



Week of Compassion Board of Stewards Fall 2021 Meeting

October 26 @ 10AM - 3PM Eastern

Online Site Documents: <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/boardaccess.html>

Password: WOC1986!

Zoom Meeting Info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81193713756>

Meeting ID: 811 9371 3756

Mobile: 16699009128

Tuesday, October 26

10AM Welcome and Introductions - Jake Caldwell, Chair

Opening Devotion - Milca Rivera

Business Session

Approval of Agenda -**ACTION**- Jake Caldwell

Bill Lee moves to approve; Milca Rivera seconds; approved (unanimous)

[Approval of Minutes from Spring 2021 Meeting](#) -**ACTION**- Jake Caldwell

Rebecca Smith moves to approve; John Kuebler seconds; approved (unanimous)

(moved up in agenda) Fall Sustainable Development Proposals - **ACTION** - Judi Frost Claretta Witherspoon, and Milca Rivera presented recommendations:

- DOM, Congo; Request: \$12,500; Recommendation: full funding
- DOM, Indonesia: Request: \$12,500; Recommendation: full funding
- DOM, Columbia: Request: \$12,500; Recommendation: full funding
- DOM, Palestine: Request: \$12,500; Recommendation: full funding
- CWS, Vietnam: Request \$49,527 (total budget); Recommendation: full funding

- **Judi moves to accept proposals as presented by the team**
- **Rebecca seconds motion; motion carries (unanimous)**

Moved up in agenda [Approval of class 2024 Board Members](#) - **ACTION** -

- Renew class of 2021 for an additional 3-year term (concluding 2024) and

carry forward the current officers.

- Vacant position, with resignation of Jess Kim. Will leave position vacant for remaining year of term.
- **Claretta Witherspoon moves to approve as presented; Rebecca Smith seconds; approved (unanimous).**

11AM Racial Equity Impact on Domestic Disaster Work

Rev. Lori Adams and Rev. Sandhya Jha

- Caroline provided introductory remarks regarding the context of domestic disaster response as a crucial, visible part of the work of Week of Compassion and of the growing awareness within the disaster response and recovery 'ecosystem' about racial and systemic inequality. Caroline introduced Rev. Sandhya Jha and Rev. Lori Adams, who have been contracted to complete a review of the domestic disaster response program.
- Revs. Jha and Adams offered greetings and shared a slide presentation summarizing the work completed so far and the plan moving forward.
- Discussion included questions about how Week of Compassion responds to human-caused disasters, especially political and social unrest; how to weigh and prioritize property impact vs. human impact; how to define who makes up Week of Compassion, in particular whether the definition includes all donors; and how to best define what constitutes a disaster and what types of impacts/needs should be prioritized, especially as those evaluations may be culturally inflected. There was also general enthusiasm for the importance of this work and a recognition that it must be a church-wide effort.
- Rev. Jha provided some initial summary findings from the stakeholders survey:
 - Both/and view of Week of Compassion as both a fund and a program ministry
 - Awareness of climate change in relation to disparate impact on communities of color
 - Among Regional Ministers, increased desire for connection between WoC and Reconciliation
 - Ecumenical partners expressed interest in deeper engagement around mitigation and long-range advocacy.

Discussion:

- Bill noted that Week of Compassion has been largely personality driven in the past and encouraged Revs. Jha and Adams to consider that history and its implications on process and accountability.

12PM Break

12:20PM Updates from the Field- Welcoming Afghan Families

Erol Kekic- Senior Vice President, CWS Refugee Program

- Erol shared a presentation/update on the current evacuee situation, the national response, and the role of CWS in those efforts.
- Vy asks for clarification regarding the presidential determination. Erol responded

that the determination has been set at 125k, which is *in addition* to Afghan resettlements.

- Discussion included comments regarding the impact of several years of historically low ceilings and the diminished capacity of local resettlement offices. Several board members asked questions about specific types of support such as translation, housing, and involvement of existing diasporic Afghan communities. Erol offered to share a one-pager about housing needs in follow-up to the meeting.

1:05PM [Executive Director's Report](#) and Conversation - Vy Nguyen

- Vy highlighted key points of the report, including the financial health of the organization, the current and anticipated travel practices for staff, and developments in domestic disaster response. He emphasized, in particular the need to expand our response to refugee resettlement, including resettlement of Afghan evacuees.
- The Board engaged in discussion regarding Vy's proposal to reallocate funding previously directed to support Refugee and Immigration Ministries at DHM to begin a new program within Week of Compassion focused on providing direct assistance to congregations that are interested in supporting refugee resettlement locally. This would not affect funding committed to DHM for Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel and would not affect Q1 contributions to support RIM.
 - Several Board members noted the importance and timeliness of the issue and appreciated the responsiveness of congregations and Week of Compassion.
 - Terri voiced the necessity of making any changes with transparency and clear communication.
 - Discussion focused for a time on the difference between the current priorities of RIM and the intended priorities for a Week of Compassion program, especially given the urgency of the current moment. This also included conversation around the absence of an MOU or other formal agreement with DHM regarding support for RIM, reporting expectations, or authority of Week of Compassion to influence program priorities--noted an unspoken assumption that Week of Compassion funding would continue in perpetuity.
 - Cindy, Vy, and Terri offered some historical context around the relationship between RIM and Week of Compassion, including the conversations initiated at the Fall 2019 Board of Stewards meeting, and Caroline offered related context pertaining to the shift of disaster-related volunteering functions from Disciples Volunteering to Week of Compassion.
 - Several Board members asked about the possibility of funding a new position while continuing financial support for RIM.
 - Board expressed general affirmation for the idea of Week of Compassion supporting congregations in doing resettlement work, while also expressing concern for the optics and collegiality around making that financial shift.

2PM Review of Financials - John Goebel

[Approval of 2022 Financial](#) - **ACTION** - Jake Caldwell

- John G presented the 2022 YTD Financial report. He highlighted the strong 3rd quarter, the sufficient cash on hand, and the strength of the balance sheet.
 - In response to a question from John K, John G shared that Special Day Offerings were all up compared to 2020, though all are down compared to 2019, as is DMF giving.
 - Cindy requested more details regarding return on investments with CCF; John: WoC is invested in 3 of the 5 available funds with CCF, which have different rates of return (Common: 3.75%, Beasley: 4%, Campbell: 4.25%)
- John G then presented the 2022 budget. He highlighted the bottom line deficit of \$167k; as with '21 budget, spending down surplus, putting money into ministry, while maintaining financial health. He also clarified that the increase in Salary/Benefits/Travel compared to 2021 represents the addition of the Disaster Coordinator (partially funded with restricted funds) and the addition of an individual to support refugee resettlement work.

Motion: to receive the financial report and approve the 2022 budget- Milca moves; Judi seconds; motion passes unanimously

- In discussion before the vote, Andy named some concern around whether funding both RIM and a new refugee position would be possible. Vy responded that it is currently possible, but it's not sustainable. Kris asked if the board could affirm that Vy has the flexibility to amend the budget to fund both positions, if needed, with communication to the board and an update at the May meeting.

2:30PM

Additional Business Items

Executive Session - Jake called the Board in executive session at 3:12pm, dismissing the staff except for the executive director.

2:50PM ET Closing Devotion - Erin Wathen & Caroline Hamilton-Arnold
Future Meeting Dates

2022: Spring Virtual May 26 and Fall November 1-3

2023: Spring Virtual June 1 and Fall November 7-9

2024: Spring Virtual May 30 and Fall November 5-7



Week of Compassion Board of Stewards

NAME	REGION	REGIONAL CLUSTER LAY OR CLERGY GENDER	ETHNICITY
Judith Frost	VIRGINIA	NERF Lay Female	W
William Lee	VIRGINIA	NERF CLERGY Male	B
Andy Mangum	SOUTHWEST	ROSES CLERGY Male	W
*Jake Caldwell (Chair)	CAPITAL AREA	Clergy Male	W
*Milca Rivera (Vice Chair)		SERF Clergy Female	Hispanic
Cindy Kim	IL/WI	HEARTLAND Lay Female	A
Kris Culp	IL/WI	HEARTLAND lay female	w
Claretta Witherspoon	North Carolina	lay Female	B
Rebecca Smith	OREGON/S W IDAHO	WIRM Lay Female	W
*John Kuebler (Secretary) Patice Holland Terri Hord Owens	MID-AMERICA HEARTLAND V INDIANA	lay Male NERF lay Female HEARTLAND Clergy Female	W B B

* Executive Committee