



**UNITED THANK OFFERING BOARD MEETING
FACT SHEET FOR MAY 3 – 6, 2017
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Present: Sandra Squires (President, NE), Marcie Cherau (Vice President, GA), Birdie Blake-Reid (Secretary, Long Island), Kathy Mank (Financial Secretary, Southern Ohio), Sherri Dietrich Province I Rep., Maine), Vernese Smith (Province II Rep., Long Island), Joyce Haines (Province III Rep., Southern Virginia), Joyce Landers (Province IV Rep., Central Gulf Coast), Peg Cooper (Province V Rep., MO), Elizabeth Campbell (Province VI Rep., SD), Valinda Jackson (Province VII Rep., KS), Barbara Schafer (Province VIII Rep., NV), Reina Isabel Lopez (Province IX Rep., Honduras), Sarah Carver, (Appointed Board Member – NC), Marion Luckey (Appointed Board Member- Northern Michigan) via Zoom, Caitlyn Darnell (Young Adult Board Member), Heather Melton (UTO Staff Officer), Rachel McDaniel, Julia Chester Emery UTO Intern, Dinorah Padro, (Translator) were in attendance. **Guests:** Buck Blanchard, Staff Officer, Global Mission Development and VA, Lorraine Candelario, UTO Diocesan Coordinator PR, Damaris De Jesus, Secretaria de Asamblea Diocesana, PR

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

The meeting of the Board was officially called to order by president Sandra Squires on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, followed by a business meeting to approve minutes, an update and review of the budget and expenditures for the period of January 2016 through December 2016, status of the Wright Trust Fund and fiscal matters regarding a potential increase in Ingathering funds.

Thursday, May 4, 2017

UTO Board members departed in the morning for the visit to Aibonito, St. Judas Tadeo Church (grant site) and Espiritu Santo House Church and Retreat Center. Members traveled by bus through the beautiful countryside of Puerto Rico. Our gracious hosts, Ms. Lorraine Candelario, her husband, the retiring Bishop and the Bishop-Elect of Province IX shared the history, progress and future plans for both sites and the diocese. A scrumptious lunch was provided at the Diocesan Office with staff, clergy and the retiring Bishop Wilfrido and Bishop-Elect Rafael.

Triennial (Thursday & Saturday, May 6, 2017)

The president, Sandra Squires outlined her vision for the 2018 Triennial for members to increase the visibility of UTO by attending select events, presenting at various Convention committee meetings/hearings, selection of Triennial committees that best utilize skills and talents, recruit new UTO Coordinators and follow daily schedules. Members discussed Triennial Areas, tasks and responsibilities related to those areas and selected committees of choice.

Continuing Review – Bylaws and Policies and Procedures – Sherri Dietrich, Chairperson (Thursday & Friday, May 5, 2017) The Continuing Review Committee and members commenced a review of proposed suggested bylaw changes and MOU. The work of the committee will continue and progress shared at the September Board Meeting.

Friday, May 5, 2017

Education Committee – Birdie Blake-Reid, Chairperson, Sarah Carver Co-Chairperson The Education Committee shared a draft UTO application of interest as



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a tool that Province Representatives and Diocesan Coordinators can use to recruit parish and other persons interested or considering being part of the UTO network. A draft power point of a short training for coordinators was also featured.

Grants Committee – Peg Cooper, Chairperson, Joyce Landers, Co-Chairperson

The Grants Committee reviewed the 2017 grants previously approved by the Board and discussed the distribution of the 2016 Ingathering funds which had erroneously been deposited to a different UTO account. The Board approved partial funding for the next ranked application from Northern Indiana, Province V and provided the remaining funds for Missionaries.

Board members provided the Grants Committee with feedback on the rubrics used in the grants review process which will be tweaked and shared at our fall Board Meeting.

Buck Blanchard, Staff Officer for Global Mission Development

Buck Blanchard, Staff Officer for Global Mission Development provided an enlightening presentation of his work in encouraging individuals, parishes, organizations, dioceses and provinces to develop meaningful relationships outside of the traditional companion relationships via contract. The key to relationship building over time is where the people involved have shared interests, needs connect and commitment flexible to sustain growth. Different models and examples were shared to reflect the diversity of relationships among people of different cultures and languages. A question and answer period followed.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

Sandra Squires, president, Dr. Damaris de Jesus and Rachel McDaniel, Julia Chester Intern attended the two week conference at the United Nations entitled “Women and Girls’ Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work.” Each presenter provided a summary of her personal experience and story, workshops attended, resources obtained and resources provided to attendees about UTO and the incredible worship services. A question and answer period followed.

Self -Study Survey – Sandra Squires, Barbara Schafer, Elizabeth Campbell

The Self-Study Committee’s work is in its final stages. The draft document will incorporate changes made during a committee meeting and the final document will be shared with the Board. The survey will be piloted with the Board before inviting others to complete the survey (parish, diocesan coordinators, clergy, bishops, etc.) at Triennial on-line or in paper.

Communications Committee – Barbara Schafer, Chairperson, Vernese Smith, Co-Chairperson Barbara Schafer reminded members of the July 1st deadline for the submission of prayers for the 2018 Prayer Book and monthly Newsletter and Bulletin Inserts due 60 days prior to assigned month.

Wrap-up - The president reminded members prior to leaving today or by Mother’s Day to submit their list of things to do prior to the next Board Meeting to Birdie.

Prayers throughout the meeting was coordinated by Marcie Cherau, Vice President with all Board members, staff, UTO Julia Chester Intern assigned morning, lunch, dinner blessings, Compline and Bible Study.

Respectfully submitted,
Birdie Blake-Reid, Secretary