

Northwest Regional Christian Church Special Assembly
May 16, 2009, Yakima, Washington

Minutes

The special one-day Regional Assembly of the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was convened at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, Wash., on May 16, 2009. The assembly was opened by Cheryl Williams, regional moderator, who introduced members of the regional board. Chalices and patens from congregations in the region were brought during the opening processional. Attendance reached 189 including five children. Thirty-nine congregations were represented.

The following business items were introduced for vote or affirmation. The full documents are on file in the regional and on the regional web site.

1. ELECTION OF REGIONAL MINISTER. Debby Starkey, chair of the regional minister search committee presented the report and the biography on Sandra Morgan Messick, the nominee. Moved: Ken Colman, seconded: Redhawk Rice-Sauer. Voted unanimously.

Installation of the new regional minister will be held October 17 at a location to be determined.

2. GLOBAL MISSION REGION. Marvin Eckfeldt presented the proposal to become a Global Mission Region. Moved: Rod Smith, seconded: Kathy Dawson. **Voted unanimously.**

A certificate recognizing the Global Mission Region status of the Northwest Region was presented to Marvin Eckfeldt and Sandra Messick by Liz and Doug Searles, Global Ministries missionaries in Poland. A letter from Bob Shebeck, Global Ministries executive for missionary relationships, was read.

3. SAMOAN CONGREGATION CHARTER. The Samoan Congregational Christian Church began working in 2001 to relate to the Disciples of Christ. As part of the charting process, the congregation wrote its by-laws, began giving to the Disciples Mission Fund and taking special-day offerings. Twelve drummers from the congregation have been invited to open and close the Disciples' General Assembly in Indianapolis, Ind., in July.

The Regional Board of the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recommended that we affirm with joy the chartering of this congregation, welcoming them with open arms as a fully chartered and recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with all the rights and responsibilities this designation entails. **Affirmed unanimously.**

4. RISE PRESENTATION. Edie Rice-Sauer introduced the six Mission Plan focus points, including community, leadership development, mission, congregational development and resources. Cheryl Williams presented the proposed governance structure which includes a board of directors to carry out the business of the region, a mission council to coordinate and empower the mission of the region and a common table for the two for spiritual leadership and community.

Discussion centered around how the board directors and the mission board are connected regarding funding. Cherilyn noted that the current budget process will continue in the near term. Some mission groups have their own designated funds, others will submit their budgets to the board. The process for 2010 will begin in the summer with final budget to be ready in October.

Although no vote was needed on the RISE Mission Plan since the board already had approved it, the moderator asked for affirmation with an AMEN on the focus areas and on the structure. **Affirmed unanimously.**

Gifts were presented to the RISE team members: Edie Rice-Sauer (chair), Cherilyn Williams (moderator), Sandy Messick, Gary Shoemaker, Wes Strait and Dawn Marie Turner for their work. Transition team members will guide the region into the work outlined by the plan. Team members will be Wahab Baldwin, Lauri Clark-Strait, Jo Gustafson, Sandy Messick, Edie Rice-Sauer, Miguel Rivera, Bill and Connie Robey and Justin Umbright.

The afternoon session opened with worship centering around the regional mission statement. Paulo Lealaitafea read in the Samoan language, Youn Su Nam in Korean and Shilo Barker in English. Cherilyn Williams led a period of thanking Rebecca Hale for her years of service as transitional interim regional minister. Rebecca responded with ten points which led to recovery of the region.

Rod Smith presented the offering meditation on establishing and nurturing new congregations. He asked assembly participants to pray daily for the congregations, to sign a RISE commitment card and to give a gift for the fund for new congregations. An offering was collected, totaling \$1611.75.

Sandy Messick thanked the assembly for its support, with special thanks to North Hill Christian Church in Spokane and University Christian Church in Seattle for teaching the faith to her children, Sarah and John. She cited as signs of hope the day's events, welcome for the Samoan congregation, affirming the Global Mission Region status and the sense that God is not finished with the Northwest Region of the Christian Church.

Submitted by

Lillian Moir
Board Secretary