

Regional Church Council & Annual Meeting

11.4.23

Camp Christian

Those present: (* indicates those present via ZOOM)

Kyrstin Allen (Guest)	PJ Homik (Guest)
Kathy Bagley (Kitty) *	Philip Hunt
Katie Baird	Kevin Kaufman
Thomas Barnes *	Stephanie Kistner
Pamela Barnes Jackson	Dave Long Higgins (Guest)
Willie Barnes Jackson	Brock McCracken
Bruce Bowerman-Jett	Glenn Nestlerode
Tom Bowerman-Jett	Kevin Poe *
Albert Brantley Jr. *	Laureen Roe
Erica Brown	Brenda Sanford
Denise Cunningham Doggett *	Emily Schmitt
Alecia Evans Hayes	Robert Sondles * (Guest)
Matt Every *	Matt Thomas
Charito Fernandez *	Lena VanBuskirk
Allen Harris	Brenda Waddell

Devotion – Alecia Evans Hayes

Minutes

Motion to accept minutes made by Philip Hunt
Seconded by Kevin Kaufman
Minutes accepted.

Receiving resignations of David Ellis and Alecia Hayes

Greetings from the Heartland Conference – David Long Higgins

Our Why: Together in Christ's love, we collaborate to reconcile and restore all
God's creation

Our Calling: Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to connect, equip,
and support our faith communities to grow as faithful disciples and

responsible stewards following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children and creation

Priorities 2022-2025:

Financial Sustainability

Anti-Racism

Faith Formation and Outdoor Ministry

Reimagining Church Vitality

Pastoral Preparation and Support

Organizational Clarity and Focus

We are in a season when we could and should be doing work together

Possibility of shared annual gathering

Brenda Sanford – made motion to work with Heartland conference for 2024 joint Regional Assembly/Annual Gathering event.

Philip Hunt – second; Motion passes

Finances – Lena VanBuskirk

Regional Office

Very close to planned income

Expenses higher than anticipated

Camp Christian

We planned for a deficit

\$12,302 surplus

Renewal Initiative – The Finance Committee voted to apply undesignated funds allocated 100% to camp

Firestone Park CC(DOC) gave an outright gift to camp \$75,000 to Camp Christian Endowment Fund from the closing of their ministry

Western Reserve CC(DOC) has allocated future disbursements from their endowment fund at the Hudson Foundation:

33.3% of \$550,000 – Camp Christian Maintenance

- Hiram College

- Cleveland Christian Home

Of growth of funds – amounts to \$15 grand

2024 Budget

Regional Office

2023 \$233,526

2024 \$257,016

Added for the 2024 budget are \$250 donation each to Ohio Council of Churches and United Campus Ministries – we partner with these organizations hope that this is just a *beginning*

Treasury service expense has gone up: \$2,500 p/month in 2023, \$2,750 in 2024 (\$30,000 annually for 2023 and \$33,000 annually for 2024)

Camp Budget

\$429,241 – 2023

\$\$476,253 - 2024

Depreciation needs to be counted. Stay tuned this afternoon

Motion to approve 2024 Budget made by Katie Baird

Seconded by Glenn Nestlerode

So moved

Committee Reports

Personnel – Pamela Barnes Jackson

No report

Regional Elders – Philip Hunt

Three regional elders retired

Priscilla Jackson

Nick Donges

Joseph Hara

Three new regional elders

Robin Meyers – District 5

Thomas Barnes – District 12

Mike Valentine (returning) – District 5

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Commission – Thomas Barnes

Honored by General Church - participation with General Board Meeting

Commission on Ministry – Allen Harris

Beth Long Higgins did training on aging for Commissioned Ministers
(Philip Hunt)

Chris McCreight does all first “intake” interviews

Camp Christian Committee -

Written Report

CYF/Regional Youth Council – Matt Thomas

Written Report

Stephanie Kistner – Written Report posted on Base Camp –

Representative from Heartland Conference (Brenda Waddell)

Written Report

Pastoral Relations Committee

Written Report

Ohio Women’s Ministry – No report

Spiritual Life Committee – No report

Ohio Men’s Ministry – No report

Unity Month – Philip Hunt

Connectional Church

State of the Church Address at the beginning of the year

Promote Pulpit Swap within districts

1-2 day retreat

Development Updates – Allen Harris

Need for a Development Committee

Renewal Initiative = “We are stronger together”

Quick way to interact with region on Social Media –

A laminated communication poster was mailed to every congregation
along with a farmable copy of our Disciples Preamble to the Design

Regional Pastor and President Report – Allen Harris

Communication from the regional office

Initiatives of Terri Hord Owens

Covenant Project

Church Narrative Project -

Concerns - Issue of timing and human and financial resources

Allen Harris recommends we keep it on the agenda and think about people who might be good for this project

Matt Every – resigning his position – moving to pastor a church in Texas

Video regarding Feasibility Study

Feedback regarding Allen Harris’ vision for the Region

This is “our” vision

Congregational renewal and transformation

– Rev. Michael Doerr - reboot of this committee

Congregational Renewal Team – we have no funding source

Reformat Vision Team

How to do things better or differently

Need recommendation of members – clergy and laity

New Church Ministry team

In the future

Feasibility Study – Lauren Roe and Brock McCracken

Motion to approve the feasibility study to move forward with the campaign

Made by Glenn Nestlerode

Brenda Sanford -- seconded

Unanimous vote to move forward with one abstention from

Brenda Waddell – UCC representative

Acknowledgements

Rev. Dr. Joseph Hara to be named Regional Elder Emeritus

Philip Hunt – motion

Katie Baird – second

So moved

Mr. James “Jim” Rivers to receive Disciple of Merit Award posthumously

(postpone this vote since we have time before regional assembly)

Rev. Heather Schimmel as Regional Elder for District 1

Pamela Barnes Jackson – motion

Glenn Nestlerode -- second

Approved

We need a vice moderator (one year term) – Kevin Kaufman has agreed to fulfill the vice moderator position for a partial one year term.

Closures

FCC Willoughby – officially closed

Parma CC(DOC) will close 4.21.24

Closing Worship – Brenda Sanford – Richard Rohr “Scarcity or Abundance”