

CAMP MOVAL COVENANTED MINISTRY TEAM by Rev. Rick Oberle
(Camp MoVal Board of Commissioned Managers)

Purpose of the Ministry: Serving at the pleasure of the Missouri Mid-South Conference and Conference Council, the Camp MoVal Board of Commissioned Managers is entrusted with the day-to-day task of providing guidance, direction and support for the mission and ministry of Camp MoVal and its outdoor ministry programs as it works to support the Outdoor Ministries Director.

Responsibilities: The Board of Commissioned Managers, working with the Camp MoVal Outdoor Ministries Director, will oversee the administration of the camp and its facilities, promote and evaluate camping programs, consider staffing needs, work to enhance the camp's public standing, ensure adequate resources to fulfill the camp's mission, propose an annual budget for the camp's operations to the Conference Council and actively engage visioning and strategic planning with the intent to always better live into the mission and purpose of the outdoor ministry program.

The Camp MoVal Covenanted Ministry Team was commissioned and chartered in June, 2015 by the Conference Council. The above Purpose and Responsibilities statements were given to us, by the Conference Council, to guide our work as a Covenanted Ministry Team. Over the past six years, we have strived to live into the spirit and structure presented here, guiding camp through discernment into new growth.

These past six years have had their ups and downs; we have had years of growth and years of decline. Overall, our operations have been "in the black" with 2020 as a notable exception. We have experimented with different staff configurations, programs, and outreach events. It has been a time of growth and change.

We have had the pleasure of working with Jeremy Force, Outdoor Ministries Director, throughout this time. He has been the one who has directly impacted the ministries of camp most significantly; trying to provide direction to our team, while also accepting direction from our team. Our work to grow and develop the ministries of camp has been largely guided by his vision for Outdoor Ministries. His impact at camp will be missed.

In 2020, our Covenanted Ministries Team met several times to evaluate the cultural reaction to the COVID-19 virus and determine what our direction should be. When it was determined that Camp would not open last summer, we redirected our efforts at producing online camp. Several youth across the Conference participated in camp via Zoom last summer. Thank you to Jeremy and to all who made these efforts possible. Our last 2020 meeting was in July, shortly after this online program ended.

The fall of 2020 was full of questions about what camp would look like in 2021. Several emails were exchanged between Ministry Team members about what Summer 2021 would look like

and if we could open. Would it be wise to put together a schedule, not knowing if we would open or not? Or should we wait until we knew how the vaccine distribution would affect our ministry plans? With much of the world in limbo, our ministry team was as well.

In early 2021, as our ministry team was questioning when we would meet again, we learned of the resignation of Jeremy Force, Outdoor Ministries Director. Shortly thereafter, we learned of the discernment process the Conference Council was undergoing to discuss the future of Camp MoVal- a discussion we heartily encourage. Though we were not a part of the origin of this discussion, we look forward to working with the Conference and the Conference Council as the discussion evolves this summer.

We participated in the Conference Town Hall on February 11, 2021, and shared our ideas for the ministries of Camp MoVal. This discussion was led well by Conference Staff and the Conference Council, and helped open the door to new ways of thinking about Outdoor Ministries and how we might be part of an overall Conference-wide plan.

The Town Hall Gathering inspired us. Our Covenanted Ministry Team has regrouped since then, organizing into a more effective and efficient team than we were before. We now have 12 dedicated members, 4 from each Association in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and we look forward to working with our new Camp Consultant, Bill Boudon. We have five task force groups formed, each one with 12-15 members on it, with three Covenanted Ministry Team members on the task force and the rest made up of other MoVal constituents. In all, we have 43 unique individuals working on these teams.

The Camp MoVal Coalition is another group that has formed since February 11. This group consists of 253 unique individuals (and growing) with great passion about the Outdoor Ministries Programming of this Conference. As a Covenanted Ministry Team, we hope to harness the passion of this group to not just lift up Camp MoVal, but also the programming of the entire Missouri Mid-South Conference and realize even more clearly God's presence in this place.

As we move forward in 2021, the Conference Council will be organizing listening visits to discuss, to dream, and to come up with a plan for Outdoor Ministries, for Camp MoVal, and for doing God's work in earnest as a Conference. The Camp MoVal Covenanted Ministry Team looks forward to working WITH the Conference, the Conference Council, and the Conference Staff in these visits as we dream God's Dream together.

Submitted by Rev. Rick Oberle, Chair; Camp MoVal Covenanted Ministry Team

Members:

Mackenzie Koch, Cayden Stephens, Andrew Mitchell, Rev. Rick Oberle- Western Association
Alysha Petry, Lindsay Traffas, Carolyn Balfany, Rev. Stephanie DeLong- Eastern Association
Bill Brinkhorst, Katie Zimmer, Walter Staas, Rev. Erica Roth- St. Louis Association