

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL BOARD MEETING
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
March 5, 2011**

The meeting of the Board of the West Virginia Region was convened at the Regional Center at 10:30 a.m. on March 5, 2011. Moderator Fred Bennett called the meeting to order. A Silent Roll Call was conducted. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Betty Beeson, seconded by Jim Trader and PASSED.

Regional Minister Thad Allen offered the Opening Prayer. He presented his written report (attached) which supports and emphasizes our work as a Region. Another document of "Guiding Thoughts" (attached) lists 11 aspects of our work within our churches and with our clergy.

STAFF REPORTS:

Deputy Regional Minister, David T. Chafin, presented his written report (attached). He gave an update on "The All Saints Fund" that has been established to memorialize persons within our Region. An initial gift of \$25 or more may be given to this fund which will be managed by the Christian Church Foundation. An updated list of contributions totaling \$5375 was shared.

Associate Regional Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Kevin Snow, presented his written report (attached). One of the highlights of his work was a most successful Mid-Winter Retreat with around 80 youth, post-high and adults gathered at Ripley.

Mary Uhl presented her report as the **Coordinator of Women's Ministries** (attached). Spring Events will be held through the Region beginning on April 30 and concluding May 4 with Judie Church as the speaker. The emphasis on Human Trafficking will be the emphasis for 2010-2014. A website, Free2Work.org, is available for those wanting a list of companies providing Fair Trade items. A "Meet Me on the Bridge" event will be conducted in Charleston on March 8.

Joel Potts, III gave his report as **Coordinator of Men's Ministries** (attached). The Spring Gatherings will be March 13-16 with Aaron Watkins, minister at Bluefield as the Speaker. Plans are progressing on the Extreme Event Gathering (formerly Sessions) to be held at Bethany in 2012.

REPORTS:

Fred (Fritz) Bennett, Moderator, shared several items that needed action:

- A church building in Jackson County had been reverted back to our region as property owners. The trustees signed papers giving the property to the family which owns the adjacent property.
- A motion to add Joel Potts as a third person to sign checks for the region was made by Jim Trader, seconded by Josh Patty, and PASSED.
- A motion to give the Moderator the authority to name eight (8) delegates to the upcoming General Assembly was made by Steven Smith, seconded by Judie Church, and PASSED.
- A motion to give the Moderator authority to name three (3) people to the Program Committee for the April 26-28, 2012 Regional Assembly was made by Steven Smith, seconded by Judie Church, and PASSED.
- A motion to give the Executive Committee authority to make a decision about the Capital Expense of purchasing of a new Office Copier, in the event that the present copier can no longer be used, was made by Don Snyder, seconded by Jim Trader, and PASSED.

DEPARTMENTS:

Mission and Stewardship, Chair Mark Mayer, was absent and there was no formal report. A Stewardship Workshop to be held at Moundsville will be announced for the future.

Dennis Sparks reported on a program, "How To Make A Difference," that had been held in cooperation with Bethany College. Students had gone to Charleston where they attended a Legislative Session, a Martin Luther King Breakfast, heard the Acting Governor speak, shared time at the UBB Mine area, and toured the West Charleston Area. There were many positive remarks made by the students who were impressed with this program. Scott Thayer and Dennis Sparks were coordinators of this program.

Leader Development and Church Life, Chair Steven Smith, stated that the department is discussing the possibility of a monthly newsletter that would present information about a specific topic of Church Leadership, such as Commissioned Ministers, Elders, Clergy, Young People's call to ministry and other pertinent matters. These newsletters could be followed by a conference call to discuss aspects of these issues.

Christian Formation, Chair Josh Patty, referred to Kevin Snow's report for the recent Mid-Winter Retreat. In the future we would like to have information about educational materials from various sources be made available through this department. It is hoped that more young people can be reached to be a part of our camping program as traditional church activities are not always a priority for our present-day church members and participants.

The Blessing for our lunch was given by Thad Allen.

Betty Beeson, Disciples Women's Regional President, encouraged participation in the upcoming Spring Events.

Randal Dawson, Disciples Men's Regional President, presented his written report (attached) which emphasized the March Lenten Gatherings for men in our region, as well as the Bethany College meeting for men in 2012 and the fall retreat October 7-9 for 2011.

Steven Smith invited people to help with salvaging logs from their church's acreage that will be available to those who need them for heat. More information will be forthcoming.

COMMISSIONS:

Ministry: W. E. Chambers, Chair presented the commission's list of Order of Ministry for our Region (attached). Doug Richardson's name had been inadvertently omitted from the list. Don Snyder made a motion that the list be approved for Standing; the motion was seconded by Jim Trader and PASSED. Because the Commission had not met before this meeting, it was determined that the executive Committee can make decisions about those who will be approved for ordination prior to the next board meeting and the board can then affirm their decision.

Personnel: Chairperson Jim Trader stated that this Commission had not met but he had worked with the Finance Department to prepare their suggestions for Salary recommendations.

Property: Chairperson Cheryl Robinson gave her written report (attached) about repairs that had been made to the church's property which also enhances the areas of the church used by our Regional Office and Staff.

Finance: Judie Church, Chair, asked the staff to leave the meeting so that the board could discuss matters pertaining to salaries.

- Item #1130, Staff Christmas Gift, had been \$1,000 but a motion was made by Betty Beeson, seconded by Steven Smith, to increase this amount to \$1,500, which PASSED.
- A Six Percent (6%) increase had been proposed for all salaried staff.
- Item #1104a, in the amount of \$4,000 for Wellness Program for Ordained Regional Staff only was moved to a separate line item under Staff #1130 to keep it from being a part of Regional Minister salary items.

A motion, made by Steven Smith and seconded by Josh Patty, that the Budget be approved as Amended was PASSED.

General Board Member Kevin Bowers had represented our Region at the recent General Board Meeting in Indianapolis. Dr. Sharon Watkins will be nominated at the Nashville 2011 General Assembly for a second six year term.

COMMITTEES:

Disaster Response: Ray Uhl stated that the website link is no longer available for anyone but those trained to work in disaster response. Dennis Sparks added that a training event will be held May 17-18 at Stonewall Jackson for those working in mental health aspects of disasters. Details about this will be on the West Virginia Council of Churches website in the near future.

Regional Assembly: Dennis Sparks will have information about the next Regional Assembly at a future meeting.

Buffalo Seminary: Larry Grimes shared information about a workshop to be held at Bethany College on the topic of “The Way, the Truth and the Other Religions” with Jim Farwell as leader in the morning. The afternoon session will explore scripture from other religions. This workshop will be on March 26 at Bethany at a cost of \$35.

Scott Lectures will be May 2-3 with Dr. Bruce G. Epperly as presenter. Immediately following the lecture program, there will be Lectures and a Site Tour about the Brush Run Church presented by Rev. Dr. Hal Doster and Rev. Dr. Peter Morgan.

Jim Trader gave a summary of classes for the June 20-22 Buffalo Seminary: Minister and Communication; Minister as Wordwright; and Minister and Music, as well as Bible Study with Dr. Bonnie Thurston.

Other workshops will be conducted throughout the year and most of them will be “streamed.”

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Josh Patty and the closing prayer was offered by Freeman Wickham.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Trader, Secretary