

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Regional Assembly 2008 Business Session  
May 17, 2008

Minutes

The biennial Regional Assembly Business Session of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (NWRCC) was convened at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, Washington, on May 17, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Cherilyn Williams, Regional Moderator, who welcomed everyone to the business session. Because there were no resolutions submitted for action by the Assembly, she continued on with the order of business outlined on page 11 of the Assembly Program.

Regional Board Highlights – Cherilyn Williams discussed the activities of the Regional Board during the last two years, as presented in Report #08-01.

Greetings from Washington Association of Churches – Darel Grothaus briefly discussed the transformation process being undertaken to determine the nature and structure for the ecumenical ministries within the state of Washington.

Introduction of Assembly Guests: Cherilyn Williams introduced a number of observers and participants from outside the Region and commented on the exceptional work being done by Bill and Connie Robey with Journey of Discovery, the Region's congregational transformation program, and John Williams and David Helseth, who are co-chairs of the Region's Outdoor Ministries.

REPORTS:

- Report #08-02: New Church Companion Team – presented by Rod Smith and Christy Bristow.

WORSHIP MOMENT: The New Church Companion Team led the Assembly in a moment of worship utilizing a song entitled, "In the Great Northwest Region," which was written especially for the Assembly by Christy Bristow,

REPORTS (continued):

- Report #08-03: Funding Task Force – presented by Bill Jennison.
- Report #08-04: New Beginnings – presented by Marvin Eckfeldt.
- <sup>1</sup>Report #08-05: Nominating Committee – presented by Gary Shoemaker. One change was noted to the list of nominees: Jong Hong, Pastor of Mannam Korean Church in Mukilteo, is the nominee for one of the Regional Board Northwest

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<sup>1</sup> An item of business, which was acted upon by the Assembly, is included in this entry.

Area's representatives, rather than Youn Su Nam. The Assembly approved by acclamation the Slate of Nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee, with the previously noted modification.

- Report #08-06: Finance Ministry – presented by Debbie Starkey. In addition to the material contained in the written report, Debbie commented that a future challenge for the NWRCC will be to determine whether to buy or lease property for the Regional Office. The lease for the present office space in Kent was recently extended for three years to give the Region sufficient time to assess recommendations from the RISE regional transformation process and suggestions of whoever becomes our new Regional Minister and President. Debbie also answered the following questions posed by members of the Assembly:
  1. Has the Region's income stream remained constant? – Debbie replied that income has been stabilized. The annual fund, previously discussed by Bill Jennison, will provide an additional needed source of monies for regional activities and programs. There has also been more work done by unpaid volunteers, which has reduced expenditures.
  2. Are other Regions also experiencing serious funding problems? – Cherilyn answered that, in her work with the General Board, she has learned that many other Regions have also had to “tighten their belts” and reduce expenditures, due primarily to decreasing revenues.
  3. What does the financial future look like, i.e. will board members continue to have to fund their own travel expenses to board meetings, as they have chosen to do so these last two years? – Debbie responded that, since regional income has stabilized and there is a new source of revenue with the revitalized Annual Fund, if funds are needed for such travel expenses, they will be made available.
  4. In the Budget Report on page 21 of the Assembly Program, what is income item #3024, “Shalom Ctr buy-out, Bellingham”? – According to Debbie, this reflects the Region's portion in 2008 of the proceeds from the sale a few years ago of the campus ministry building at Western Washington University.

WORSHIP MOMENT: Cherilyn Williams led a time of worship utilizing material contained in the “Order of Reporting and Assembly Business” on page 11 of the Assembly Program. She concluded by asking Assembly participants to silently consider who we are called to make friends with, who we are called to offer hospitality to on this day, and what it means for the NWRCC to live on the border and to risk hospitality.

#### REPORTS (continued):

- Report #08-07: Regional Youth Commission – report is in Assembly Program.
- Report #08-08: RISE – report is in Assembly Program.

- Report #08-09: Disciples Women's Ministries – report is in Assembly Program.
- Report #08-10: Yakama Christian Mission – presented by David Bell. In addition to the written report, using the example of a staff member from the Mission meeting with a young 10 year old boy, who is in the process of dying, David discussed how story telling helps form a more cohesive Body of Christ, thereby reducing suffering. He also thanked everybody for their continued support.
- Report #08-11: Commission on Ministry – report is in the Assembly Program.
- Report #08-12: Journey of Discovery – presented by Connie and Bill Robey. Bill and Coney shared the stories of three churches that are in the Journey of Discovery process: Edmonds Christian Church, Puyallup First Christian Church, and Englewood Christian Church.
- Report #08-13: Outdoor Ministries – presented by David Helseth.
- Report #08-14: Turner Lectures – report is in the Assembly Program. Cherilyn reminded everyone this year's lectures will be held on October 6-8 right here at the Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, with Diana Butler Bass as presenter.
- Report #08-15: Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team – report is in the Assembly Program.

<sup>2</sup>ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS: The Assembly approved by acclamation Reports #08-01 through #08-04 and #08-06 through #08-15. Report #08-05 from the Nominating Committee was previously approved.

THANK YOUS: Cherilyn Williams, on behalf of the Assembly, extended thanks to Rebecca Hale, Transitional Interim Regional Minister and President, and all who have served on the Regional Board and the various regional commissions, teams, committees, and task forces during the past two years. She also expressed special thanks to the Regional Assembly Planning Team, Amber Saladino – “Office Manager Extraordinaire,” the RISE Team, and the Vision Team.

CLOSING: The Business Session of the 2008 Assembly of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was closed with the singing of “Every Time I Feel the Spirit,” led by Cherilyn Williams, who adjourned the business proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Coleman, NWRCC Board Secretary  
May 26, 2008

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<sup>2</sup> An item of business, which was acted upon by the Assembly, is included in this entry.