

Minutes from the Regional Board Meeting: Saturday, March 1, 2008 Easton, Washington

Members present: Marvin Eckfeldt, Debbie Little, Ed Martin, Barbara Reynolds, George Roper, Sally Smith, Debbie Starkey, Doris Steeg, Lauri Clark Strait, Cherilyn Williams, John Williams, and Rebecca Hale, Transitional Interim Regional Minister and President.

Moderator Cherilyn Williams called the meeting to order and led the Board in singing hymns in preparation for the meeting.

Written committee reports: Were received and discussed:

- The Camp Committee reported that all directors have now been secured for the summer. Mike Grogan will be director for CYF Camp at Gwinwood.
- There was no report from the Pro-Reconciliation/ Anti-Racism Committee. Currently, it is not functioning and will need to be addressed at some point.
- The speaker for the Turner Lectures will be Diana Butler Bass.
- Ed Martin reported that the Nominating Committee has begun their work. He submitted a written report that all received. Someone with financial and investment backgrounds is needed to fill the treasurer's spot. It would be helpful if that person was from the West Side because of ability to meet regularly with Larry.

All reports were received with the additions noted above.

Other Reports:

- The executive committee reported that Amber Saladino now has a personnel letter of agreement that is legally binding. There is still a need for a personnel committee.
- The car for the Regional Minister has been purchased and is being used. Many thanks to Marvin Eckfeldt for helping that to happen.
- The Search Committee for Regional Minister – Moderator Cherilyn Williams has contacted Sharon Watkins on how to begin the process. No committee has been formed yet. Cherilyn is taking names of possible committee members with appropriate qualifications. It needs to be a good cross-section of the Region.
- Moses Lake Property – had a recent “snag” that has slowed the process somewhat. The congregation had to vote on withdrawal from the Disciple church in order to sell the property. The decision to withdraw was unanimous by the congregation and they are drafting a letter with that intent. The Region has not received it yet and the transaction cannot take place until that happens. The Region will receive \$75,000 from the Moses Lake property when all is in order. A motion was made by Doris Steeg and seconded by Ed Martin to authorize the Executive Committee to complete this transaction. The motion carried.

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- Washington Association of Churches has been meeting to design a new vision and purpose. This was supposed to take place by April 1. It is apparent that not all judicatories represented can agree on a vision and plan for the future. The Regional Board approved joining conversations with WAC for a six month period. The context for WAC has changed in recent years, along with administrative difficulties. This has been a painful process for all involved and resolution has not taken place yet.

Finances: Debbie Starkey

- Debbie noted that there needs to be an increase of \$1,299 to the Journey of Discovery expense bringing the total to \$26,112. The reason for the increase is to include in the budget salary expense for Connie Robey. Funds would come from the transformation funds. A motion was made by Marvin Eckfeldt and seconded by Doris Steeg that we increase the budget for Journey of Discovery by \$1,299. The motion carried.
- Debbie presented the "Undesignated Funds Policy" explaining that it deals with issues that are not budgeted or are unexpected income such as Moses Lake. Copies of the policy were distributed and discussed. Included in the discussion was the right that any contributors can designate special funds when they made a gift. A motion was made by John Williams and seconded by George Roper to approve and adopt the Policy for use. Motion carried.
- Debbie shared for a point of clarity that they had been paying special costs out of a liquid CD rather than from permanent investments. It is an appropriate use of fund and on paper, funds are taken from appropriate areas. That CD has now been depleted.

Other Business:

- Much work has been done with the church at Walla Walla. A Trust agreement with the Region is being worked on. The church had some difficulties with the current process and Marvin Eckfeldt presented a proposed trust agreement that addresses their concerns. A motion was made by Marvin Eckfeldt and seconded by Barbara Reynolds that the proposed trust agreement be shared with the Walla Walla congregation and further negotiations be made as needed to secure the Trust agreement. Motion carried.
- New Beginnings has gotten off to a great start with eleven churches participating. It is a new Disciples program that is beginning here in the NW. It will not be offered again for 3 years. Response has been positive.
- Marvin Eckfeldt reported for the Regional Assembly. All is proceeding well. He invited Board members to make three contacts with three of our churches before the Assembly inviting their participation. Board members volunteered to contact the churches.

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Regional Minister's Report: Rebecca Hale

Rebecca reported that the following churches are in transition with pastoral leadership and are in need of our prayers:

- First Christian in Kent has welcomed Dick Talley as their Interim pastor.
- All Pilgrim's has called their first pastor – Interim minister Nina Merkle Nestlerode
- The Anchorage church has welcomed Interim pastor Dale Kelly.
- Coeur d'Alene will be calling an interim pastor, following the retirement of Bob Cordes
- First Christian in Tacoma is continuing their search for an Associate pastor
- Othello is dealing with the question of "where do we go next?"
- Lake Washington is dealing with relocation.

Rebecca also asked for prayers for the following:

- Dawn Marie Turner – health issues
- Bob and Berlena Brock – health issues
- Peter Drury – recent death of his father-in-law
- Doug Dornhecker – caring for parents
- Ken Colman - his mother is having brain surgery soon
- Ray Schulte – death of his father
- Nancy Johnson – death of her father
- Steve Coleman – melanoma surgery
- Gary Shoemaker – health concerns for his parents
- Joan Dennehy's mother – health concerns and change in living situation
- George Roper – losses in the congregation at Othello
- Continued prayers for the Yakama Christian Mission – difficult financial situation. There is room in their schedule for work trips this summer.

Rebecca lifted up in joy that twenty congregations are in intentional transformation processes! – Nine congregations in "Journey of Discovery" and eleven in "New Beginnings." Rebecca asked for continued prayer for the pastors of those congregations.

Rebecca reported that the General Church is following a similar process and Sharon Watkins will be revealing some new directions for the church in coming months.

Other items for consideration:

- The Commission on Ministry is affirming the standing of every clergy person in the Region – 120 + clergy in the Region. This is a huge task and is the most complete one done in many years.

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- Moderator Cherilyn shared concerns from Dawn Marie Turner that the low number of youth at the Chi Rho retreat will mean their expenses will not be covered by registration. She raised the question as to whether we need to combine the Winter Retreats for next year. In a brief discussion, the Board feels we need to search for other options. We want to preserve our youth ministries.
- It was reported that the Gobledales, Global Mission Partners, will be in the area during May and will be available to congregations.
- The next Regional Board meeting will be April 4 and 5 at the United Christian Church in Yakima.
- Rebecca Hale will be the Bible scholar at the Weekend of Compassion with speaker, Fred Craddock.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

John Williams, SW Area Rep