

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL BOARD MEETING  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia  
July 26, 2008**

The meeting of the Board of the West Virginia Region was convened at the Regional Center at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Moderator Dorothy Brownlee called the meeting to order. Rev. Thad Allen asked for prayer concerns and led the board in prayer.

A Silent Roll Call was conducted. Each board member then introduced themselves. The minutes of the previous March 15 meeting had been sent by e-mail. Don Snyder made a motion, seconded by Jim Trader, that the minutes be approved. The motion PASSED.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Thad Allen, Regional Minister** presented his report (attached). He highlighted many aspects of his report which covered events and activities since the last board meeting. Staff changes continue to occur and we now have Dee Kapple working as an Assistant to the Regional Minister in the area of Search and Call. David Chafin has moved to Parkersburg and his work is highly appreciated. Brenda Keyser is working on financial matters for the region.

Other parts of the Regional Minister's work which is not mentioned in his report is his attendance at a couple of ecumenical events—the dialogues with the Roman Catholics and the United Methodists. He also encouraged churches to honor their pastors in the month of October with activities such as a shower of cards of some other type of recognition in the Month of the Ministry.

**Mary Uhl** presented her report as the **Coordinator of Women's Ministries** (attached). She highlighted Spring Events, meetings she has attended, and the days of silence to be held in August. The Spiritual Life Retreat in September is her main concentration at this time.

**Joel Potts** sent his report (attached) as the **Coordinator of Men's Ministries**. He has recently returned from Sessions in Oklahoma City with five others from the region. The Regional Assembly's Pancake Breakfast was successful with funds being sent to the International Day of Pancakes Fund. Joel was humbled with the recognition that the WV men gave him in the way of a named fund at the Christian Church Foundation. The Men's Fall Retreat, September 19-21, is the current emphasis for Men's Ministries.

**Deputy Regional Minister David Chafin** shared his ministry as interim pastor to the First Christian Church in St. Albans, his work with the Anti-Racism Team, and involvement with the Christian Church Foundation as our region's planned giving officer. He included a schedule of upcoming events in which he will be involved as a regional staff person. An Advent Devotional booklet will be written by regional clergy. It and all regional publications are being planned as online publications.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Dorothy Brownlee spoke briefly about her trip to Bosnia as a participant in the Woman-to-Woman program. She is available to churches to share her experiences. On August 27 she will

talk to the First Christian Church of Beckley. On August 3 she will attend a Regional Moderator's Conference in Nashville, TN.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

The following departments had not had a chance to meet and therefore did not have a report at this time:

**Christian Formation** – Chairperson - JoAnne Morrison

**Leader Development and Church Life** – Chairperson, Bob Brooks

**Mission and Stewardship** – Chairperson, Jim Brumfield

It has been decided to have our Regional Newsletter prepared for mailing by a company in Birmingham, Alabama. This is more cost efficient than printing it locally or in-house. We still have the option to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUP REPORTS**

**Disciples Women** Report (attached) was sent by Helen Edge. The Spiritual Life Retreat, September 5 – 7, will have Judy Bennett serving as Resource Speaker. The Retreat will be dedicated to the late Rev. Marge Green.

**Disciples Men** had no report at this time.

### **COMMISSIONS**

**Personnel** - Betty Beeson, Chair, stated that the Regional Staff has been in the process of setting goals for themselves.

**Property** – Jim Trader, Chair, had no report because there had been no property issues. Some things had occurred that need to be noted. The elevator had problems after a recent storm. The air conditioning units also had to be serviced. The region had a chance to purchase Marge Green's vehicle for less than its value which gave the regional staff a much needed additional vehicle. The Federal government now allows 58 cents per mile for travel which saves the region money in not having to reimburse that amount for a staff person's use of their own vehicle.

**Ministry** –William Chambers, Chair, sent his written report (attached) listing those who are under the care of our region. Nine congregations were listed as being open and searching for pastors. One of those, McMechen First, will be served by Rodney Hubbs. First Christian Church, Moundsville, was added to the list. The next Ministers and Mates was corrected to read January 16 – 18, 2009 at John XXIII Pastoral Center.

**Finance** – In the absence of Brenda Keyser, Chair, Mr. Allen presented a summary page showing the region's investments, designated funds, with a total of each. A motion was made by Don Snyder that we merge the Ministers Emergency Fund and the Ministry Education-Barnett Scholarship Fund and that the Executive Committee determine the new name and how best to eliminate debt on the Scholarship Fund. Maggie Sebastian seconded the motion which PASSED.

A motion to have new signatures on the bank PASSED. The board secretary signed this resolution.

A motion, made by Rick Howard and seconded by Jim Trader, that the funds left to the region by Marge Green be designated "A Marge Green Named Fund" PASSED. It was suggested that board members give to this fund at the board meeting before others in our region are asked to contribute. (\$325 was collected from board members with more to be received.)

## **COMMITTEES**

**Disaster Response** – Chairperson Ray Uhl - No report

## **OTHER ITEMS**

During lunch a document, "An Invitation to a Conversation on Mission Alignment for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" was presented by the Regional Minister. Much discussion followed with most comments showing that there is little value in the way the new alignment is presented.

The next Regional Assembly will be in Weirton in 2010. It was suggested that we have another Elders' Workshop or a Deacons' Workshop or perhaps an Evangelism Workshop. Another idea was to have a "Churchfest" type of event in the off-years of the Regional Assembly. Leader Development and Church Life, chaired by Bob Brooks, will be asked to look into these possibilities.

A representative of District 3, Dan Martin, will be contacted by the Moderator or Regional Minister to serve on the board.

In looking at future Program Planning events, a motion was made by Jim Trader and seconded by Don Snyder, that Departments meet on the evening of November 14 (Friday) through the morning of November 15 (Saturday) and then start the Regional Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. The motion PASSED.

Jayne Chafin was thanked for preparing a delicious lunch for the board.

Working with college students at West Virginia University in Morgantown is being considered as a possible New Church start. The church in Morgantown gives its blessing to this project as does the Regional Board. We look forward to future developments in this project.

The Regional Calendar was provided to all board members.

Maggie Sebastian made a motion, seconded by Don Snyder, that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Trader, Secretary