

Regional Church Council Meeting
January 18, 2018
(via Zoom)

In Attendance: Tom Stephenson, Merlyn Winters, Richard Swain, Judy Alston, Thomas Barnes, Heather Schimmel, Michael Doerr, Candice Wilson, Steve Hurd, Cynthia Tyson, Steven Gower, Laurie Metzko, Janice Hill, Jackie Compton, Ed Davitian. **Staff:** John Richardson, Janet Mers, Al Channell, John Goebel. **Unable to connect to Zoom conferencing:** Harry Bolen and Deb Bolen.

Minutes and Updates:

Regional Church Council Minutes of meeting held on October 28, 2017 were presented for approval. Janice Hill moved to accept. Ed Davitian seconded. Minutes were received with approval of all present on the call.

Executive Committee Minutes of meeting held on January 9, 2018 were presented for approval. Michael Doerr moved to accept. Laurie Metzko seconded. Minutes were received with approval of all present on the call.

List of candidates for Regional Minister Search Committee was presented as approved by the Executive Committee.

Action Item 1. Election of Commission on Ministry Member (Tom Stephenson presenting for Jeff Wheeler). Motion: The Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio moved that the Rev. Dr. Betty Green of Columbus be approved as a new commissioner to begin service immediately. She will become a member of Team 3 that oversees ministerial standing. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Action Item 2. Preliminary 2017 Year End Financial Reports

John Richardson explained the financial reports and fielded questions. He explained that John Goebel will have final report by the end of the month.

Action Item 3. Disposition of Ohio Disciple Outreach

John Richardson and Finance Chair, Rich Swain recommended ending ODO and bringing all line items to a zero balance.

Motion was placed that all assets be reset to zero effective January 1, 2018 and that focus of the Regional Church remain on ministry rather than on debt. Janice Hill moved to accept and Jack Sullivan seconded the motion.

While motion was still on the floor Steven Gower raised the question of leaving two accounts active: Advance Conference and Adult Conference, since both groups work hard to raise funds. John Richardson responded that it would not be possible to justify selecting some ministries over others.

Michael Doerr noted the need to communicate this action with the groups related to these funds. It was decided that Tom Stephenson (Moderator), Steve Bentley (Associate Regional Minister), and John Richardson (Interim Regional Minister) would be responsible for this task.

Further discussion on starting programming with no funds and scholarship availability followed. Also, line item related to Second Chance Christian Church was discussed.

Heather Schimmel noted that a closed meeting clouds any effort toward transparency and suggested that we might not be ready for a search committee. Janet Mers concurred. Laurie Metzko offered that the accounting as it stands isn't making sense and prevents us from going forward with a vote.

John Richardson warned that we face the danger of losing our viability as a regional church if we delay taking action.

A motion was made by Jackie Bunch to move the previous question. Discussion ensued and given the time constraints of the clock it was decided that the meeting be recessed and resumed at a date to be determined. No action taken on the motion on the floor.

Respectfully submitted,
Merlyn Winters, Secretary