

Conference Call with Craig, November 1, 2006

Attendees: Craig Lentz (Director of Ferry Beach, Past President of CU2C2), Kevin Miller (President of CU2C2, Director of UUMAC), Jon Durbin (President of U Bar U, Member of the Board of CU2C2)

Craig – First, no definitive action has been taken by Camp Directors, except that a meeting has been set up for December.

There are issues within CU2C2 – landed camp directors, for the most part, have not been attending. Annual meetings are not meeting their needs. However, not only are there a lot of landed camp directors that choose not to attend, but based on attendance numbers over the last couple years, many of the week-long institutes do not attend as well. This may be for different reasons, but nonetheless, it is a problem that should be addressed. There is a lot of effort for little return. Attendance is low, especially this year. Meetings lack direction and understanding of the needs of the group.

Directors are very interested in getting together.

Kevin – We have brainstormed some ideas, like separate tracks for Directors, having them come a day or two early, but need their participation to create a meaningful conference. He expressed concern about CU2C2 fracturing. Some additional thoughts – addressing specific needs of Directors, separate subgroup/meeting just for landed camp Directors, but with camp and staff remaining part of CU2C2. Volunteers have lots to offer – professional development.

Jon mentioned several possible ways to increase the value of CU2C2. 1) evaluate expenditures through feedback, i.e., discount coupons for first time attendees at GA booth, in UU World ad. If they are not cost effective, stop doing them and spend money on more effective programs or reduce CU2C2 dues. 2) develop a data resource, i.e., comparative camp attendance data. 3) possible umbrella liability coverage for all camps and conferences.

The motivation for this discussion was to open up the lines of communication and inform Craig of the letter drafted at the CU2C2 annual meeting before distributing it. There is a strong desire, as mention, for discussion and not to fan any flames.

Craig mentioned that camaraderie among Directors is important, perhaps the main motivation for getting together. There is greater longevity of positions among landed camp directors than the annual stints of conference directors.

There seemed to be general consensus on the need to redevelop a mission/purpose for CU2C2, perhaps a plenary session and a commitment, at least among the three to continue CU2C2 and make it successful.

The communication lines remain wide open!

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Addendum from Craig Lentz in 11/3 e-mail:

When we originally thought about this, it seemed (to Ellen and myself, anyway) that an organization that was focused on the needs of institutes could provide more value to them. Not being in that realm, I do not know what their needs are, or what would get them excited to participate in a more meaningful way. Taking this a step further, in my own mind, I can envision two distinct organizations that share an annual conference, get together for marketing opportunities, and work to further the visibility of the UU Retreat Movement. There could be other areas of intersection too, but I won't know that until after the December meeting. Now you may ask, and rightfully so, why couldn't we bond together as one group and do just that. The problem I see is that from the Directors I have spoken to, there are none among the group who at this point would be interested in serving on the Board. They have already served their time and are ready for something else. All this could change of course, but I won't have any sense of this until mid December. I also need to point out that the intent of this meeting is to ascertain the needs of the landed camp directors and to see what kind of organization they would support and participate in. It may be that CU2C2 could be structured in such a way to meet those needs, but then again, it may not.