.
2. Churchwide representative scored highest of any that have attended.
3. Liked having opportunity to attend all awareness sessions. Continue random assignment.
4. Keep moving around state.
5. Like internationally-based service projects.
6. Suggested improvements:
   1. Email committees prior to convention with templates and samples of their responsibilities.
   2. More awareness sessions with nonprofit organizations & ideas for units.
7. Suggested future themes: Call to persevere, Mission, God so Loved the World.
8. Received 5 volunteer forms for convention planning.

**Convention 2018**

Renée and Judy continued with an update of planning for next year's convention August 3rd & 4th, 2018.

1. Establish teams of leaders for workshops.
2. Organize convention similar to youth events. Received outline of planning process from Dave Delaney. Include large group session with skit and lively music. Small groups delve deeper into theme.
3. Hold business first with voting members. Any resolutions would need to be submitted in advance or at start of convention. Offer service project option during business session.
4. Awareness sessions on VSWO & WELCA. Perhaps a contest with questionnaire on WELCA/VSWO.
5. Hold opening devotion in evening and close convention with worship.
6. Discussion around theme possibilities including Hebrews 10:19-25 (narrowed to 23-25); possible workshop presenters (music therapy, store owner who fights human trafficking) and suggested chaplains (Martha Simms, Cheryl Griffin, Barbara Crum).
7. Suggestion to change young women guest program (which has not been getting much participation) to young women pastors. Ellen can get a list to Renee. Mail "save-the-date" postcards. Discussed costs and assistance. Decided to cover registration at a minimum and possibly more based on # of participants.

***Motion***: Moved by Bonnie Mantta and seconded that “the VSWO invite women pastors to Convention in lieu of young women guests to learn about WELCA. VSWO to provide some type of assistance TBD.”

Motion carried.

1. Tentative schedule: Friday 10-5 (or 12-5) lunch provided. 6:00 or 6:30pm opening reception. Large group at 7:00 followed by small group gatherings to meet and fellowship. Jody has icebreaker activity.
2. Suggestion to purchase All Anew devotion booklet from WELCA for convention attendees.

**Officers Reports:**

**Treasurer’s Report** **(Report Attached)**

* 1. Balance in checking account – $8375.93
  2. Betty Wilson Triennial Scholarship - $461.00
  3. Young Women Guest Program - $852.36
  4. Received additional $104 towards Bishop Mauney Forwarding Faith gift. Total $1200.

**President’s Report**

* 1. Jody completed obligations to churchwide.
  2. Edith participated in Region 9 call in Jody's place.
  3. Jody is serving on Synod Council.
  4. Worked on guidelines for conference coordinators.
  5. Shared that Roanoke scholarship has not been awarded for the past 2 years as the wording for qualification states 1st preference is to woman who is pursuing church vocations & is member of VA Synod or companion synod of Papua New Guinea. Joyce Kipps suggested adding that in the event 1st preference can't be met, 2nd preference given to women who are members of a Lutheran church in the VA Synod.

***Motion:*** Moved by Edith Blake and seconded that “The VSWO add the suggested second preference wording to the scholarship eligibility guidelines.”

Motion carried.

* 1. Jody attended the Tidewater Fall gathering. 39 attendees from 8 churches including 1 from Peninsula. Elected Sheila Sanchez as new conference coordinator. Judy attended Southern Valley gathering. Tomorrow, Jody will deliver sermon at Trinity Pulaski thank offering service.
  2. Shared lessons learned since first time as president - leading is delegating, allowing people to use their talents and grow as leaders.
  3. WELCA news - reducing churchwide staff by 2 and gave raises to remaining staff. Triennial convention costs almost $1 million. Inez Torres Davis retired. Position will be filled.

**Mission Team Assignments:**

Mission teams met briefly and then the group reconvened and shared the following:

1. **Conference Coordinator - Bonnie Mantta**
   1. Working on guidelines for conference coordinators & planning teams.
   2. Would like to create a conference gathering planning guide.
   3. Need to update conference gathering information form and conference contact information sheet.
2. **Mission Stewardship - Edith Blake & Ellen Greene**
   1. Encourage/challenge units to make $25 donation directly to churchwide in the next year.
   2. Ellen will invite Carrie Mangus to be a guest writer in the next newsletter.
   3. Suggestion to add textboxes in newsletter referencing the website.
3. **Mission Justice - Sylvia Ely & Michelle Poore**
   1. Partner with Virginia Interfaith Center.
   2. Suggestion to add health kits to convention service project - may be able to find someone to take to distribution center.
   3. Article for newsletter on How to Have Helpful Conversations about Race.
4. **Mission Discipleship - Zelda Wetzel & Linda Lowry**
   1. Convention service project - wheelchair caddies & nonslip socks.
5. **Convention Planning - Renée Ballentine & Judy Wilfong**
   1. Convention hotel - Holiday Inn Express. Jody to confirm if there is a separate room for breakfast.
   2. List of tasks to delegate to new team members. Judy will contact.
   3. Renée will compose a draft of the schedule.
   4. Have 4 rather than 5 awareness sessions.
   5. Discussed theme ideas - Let Us Encourage. Will come up with own logo rather than use WELCA.
   6. Invite music leader from Roanoke convention to lead music at 2018 convention.

**Old Business:**

1. **Constitution Change**
2. Amendment to reduce Board members from 8 to 6 was accepted by Churchwide.
3. Jody will review terms of Board members & determine how to make this change.
4. Bonnie, Judy, Zelda and Renée all eligible for reelection in 2018. Helen will rotate off.

**New Business:**

1. **Website**
   1. Sheila offered to help with website.
   2. Jody has guide to add to resource section.
2. **Active Unit Assessment**
   1. Jody reported that WELCA shows the VSWO with 99 active units but 40-50 would be more accurate.
   2. Jody will sort list and send to Board members to confirm if those in question are active in some way. Due back by the end of December.
   3. WELCA will set number of voting members per conference in March 2018.
3. **Thrivent Investment Advisory Committee** - Helen to send Jody names of committee members.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2018, St Marks, Charlottesville.