

Northwest Regional Christian Church Board Meeting  
February 28, 2009, Yakima, Washington

## Minutes

The board of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met February 28, 2009, at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, following discussions with the RISE team. The board met under the leadership of Cherilyn Williams, regional moderator, who offered the opening prayer. Officers present were Cherilyn Williams, moderator; David Moffitt, vice-moderator; Debbie Jennison, treasurer; Lillian Moir, secretary; and Rebecca Hale, interim regional minister.

Also present were Dixie Carringer, Lauri Clark-Strait, David Helseth, Jim Harwood, Jong Hong, Debbie Little, Zak Longoria, Laura Reed, Barbara Reynolds, Sophie Rice-Sauer and Ronna Smith

Absent were Gary Shoemaker; Sally Smith who resigned due to ill health; and Dalene Vasbinder who has moved to Lexington, Ky.

### 1. BUDGET

Debbie Jennison outlined the financial position of the region. As of January 31, 2009, income and expenses were running ahead of the budget. This was due, in part, to paying the regional minister's salary for January and February in January. Also, the board had approved raising the regional minister's salary effective in December. Debbie reported that the region will be back on track in March.

Funds invested with the Christian Church Foundation for starting new congregations and the transformation process (RISE and Journey of Discovery) are not needed at this point since the region's cash flow is okay. Therefore, the \$44,758 budgeted amount will be put into an interest-bearing certificate of deposit, with all or part to be pulled out on demand.

### 2. REPORTS

Reports were presented by Cherilyn Williams. Full reports are available through the regional office.

- **Minutes** of the October 2008 board meeting were approved unanimously. Moved by Laura Reed; seconded by David Moffitt.
- **Cooperating Ministries in Higher Education** is exploring its future during a period of serious budget and program issues. The director of the Campus Christian Center, Dr. Sheron Koegh, has resigned effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year.
- **Commission on Ministry** will meet March 20-21 in Ellensburg to interview candidates for ministry. The commission also will look at the annual clergy review forms and the edited draft of the regional policies and criteria for ministry.

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- **Journey of Discovery**, initiated in September 2005, currently has ten active congregations involved, including three that joined in September 2008. Two have discontinued their participation. Consultants were trained as were congregational coordinating teams.
- **Northwest Passage** highlights a story in the Church Extension bulletin, featuring northwest congregations. Marvin Eckfeldt, Kent, is writing a handbook for Church Extension.
- **New Congregations** include Samoan Christian Church and Mannam Christian Church which are exploring purchases of land. Rathdrum Christian Church is looking for a musician to assist in worship services. The congregation's co-pastor left. Korean Crystal Christian Church's Pastor Nam preached at the North American Pacific/ Asian Disciples (NAPAD) gathering in January. Members of the New Congregations Team will visit Ciudad de Dios Christian Church in the spring.
- **Outdoor Ministry** selected "Breakthrough" as the theme for the 2009 camp season. The proposed diversity camp (multi-ethnic) will be postponed until 2010 so the anti-racism team can work with the camp directors on the program. Directors' training needs to be scheduled as does a counselor training session. Information on a United Church of Christ special needs camps will be sent to the regional minister by Ken Colman, UCC conference representative on the Disciples' regional board.
- **Regional Minister's Search Committee** will hold in-person interviews with two candidates in late March or early April. A name may be proposed to the regional board in April and to the special regional assembly on May 16.
- **UCC Conference** board meeting was attended in January by Monica Myers Greenberg, the regional representative on the conference board. The conference has moved into space at Broadview UCC Church in north Seattle from a portable facility at Bethany church in south Seattle. The region has been approached about renting space at Bethany church.
- **Regional Youth Commission** set dates of the winter retreats on March 6-8 and March 27-29. Prosser church sent \$1,000 for youth ministries.
- **Turner Lectures** in October will feature "The Three Interfaith Amigos" from Seattle. Brochures on the event will be distributed widely among the Christian, Jewish and Islamic communities. The Turner Lectures are self-supporting with a fund established to receive gifts from individuals and congregations.
- **Washington Association of Churches** sent a team of judicatory heads to meet with Gov. Christine Gregoire on issues related to housing, health care, economic justice and poverty, criminal justice, the environment and balancing the budget and the need for revenue. Rebecca Hale was in Haiti at the time and was represented by Carol Rawlings, the Northwest Disciples member of the interim board.

After presentation of the reports, the board unanimously received them.

### 3. REGIONAL MINISTER'S REPORT

Rebecca reported that giving to the Disciples Mission Fund was down three percent in 2008, although regional giving to DMF was up 7.8 percent. Week of Compassion was up 26 percent and Reconciliation was up 28 percent. Rebecca thanked the board for its work.

- **Prayers** were asked for Bob and Berlina Brock who are coping with his progressing Alzheimer's disease; the family of Jack Hart who died recently; Lauri Clark-Strait and her family at a transition in their lives; and Dalene Vasbinder who is moving to Lexington, Ky., in March and her family which is staying in Seattle until the end of the school year.
- **Search and Call** process is active in Anchorage; Lake City, All Pilgrims and Kent First Christian Church in the Seattle area; North Hill in Spokane; United Church of Moscow and Coeur d'Alene in Idaho; Walla Walla and Othello. Opportunity church is looking for a part-time pastor.
- **Church News** includes training for elders and board members at Eastside church in Tacoma; purchase of a new building by Lake Washington Christian Church; purchase of land by Findlay Christian Church; Port Angeles, Mannam and Samoan churches are looking at land and First Christian Church in Tacoma is considering a building project.
- **Transformation training** in Pennsylvania was carried out by Rebecca who shared Northwest regional plans. Pennsylvania's issues are similar to those in the Northwest Region of the Christian Church.
- **Yakama Christian Mission** work week was carried out with several board members and congregations participating. Siding the Friendship House was among the tasks undertaken. Homeland Missions anticipates sending money to the Yakama mission from proceeds from Disciples Men Cooking for Mission. The mission board is reforming under the leadership of Don Shelton.
- **Pro-reconciliation team** met with April Johnson, director of Reconciliation. The team expects to regain its momentum and to move away from training as its only activity. New members will be recruited. Regions throughout the Pacific Northwest are looking at training and working together.
- **Haiti and Dominican Republic Visit** will be reported in full later. Rebecca was one of 11 regional ministers who participated in the visit sponsored by Global Ministries. The group met with partners and churches for conversations and sharing joys and concerns. The discussion included how to understand partners and what it means to accompany one another. Two-way sharing between the partner country and North America is part of the process.

### 4. GLOBAL MISSION REGION

A proposal was presented by Rebecca to designate the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a Global Mission Region. The proposal will be on the agenda at the special regional assembly in May when Doug and Liz Searles will be present. They are serving

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in Poland. As part of becoming a Global Mission Region, the current relationship with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea will be reevaluated.

**Moved:** Lauri Clark-Strait; seconded: Debbie Jennison **Voted unanimously:**

That the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) commits to becoming a Global Mission Region. We will share the Good News of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth, and commit to receiving that same Good News from Global Ministries missionaries and international partners around the world in a reciprocal relationship.

### **A GLOBAL MISSION REGION**

1. PRAYS regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.
2. EDUCATES its members about global issues from pre-school age to adult.
3. SEEKS JUSTICE for the “least of these” in the international community.
4. RECEIVES the gifts of the global church.
5. GIVES to the work of global mission.
6. SENDS its members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.
7. GROWS in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

We will continue to operate in relationship with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Disciples representatives will serve as full members of the UCC-Disciples Global Ministries committee. We will continue joint itineration of missionaries.

We have completed, or are in process of completing, the “Disciples Ideas for Action” in the “Be a Global Mission Region” document (attached).

We will maintain open communication with Global Ministries’ staff as we seek to live out our commitment to being a Global Mission Region.

We will celebrate and affirm this Covenant Commitment at the next Regional Assembly.

### **5. REGIONAL BOARD**

Three resignations from the regional board were acknowledged. Replacements are needed for Sally Smith of Prosser who resigned due to ill health; Dalene Vasbinder who is moving to Kentucky; and Laura Reed, who will be entering Chicago Theological Seminary in the fall.

The next meeting of the board will be a conference call at 4 p.m. on April 11.

Lillian Moir  
Board Secretary