

Regional Church Council

February 11, 2023

On-Line Attendees:

Kathy “Kitty” Bagley; Katie Baird; Heidi Barham; Thomas Barnes; Pamela Barnes Jackson; Willie Barnes Jackson; Albert Brantley Jr.; Erica Brown; David Ellis; Alecia Evans Hayes; Matt Every; Carmen Fernandez; Philip Hunt; Kevin Kaufman; Shauna McGee; Glenn Nestlerode; Felix Ortiz-Cotto; Kevin Poe; Brenda Sanford; Emily Schmitt; Robert Sondles; Paul Bomeli

Regional Staff:

Bruce Bowerman-Jett, Allen Harris

Morning Meditation -- Alecia Evans-Hayes

1 Peter 4 and 13

Minutes from the November 4-5, 2022 Meeting

2 corrections – spelling of Heidi Barham and Glenn Nestlerode

Motion to pass as corrected – Philip Hunt, second Brenda Sanford

Minutes accepted as corrected

Reflections on involvement in Regional Church Council – Alecia Evans Hayes

Press on

Ask questions

Recognize we all make mistakes

Work together

Personnel Committee Report – Pamela Barnes Jackson

Personnel Committee – Pamela Barnes Jackson, Erica Brown, David Ellis

\$250 Christmas bonus recommended for each staff member

8.7 % Cost of Living increase across the board recommended

Vision Committee

Allen reminded us that Alecia Evans-Hayes had most recently been the chair of this committee. The suggestion was made that this would be a good time to rethink this committee. Considerable work has already been done regarding the work of the Transitional Team and providing a context of biblical grounding. Opportunity to bring on people to shift the conversation to the future of the church. This was done successfully in the Capital Region. Names of people who would be good in this capacity are solicited.

Alecia affirmed the importance of carrying traditions and theological lenses forward in a different way

Dave agreed that we need to do whatever we can to keep folks in the church

Emily recognized the importance of bringing many voices to the table and bridging the gap through collaboration; she discussed the necessity of finding out what younger folks need to feel important and to feel fed.

Heidi affirmed Emily's powerful story.

Glenn noted that the older generation sometimes guilts younger folks into service but refuses to give up positions of power and decision making

Katie recognized the role older folks might serve in wrangling other older folks into opening their minds

Alecia has interest in seeing a discussion facilitated of those with struggling children and youth ministries. She asked that we email Jennie with churches with vital children and youth ministries

Paul would like to see us illustrate in increasing ways what the youth in the region are currently doing

Camp Christian Committee

Policy regarding use of alcohol – question of liability has been moved to the Wedding policy

Wedding policy – will be updated with new language regarding the use of alcohol – a liability policy will be required

Size of event will also need to be considered

The hope is to utilize Camp Christian as more of a Conference Center

Motion to pass addendum to aforementioned policies – Matt Every, David Ellis seconds; motion carries

Pro Reconciliation Anti-Racism Commission (Thomas Barnes)

Movement away from “training” to “awareness conversations”

10 serve on the commission

Focus on inclusivity – younger, Hispanic/Latinx

22 people attended the first awareness conversation

March 25 – next scheduled

The commission is willing to come to congregations

Membership Development

This chair is open. Allen explained the practical component of the committee, in that they serve as the nominating committee; the hope is to move into a regular rotation of those moving off and on to the council. This committee is also responsible for board development.

Heartland Conference – No Report

Pastoral Relations Committee – No Report

Commission on Ministry – No Report

Motion to confirm Lena Van Buskirk as our treasurer – Katie Baird; Heidi Barham seconds; motion carries

Conversation with the Rev. Shauna McGee – Freedom and Truth Christian Church of Cleveland (our most recent new church start which received a \$5,000 grant in November of 2022 from the New Church Ministry Fund)

Worship on conference line due to pastor's mobility concerns

2022 – celebrated two years in service – theme “Better Days”

\$500 toward use of lot [Receiving income]

Hosted pizza parties

Men's and Women's shelters -- meals

Haven House

360 coats, belts

Move to in person services when pastor is more mobile

Theme “Walk It Like You Talk It”

We have two open positions on the Regional Church Council to fill:

Assistant Secretary

Representative to the Ohio Council of Churches

Renewal Initiative

The goal was \$85,000

Actual – \$90,536.95

Donations designated “where needed most” have not yet been assigned

Financial Report

Budget

Discussion:

Question about what seems like a low estimate for gas expenses

Recognition that no one wants to start with a deficit, but this budget has been created with great thought and consideration [for Camp 2023 Budget]

Brenda brought up that we ask a lot of Bruce and Jennie in terms of camp promotion and marketing – something to consider

Dave reminded us to encourage folks to sponsor a camper

Motion to accept the Financial Report – Katie Baird; Heidi Barham seconds.

Accepted.

Motion to accept the Budget – Dave Ellis; Willie Barnes Jackson seconds. Accepted

Regional Elders Report – Philip Hunt

13 elders

Assist Allen

Work with congregations and pastors

Bruce Barkhauer, Center for Faith and Giving – 90 minute seminar about proceeding post COVID

Challenge – one event bringing people together

Planning a Lay Preaching seminar for lay people

Elder and Deacon training

Acknowledgement – To honor the Rev. Priscilla Jackson as Regional Elder Emeritus

Motion – Philip Hunt; second Heidi Barham; passes

Designate the following as Regional Elders

Robin Meyers – District VI

Mike Valentine – District V

Motion Philip Hunt; second Kevin Kaufman; passes

Feasibility Study

We will need a three to five member feasibility team to meet with Disciples
Church Extension Fund

A March date will be set for that meeting

Important to include Regional Elders in this meeting, as well

If we say yes to a capital campaign, we want to make sure it doesn't interfere
with other asks

Brenda Sanford offered a closing prayer and we adjourned at 12:21 pm.

Respectfully and faithfully submitted,

Erica L. Brown