

## Regional Church Council Meeting

August 12, 2023

In attendance: Philip Hunt., Brenda Waddell, Kevin Kaufman, Alecia, Glenn Nestlerode, Matt Every, Heidi Barham, Kathy Bagley, Paul Bomeli, Emily Schmitt, Lena, Bruce, Pamela, Brenda Sanford, Roger McKinney, Willie Barnes Jackson, David, Katie Baird, Kevin Poe, Erica Brown, Allen Harris

Illness: Charito Fernandez, Felix Ortiz Cotto

Opening Devotion – Alecia

Matthew 9:27-30

Proposal to give Reverend Brenda Waddell, Heartland Conference UCC Representative, voice with vote in all Regional Council meetings this term through October 2024. Heidi Barham made the motion. Glenn Nestlerode seconded. Motion passes.

Minutes

Brenda Sanford made the motion. Matt Every seconded. Minutes approved.

Financial Report

First Christian Zanesville 6,000

Estate of Mark and Janet Powers 3,000

Boardman Christian Church 10,000 Camp Christian

5,000 Regional Church Operating Fund

Renewal Initiative

One minute script – how the region helps us...

Theme ideas to individuals

Christmas Offering (Congregational)

Regional Council is asked to give

October – Unity Month

Pulpit Swap – Pastor and Elder

Phil – Pulpit swap

Share stories of unity

Brenda Waddell – Be the Church Sunday

Day of Service Learning

Committee Reports:

Personnel – Pamela

Congrats to Bruce who will be ordained August 27 at 4:00 pm First Christian  
Church Bellefontaine

Regional Elders – Philip Hunt

No meeting July or August; next meeting in September

Camp Christian

Meetings before and after camp season (directors et al)

Meeting next Saturday

Working on a two year calendar

September 16 9-3 at Camp Christian

Friday the 15 is optional

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti Racism

Training coming up in September (September 30)

Can also come and do sessions with churches, but that doesn't qualify for  
standing requirement

Ohio Council of Churches – being noticed outside of the region

Brenda Waddell – impressed by Pro Reconciliation/Anti Racism  
and outdoor ministries

Finances and passions are not equal

Reimagining church vitality

Priorities

A work in process

Financial sustainability

Anti racism

Faith formation and outdoor ministry

Organizational clarity and flow

Pastoral Prep and support

Pastoral Relations

In the midst of Allen's annual review

Reach out to Don Baird with comments or concerns

Update on Feasibility Study – Roger McKinney

Committee met once in person, several times online/Zoom

Four Tasks

1. Develop a case statement
2. Establish tentative goal – 2.5 million
3. Test waters on feasibility – 30 interviews
4. Develop online survey

All four tasks completed.

Cara McKinney will compile data from interviews (Roger's daughter)

Preliminary Report

1. Most people approves of campaign idea and amount.
2. People often said "go big or go home"
3. Everyone interviewed thinks Allen is a rock star!

Regional Assembly

Educational event

Mission Fest

District

Every three years after 2025 General Assembly

Theme – Unity through Forgiveness

#### Allen's Report

New Seminarians:

Kevin Poe – University of Chicago; Disciples Divinity House

Thomas Hernandez – Brite Divinity School – M.Div/Social Work

Sol Risotto (sp.) – joined Washington Avenue Christian Church -MTSO

#### General Assembly Report:

Set up Zoom calls to discuss resolutions specifically

2,900 in Iowa    3,100 in Kentucky

Changes to Design

Rethink General Assembly from an event to a body politic

Every congregation will have three voting representatives

All clergy are voting members as well

Problem of not honoring clergy who are not serving in a congregational setting

#### ALEX Database

#### Church Narrative Project

Grant from Lilley Foundation

Proclamation Project

Different way of having difficult conversations

Each region has been asked to think through this

Meeting planned with Yvonne Gilmore and Teri Hord Owens - Tuesday  
September 12, 7 pm

#### Ongoing clergy training every five years

AntiRacism/ProReconciliation

Clergy Healthy Boundaries

Polity Course – doesn't need to be updated

One church disaffiliation

Body of Christ in Cincinnati

Western Reserve CC in Hudson

Last service Sunday July 30

In holding pattern

Carthage CC

Sold building

Will continue meeting after a hiatus

State of the Regional Church presentation

Transparency regarding finances and Regional Minister oversight

Fall state of the church live stream

We are hungry for good news about the church

There is still a lot of hurt and suspicion

Meeting ended 11:45 am

Philip Hunt offered a closing prayer