

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL BOARD MEETING
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
November 14-15, 2008**

The meeting of the Board of the West Virginia Region was convened at the Regional Center at 6:00 p.m. on November 14, 2008. Dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall and a time of Worship was in the Sanctuary. We had visual presentations from our General Minister and President, Dr. Sharon Watkins; our Mission Partners, Patrick and Kimberly Bentrott in Haiti; and our own Regional events. This was a departure from recent years in that Commissions, Departments and Committees met on Friday evening and Saturday morning prior to the Board meeting following these other groups' meetings.

On Saturday morning, November 15, Moderator Dorothy Brownlee called the board meeting to order. A Silent Roll Call was conducted. Minutes of the July 26 meeting had been sent by e-mail and they were approved as written.

REPORTS

Mary Uhl presented her report as the **Coordinator of Women's Ministries** (attached). She highlighted the Spiritual Life Retreat where 176 people attended to hear Judy Bennett as the resource leader. Rev. Gloria Hernandez will be the 2009 resource person. Rev. Jayne Chafin will be speaker for Spring Events to be held tentatively April 19 to 25. Mary and Helen Edge will be attending meetings in Greensboro, NC as the women work towards the next Quadrennial.

Joel Potts, III presented his report (attached) as the **Coordinator of Men's Ministries**. The September retreat had been very successful, due in large part to the facilitator Steven Smith. The men are working on obtaining a "pancake Money" grant to help build a playground at Cabell-Huntington Hospital. Ed Phillips was elected President and Randal Dawson was elected president-elect. New commissioners are Jim Price and Aaron Watkins.

Dorothy Brownlee, Moderator, had attended the Regional Moderator's Conference in Nashville, TN on August 3 where there were participants from 33 regions.

General Board Member, Gary Lyons, had no report as that board had not met.

Helen Edge, President Disciples Women in WV, presented her written report (attached) which highlighted the fall September Spiritual Life Retreat, the work of the Disciple Women's Cabinet as they plan for future events, and the upcoming Spring Events.

Ed Phillips, President Disciples Men in WV, presented his written report (attached) and emphasized the success of the September Retreat. The Men's Commission will meet at Cedar Lakes on January 30 and 31 for a planning retreat. Men's Lenten Gatherings will be March 15 through 19.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Christian Formation – Joshua Patty, Chair Elect presented the following:

The Christian Formation Department recognizes and commends the on-going planning and resourcing of the youth Mid-Winter Retreat and youth summer camps. We are confident the planning for them by regional staff is proceeding well. Kevin Snow will be returning for this retreat on Feb 13-15. Checks need to be made on the backgrounds of adults attending retreat as they are with camp staff.

- The Department proposes an additional focus for 2009: Providing Resources for Creative Christian Education. This would be a way to provide regional support to congregations for all age groups. This would include the discussion of multiple models (i.e. Disciples history program, rotation model, Children's Worship and Wonder, Five Love Languages, etc.) and the dissemination of church reviews of appropriate material. To facilitate this, we propose to hold a series of conference calls with congregational leaders (pastors + one/two) to solicit congregational input and to gauge congregational support. These calls will be facilitated by Joshua Patty. The calls will be followed up with another solicitation for advice.
- The Department will consider this feedback at its next meeting and develop specific focuses. At this meeting, we will seek to develop a regional web page, and other means of regular distribution, to begin to share these resources.
- The Department will consider the feasibility for a series of resource training workshops at its July meeting, with an eye toward holding such workshops in February 2010 (funding might be needed for this event).

Those in attendance at the meeting were: Joshua Patty, Andrea Brownlee, Rosetta Smith, Joel Potts, Nick Nardo, Judy Bennett, Carol Vincent

Leader Development and Church Life – Convened by Steven Smith. The group recommended the following:

- A Project Advisory Council which will focus on New Church Development. The rationale is that the Leader Development and Church Life department has too much responsibility and to be effective in the Region's desire to do new church development, it should be separated. This is needed to assist ministers and lay in visioning through discovery of spiritual gifts. We also need to have new churches to expand the kingdom in our region.
- By our spring meeting, we propose a "spiritual gifts" inventory to be used in local congregations. A meeting will be needed prior to this meeting to make plans for this inventory. Leader Development and Church Life department will oversee the development and implementation and follow through.

Mission and Stewardship – Convened by Mark Mayer. This group discussed several aspects of this department:

- Reconciliation: Recommended a Bridge Camp with Northeast Fellowship to be held at National City Christian Church in July. Costs for NERF Assembly would

come from Reconciliation Funds. A motion to allot \$5000 for Bridge Camp and other actual expenses for the NERF Annual Assembly at Camp Christian was made by Don Snyder, seconded by Jim Trader and PASSED. They encourage the Anti-Racism Team to broaden their discussions into multiple areas of injustice. They also endorse and fund for the coming year in the Charleston Area to have a forum to discuss how reconciliation work is successfully done in other regions. They await direction from the board about this program and how they might use existing reconciliation monies.

- Laura Center: The group asks the Regional Minister to gather the members of the Laura Center Committee to discuss what to do concerning the future.
- Global Mission Region: The department requests that the board spend the year in becoming a Global Mission Region. They ask that the region work thru steps in Global Mission Region Statement. They encourage the Regional Minister to be in continual contact with region and update the region. They ask that the Deputy Regional Minister be in contact with local districts on how to resource. A goal of 2010 would be to have a regional travel event to Haiti. Don Snyder suggested that we study the requirements of being a Global Mission Region prior to the next board meeting.
- Mission Fest: A suggestion that cluster events be planned for around time of Earth Day (April 22) to stimulate broader awareness and involvement of Christian stewardship of the Earth and its resources and our missions to its peoples. The group felt that financing travel expenses of this type of event would be minimal.
- Legacies: The group suggests that Darwin Collins be invited, as he is available, to walk with this department around planned giving and to speak to the board about what is available in the ways of planned giving.

COMMISSIONS:

Personnel: Betty Beeson sent her report (attached) and expressed appreciation to the Regional Staff for their work and for the goals they had set for themselves. They had sent their recommendations to the Finance Commission for suggested pay increases for the staff.

Property: Jim Trader, Chair, presented his written report (attached) with recommendations about office equipment needed and the regional vehicles. It was suggested that all equipment and furnishings be videoed with the video being stored away from the regional center.

Ministry: Bill Chambers sent his written report (attached). The Commission recommended to the Regional Minister and Regional Board that Rae Browning, pastor of the First Christian Church of Cumberland, MD and Rod Hubbs, pastor of the First

Christian Church of McMechen be granted candidacy and provisional licenses. This motion PASSED.

Finance: Brenda Keyser, chair, presented the Financial Information. A resolution to have only one signature on checks up to \$2000 was presented and PASSED. New accounting software will be needed in the near future. A motion to approve the Proposed Support and Spending Plan (the Budget) for 2009 PASSED.

COMMITTEES:

Disaster Response: Ray Uhl, chair, expressed that there are no immediate needs but that long-term recoveries are still in need of help.

Regional Assembly: Nick Nardo reported that the work team for the next assembly is in progress. In April 2010, the host Weirton Church will be 180 years old.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regional Assembly Invitation: The board accepted the invitation from First Christian Church, Beckley, to host the 2014 Assembly. The Beckley church suggested that this be a Friday to Sunday assembly, but are still willing to be hosts if the assembly remains on the traditional Thursday to Saturday schedule.

General Assembly Resolution: A resolution from the Montana Region which suggests that we return to General Assemblies that would meet alternately between summer and fall instead of all summer assemblies as was voted on in 1997. A motion made by Jim Trader, seconded by Gary Lyons, to join other regions in this alternate type of arrangement that would begin in 2013 was PASSED.

The Regional Calendar was called to everyone's attention. A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and PASSED.

Prayer for lunch was offered by the Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Trader, Secretary