

**Minutes of the Regional Church Council Meeting
August 24, 2019
Camp Christian**

Members Present: Faith Solon, Pamela Barnes-Jackson (left early), Roger McKinney, Edgar Wallace, Matt Every, Jack Sullivan, Jr., John Cox (left early), Cory King (left early), Tyler Reeve, Gladys Davis, Candis Wilson,

Members on Zoom: Frances Dudley(left early), Chad Delaney

Visiting Regional Ministers Present: Thad Allen, Rick Spleth, Eugene James, Dean Philips

Regional Staff Present: Jennie Stoddart-Bernard, Wendy Taylor, Ted Nelson

Guests: Priscilla Jackson, Phillip Hunt, Jeff Gill, Ali Miguel, Josh Baird, Alan Dicken, David Tietfort

I. Call to Order and Devotions, Candis Wilson

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. March 30 RCC Meeting Minutes
- B. May 11 General Assembly Minutes
- C. May 11 RCC Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Objection to May 11 RCC Minutes. Was not a "called" meeting, was not advertised to RCC members and non-members beforehand. Move to amend title to "RCC Meeting Following the Called Regional Assembly." This way it will not count against absences.
 - 2. Add Roger McKinney in attendance

Move to approve above minutes with corrections by Edgar Wallace, second by Jack Sullivan. Motion unanimously carried.

III. Treasurer Report, Gladys Davis

- A. Wendy and Jennie have been instrumental in cutting costs for camp and the region. These cost cutting efforts are admirable, but NOT SUSTAINABLE in the long-term.
- B. The Camp and Region is currently projected to I run a combined \$85,000 surplus for the year. This could go down if we have significant repairs.
- C. We are within \$33,000 of being back in trust with the permanently restricted funds. This is a huge milestone in our financial recovery as a region.
- D. Jeff Gill: We have not been collecting interest on the Permanently restricted funds. Once we are in trust, we can draw on this interest. This should coincide with the restoration of DMF giving back to baseline. These should offset one another.

Regional Office

	July YTD	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$170,619	\$319,686	\$298,672	\$389,593
Expenses	117,724	208,103	224,726	254,280
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$52,895	\$111,583	\$73,946	\$135,314

Camp

	July YTD (corrected)	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$278,106	\$342,891	\$429,640	\$388,822
Expenses	240,157	369,690	438,148	410,041
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$37,949	<\$26,799>	<\$8,508>	<\$21,218>

Combined

	July YTD	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$448,725	\$662,577	\$728,312	\$778,415
Expenses	357,881	577,793	662,874	664,321
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$90,844	\$84,784	\$65,438	\$114,096

Jack Sullivan Jr. move to accept the Treasurer's report with necessary amendments. Matt Every second.

IV. Regional Assembly Overview

- A. General Minister and President was outstanding.
- B. The Regional Transition Team shared some great ideas.

V. Regional Transition Team Report

A. Review of Recommendations, led by Josh Baird

1. "Build on the strength of our relationships with each other. Nurturing relationships outside the region. Calling and developing leaders gifted and equipped to lead in new ways." (Pulled from the RTT report)
 - a) Walk through of recommendations 1-9 from the RTT report.
 - (1) Freeze the region's DMF Share at 50% during this time.
 - (2) Call transitional staff appropriate to the journey we are on.
 - (a) Think beyond the old, traditional style of regional ministry. Still open to a new model. Curate would not oversee search and call.
 - (3) End current relationship with neighboring regions and visiting regional ministers.

(a) Reimagine search and call in such a way that we can close out, with deep gratitude, the partnership with visiting regional ministers.

(4) Fund new ministries and special events

(5) Debt repayment plan

(6) Build up a cash reserve to cover 6 months of operating expenses. Make this policy and not just best practice.

(7) Giving strategy.

(8) New opportunities for partnership with nonprofits and secure grant funding.

(9) Develop a sustainable plan for Camp Christian.

(a) Need for a capital campaign for Camp.

B. Recommendation presented by Alan Dicken (Created with Josh Baird, Audrey Connor, Gladys Davis, Jeff Gill, and Alan Dicken)

1. Send two page proposal letter to the Lily Grant. The Lily Foundation accepts proposals in September and November. They hope to get something created and sent in for the September deadline.
2. Regional Curate Program: funding for a regional curate. Regional curate will run search and call, with the ultimate goal of streamlining and revising this process. The Regional curate will also be responsible for increasing connection among the region.
3. We would have to match some funds in order to call a regional curate, the exact figure is up for discussion.

C. Small Group Discussions Report Back to the Larger Body

1. **Group 1:** Affirmed that curate position was necessary. Desire to maintain the relationship with neighboring regions and visiting regional ministers. Need for a capital campaign for Camp Christian. Possibility for camp not being operational during portions of the summer for construction. Need for a leadership campaign to start before December to cultivate new volunteers and leadership.
2. **Group 2:** Need for a sense of urgency. Strengthening congregations for Christ's mission, beginning right where we are. Empowering, giving guidance. Desire to stop following the 1950 white church model. In the African American church, the pastor casts vision, this is more what we are looking for. We are not wanting what we had, but something new. Need for a change in purpose. Need for a CEO versus a curate. The term curate can imply maintaining, not moving forward. Curates in conversation die. Camp Christian creating new leaders. Support for a Camp Director. Support to create a property committee to work proactively to maintain and update camping facilities. Proactive rather than reactive. Renegotiate the 50/50 split for DHM. Take that 10% to fund new ministries.
3. **Group 3:** A lot hinges on the question of leadership. It makes sense to continue partnerships with the listing regional ministers, but we are looking for a way to have some Ohio leadership as well. The need for leadership manifests at Camp Christian, but flows outward. Discussion about some congregations sending their kids to camps that aren't Camp Christian. Need for a staff person to share resources and focus on outreach. Finance wise, we need to figure out a way in which to pay for Ohio leadership. Increased plan funding for the compensation of visiting regional ministers, it would come to about \$30,000. Question posed regarding using that funding to support Ohio Leadership.
4. **Group 4:** Yes to submitting an application to the Lily Grant. We are seeking an additional staff person to support and provide vision to current staff. We also need to have someone work with General church in order to hasten changes to search and call, as well as commission on ministry, regional lines. We as a region need to better know ourselves and what this manifestation of church means theologically, practically, and covenantally. Camp Christian, still not financially stable.

D. Group Visioning and Planning

1. **Leadership:** Need for a new staff person who is transition specific. This person will mend relationships and be a point person for the work of re-visioning the region. Someone to cast a

vision and create a plan to further Christ's ministry. A person who will create and embrace change, structurally, relationally, and ministerially. Someone to explore what it means to be church together and move toward outlining that in our values and practices. This new role will require a large cultural leap on the part of many of our congregations. This is require lots of education and communication by the Regional Church Council to congregations.

- a) Still under discussion: Should they be laity or clergy? Full or part-time? What should this person's title be? Is this person a regional minister or something new? Who and how to pay for this position?

2. Visiting Regional Ministers

- a) Still under discussion: Continue relationship with the neighboring regional ministers, but for how long?

3. General Planning

- a) The Regional Church Council no longer has a quorum, and cannot make a motion because there are not enough members present.
- b) Roger McKinney (with the assistance of Jeff Gill) suggests that the Regional Moderator uses her executive authority to start immediately looking for a contract person with a title to be determined, to help us move forward with our mission and ministry. This person will not replace the visiting regional ministers, but will augment their work by being a physical presence in Ohio. Call for a job description and funding plan for this person.
- c) It is also suggested that the Regional Moderator considers reestablishing a search committee to move toward the ultimate call of a new regional leader to a term of 3 years. Invite the search committee to October meeting to be ready to move immediately.
- d) Call for a show of hands to empower Candis, Gladys and Jennie to fully move forward with anything that the three of them agree is necessary.
- e) Joshua Baird point of privilege: Concern that the conversation during this time had moved into a direction of technical changes rather than adaptive changes and that the body was addressing only a portion of the RTT report recommendations. Significantly left out was attending to the suggestions for focused working groups.

VI. Important Upcoming Regional Dates

- A. Regional Elders Meeting Sept 5**
- B. Ohio Council of Churches 100-Year anniversary- Sept 6**
- C. Grandparents and Teen Camp- Sept 7 & 8**
- D. Ethical boundaries- Sept 21**
- E. True Belongings Retreat for Women- Sept 28**
- F. Workshop for Ministers- Sept 30**
- G. Reconciliation Offering- Sept 29 & Oct 6**
- H. Regional Church Council meeting- October 4 & 5**
- I. Lectionary Preaching Camp- Oct 24 & 25**
- J. Workshop for Commissioned Ministers- Oct 26**
- K. Anti-Racism Training- Oct 30**
- L. Silent Retreat- October 28-November 1**
- M. Chi Rho Rally- November 2**
- N. Interim Ministry Training- November 11-13**

VII. Closing Prayer, Rev. Roger McKinney