

Minutes of the Regional Church Council Meeting

Held at Camp Christian

October 4-5, 2019

Friday, October 4, 2019

Members Present: Candis Wilson, Gladys Davis, Tyler Reeve, Roger McKinney, John Johnson, Pamela Barnes-Jackson, Chad Delaney, David Stonebraker-Martinez, Jack Sullivan, Tomas Hernandez, Matt Every

Members on Zoom: Frances Dudley

Visiting Regional Ministers: Dean Phelps

Regional Staff Present: Wendy Taylor, Ted Nelson

Guest: Phillip Hunt, Willie Barnes-Jackson, Bruce Bowerman-Jett, Tom Bowerman-Jett

- I. Meeting opened with Praise & Worship by Rev. Jack Sullivan & Tomas Hernandez (Scripture, Song, Prayer)
- II. RCC Member Introductions
- III. Strategic Planning – Wendy Taylor
 - Opened with prayer, read Scripture Matt. 8:25 (Jesus calms the storm) Sang a song. We need to wake up Jesus, wake up our ministries. Some feel hopeless, not very optimistic. We need to work toward what we are fighting for. We need \$825,000 for Camp Christian (CC). Keep the Fire Burning 2.0 Campaign for Mission was presented and reviewed. Campaign composed of 3 legs: 1) Camp Capital Program \$275,000, 2) Ohio & Beyond Ministries (\$275,000 and 3) Camp Operations \$275,000.
 - Comments:
 - Candis – review mission/vision & restore each individual collectively to move Jesus ministry forward.
 - If we combine Pool renovation with campaign the amount will be \$1,325,000,000
 - Ted Nelson- Need new parts for the pool, build docks, beach w/white sand, build slowly and add on as we go.
 - What is needed to get pool ready? Get our camp up to regulation, work on water clean-up.
 - Conversation:
 - Addition of ministry to the renovation & Reconnecting congregations.
 - Some churches are struggling and trying to keep their doors open.
 - Robust conversation across the country, we must invest in Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism, General Assembly being partners, could Church Extension help?
 - How to jump start region: stipends for churches in the community will bring others with them.
 - District collaborations with each other to remind each other we need to network with each other.
 - Work w/Food Pantry, trips & working together to enlarge church connectivity.
 - Timeline: 2-3 years begin in the Spring (Campaign)
 - Strengthen congregations, symbiotic relationships as a resource to encourage congregations. Future leaders in training & working w/other congregants for leadership building, get some data from churches. Data would include churches who cannot keep their pastors for the next 4-5 years, churches on verge of closing their doors. Use yearbook info, strategy for congregational life, do we have full-time/part-time pastors? How many?
 - Data from districts help to re-focus, renew churches. What is really going to deepen congregation connection? What does our structure look like? How to reimagine the congregation and our churches. So goes, the pastor, so goes the church.
 - Check with Lily Foundation to see if there are some finances to assist w/church growth. WIIFM (What's in it for me) attitude, congregants stop giving, stop attending, jump ship. Evangelism puts excitement back in the pastors and it overflows into the congregation, into the community, eventually into the world. Diagnose what is killing us? Take seriously how pastors are called.
 - Possibly divide up the campaign \$ in different chunks instead of same amount for each of the (3) areas.

- Don't forget a concentration of African American churches, social justice issues, and complex policy issues. A studying region is a growing region. Ohio Black Pastors use to meet together. Get a church feasibility study and create a next-step group (committee), get with church extension regarding Keep the fire Burning 2.0 and distribute 1/3 differently? Each person go back to their congregation and see if we can get seed money to help struggling churches. We must have a purpose/focus. We need prayer!! What is the alternative if we do not get the funding? Bring excitement back to Camp Christian
- Faith language as it engages congregations can create a change of climate in our atmosphere. Strengthen congregations for Christ's mission. Secure early commitment for the campaign. Region is fragmented. Strong communication strategy, shared leadership, have a good-balance and a good vision so we can walk in it by purpose and vision. One direction, one accord. Start with the 10 top churches and see where their thoughts are on giving to another campaign. Couple with the UCC churches. We could have a 3-fold mission on Love and Hope. Try not to say Capital Campaign.
- Suggested reading: "Unbinding the Gospel" by Martha Grace Reese (4 book series)

Next Steps:

- Feasibility Study/ Focus from non-key congregations
- Create an exploratory group to work with Church Extension and focus/finalize to make a realistic campaign
- Present visions with shared communication

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Review of August Financials

	Aug 2019 YTD	Projected 2019
Income	\$480,458	\$666,795
Expenses	<u>\$399,947</u>	<u>\$566,995</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$80,511	\$99,800

Committee is suggesting that we use Church Extension cash balance to make CCF account whole by end of year **Moved by Jack Sullivan to move up to 50% of the CE available balance in December 2019 to CCF fund, if more is needed to make whole committee must come back to RCC for approval. Seconded by John Johnson. Motion carried.**

V. Approval of Minutes:

Review of the Executive Committee meeting minutes for meeting held on September 20, 2019

Motion to accept the August 24, 2019 and September 20, 2019 meeting minutes with any necessary corrections by Matt Every and 2nd by Roger McKinney/Tomas Hernandez. Motion carried.

VI. Closed in prayer by Rev. Phil Hunt

Friday, October 5, 2019

Members Present: Candis Wilson, Gladys Davis, Tyler Reeve, Roger McKinney, John Johnson, Pamela Barnes-Jackson, Chad Delaney, David Stonebraker-Martinez, Jack Sullivan, Tomas Hernandez, Matt Every, Alecia Hayes

Members on Zoom: Faith Solon

Visiting Regional Ministers: Dean Phelps

Regional Staff Present: Wendy Taylor, Ted Nelson

Guest: Phillip Hunt, Willie Barnes-Jackson, Bruce Bowerman-Jett, Tom Bowerman-Jett, Jeff Wheeler, Ali Miguel, Klair Hoover, David Tietsort

I. **Call to Order and Devotions, Rev. Roger McKinney**

II. Regional and Committee Reports

A. Regional

1. Jennie- Regional Administrator

- a) Reviewed detailed written report provided in her absence. No questions on report

2. Wendy- Food Service Coordinator

- a) Gratitude for all summer volunteers who made the season possible.
- b) Only spent 40% of the budget for food services. Being mindful of what left the kitchen helped reduce waste greatly. Shopping at Costco saved a good portion of money.
- c) Adjust the "set menu" to allow for food to be repurposed within safe food service guidelines.
- d) Staffing Concerns: understaffed, need to attract more summer staff to the kitchen (perhaps break day into shifts).
- e) Serving food buffet style rather than family style could be of great benefit. This would reduce food waste, reduce food preparation labor time, and reduce dishes for staff to clean.
- f) The kitchen needs to get a Costco membership so Wendy does not have to use her personal card.
- g) Need a person to take point on recycling. It is too much for Wendy to oversee along with her duties in the kitchen.
- h) Looking into a contract labor person who could support Wendy as the leader in the kitchen.

3. Ted- Campsite Manager (oral report)

- a) Wells went down last month, Motor and pump has been replaced
- b) Rec Hall is painted
- c) Helped move free store to its new home in the Ezrin House
- d) Camp Sign
- e) Frisbee golf and archery range
- f) Tankless hot water tank is going in October 15 in the lodge
- g) Items still needed to be completed and/or addressed:
 - (1) Drainage issues in Clusters 1,2,3 and gym
 - (2) Abandonment of the Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - (3) Power to Campsite Mgr. shop
 - (4) Bed Bug Prevention
- h) Need for a joint capital campaign

B. Regional Elders- Rev. Phil Hunt

1. See written report
2. Seeking advice regarding explaining DMF giving to local congregations. Phil Hunt and Roger McKinney encourage others to refer back to the www.disciples.org website for informative flyers, facts and videos to share with congregations.

C. Personnel- Rev. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

1. See written report.
2. The Regional Office will close for the holiday December 23, 2019-January 1, 2020. This is in part in gratitude toward our staff.
3. Up to \$35,000 for the new part-time position. Soonest possible start day would be January 2, 2020.

4. Discussion around the job description, perhaps we need to revisit the job description. Needs further visioning and clarification. Perhaps we are visioning two separate positions.
 - a) Camp Supervisor/Director
 - (1) Plan curriculum, advertise camp and work with camp faculty and staff. Be the person with whom the buck stops. Year-Round position with an intense person in the summer.
 - b) Coordinator of Ministry within the Region
 - (1) Draw churches together. Work with elders, pastors and congregations. Interim head of staff.
 - c) Note that there is room in the budget for 2 positions at this time. Which is more needed at this time?
 - d) Rev. Pamela set out an offer to hold an open Personnel Committee meeting at a later time to finish this discussion and visioning. Contact Pamela if interested in this conversation.
 - e) Position for immediate hire will be for a Part-time Program Director

II. 2020 Budget Review

- A. Budget based on fees to be the same as 2019
- B. Scheduled to drop in DMF. Discussing a need to consider asking to keep DMF the same.
Finance committee moves that CCI0 petitions the general church to remain at 50/50 DMF split for another year. 1 abstention, 1 nay, 8 ayes. Motion carried.
- C. Many updates/fixes needed around camp.
- D. Camp Capital Expenditures- Finance committee requests that the CCC consider the sale and/or alternative financial income use for the North 28 Acres. Only 6 acres are buildable, the rest lies in a floodplain. Conservative estimate is \$30,000, but it could go upwards of \$150,000. The property was bought for \$100,000 in 1999. Ideally we would like to sell it with deed restrictions that limits the property for residential purposes.

Alicia Hayes moves to approve the 2020 Budget as outlined in the handout. Seconded by John Johnson. Motion unanimously carries.

III. Ministry Reports

- A. **Adult Conference**
 1. No report submitted, no representative speaker
- B. **Advance Ministries**
 1. No report submitted, no representative speaker
- C. **Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation**
 1. See written report
- D. **Camp Christian Committee**
 1. See written report
 2. Co-chairs Rev. Alicia Hayes and Rev. Chad Delaney highlight exciting works of the CCC.
 3. Request from RCC to CCC to bring back the golf-outing and steak dinner scholarship fundraiser.
- E. **Chi Rho Commission**
 1. See written report
 2. Report given by Klair Hoover
 3. Questions regarding logistics of burning cheesecloth and cross, sensitivity issue. Revisioning needed.

F. CYF Commission

1. No report submitted, no representative speaker

G. Commission on Ministry

1. See written report
2. Report given by Rev. Jeff Wheeler
3. Team 4 has been engaged (special investigation group to examine if minister is fit to have/keep standing). Logistics shared regarding how the COM moves through this process. Rev. Eugene James is the visiting Regional Minister overseeing this process.

H. Disciples Fellowship Retreat

1. No report submitted, no representative speaker

I. Grandparents Camp

1. No report submitted, no representative speaker

J. Ohio Women's Ministries

1. See written report

K. Ohio Disciples Men

1. No report submitted, no representative speaker

L. Otter Camp

1. See written report

M. Ribbit Camp

1. See written report

N. Spiritual Life

1. See written report
2. Report given by Rev. Phil Hunt.

IV. Business Items from the Floor

V. Important Regional Dates

2019

- A. October 12: Ohio Women's Ministries Gathering
- B. October 24-25: Lectionary Preaching Camp
- C. October 26: Workshop for Commissioned Ministers
- D. October 28- November 1: Silent Retreat
- E. October 30: Anti-Racism Training
- F. November 2: Chi Rho Rally
- G. November 8-9: Generosity Plus Program
- H. November 11-13: 3 Day Interim Minister Training
- I. November 15-16: Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat
- J. December 14: Advent Retreat for Women

2020

- K. January 3-5: Advance Ministries Winter Retreat
- L. February 18-20: Spiritual Life Retreat
- M. May 22-24: Disciples Fellowship Retreat
- N. June 5-6: Grandparents Camp
- O. June 7-13: Chi Rho Camp Emmaus
- P. June 14-20: Otter Camp
- Q. June 21-27: CYF Conference Week #1

- R. June 28- July 1: Ribbit Camp
 - S. July 5-11: CYF Conference Week #2
 - T. July 12-18: Chi Rho Camp Corinth
 - U. July 19-25: Chi Rho Damascus & CYF Week #3
 - V. July 26- Aug 2: Advance Ministries Summer Conference
 - W. September 4-6: Disciples Fellowship Retreat
- 2021

- X. July 31- August 4: General Assembly

VI. Closing Worship- Candis Wilson