

Regional Board

Nov. 6, 2010, United Christian, Yakima, WA

Attending Officers

Debbie Little, moderator

Wahhab Baldwin, mission council moderator

Debbie Jennison, board treasurer

Stewart Sharpe, board moderator elect

Sandy Messick, regional minister and president

Board Members in Attendance

Dixie Carringer east area rep

Jim Harwood central area rep

David Helseth central area rep

Bill Jennison property chair

Ron Koontz east area rep

Sandra Kortum southwest area rep

Tamalyn Kralman communications chair

Ed Martin central area rep

Gary Shoemaker northwest area rep

Marietta Tower northwest area rep

Ronna Smith southwest area rep

Also Attending

Christy Bristow- New Church Companions

John Bristow

Absent

Ken Colman	UCC rep; personnel chair
Hailey Longoria	RYC rep
Lillian Moir	board secretary
Miguel Rivera	southwest area rep
Terrie Roberts	mission council moderator elect
Steven Nundahl	RYC rep

Resignations

Will Boyd	technology chair
Jong Hong	northwest area rep
Lawrence Burley	east area rep

Opening Conversations: Areas we've seen or exp'd transformation in the region:

- We've gone virtual! (Or Amber's term – branch office.)
- Turner Lectures – a time when we continued to push our understanding; in this day and age we need to be faith to our calling, yet exploring
- We've had two Common Tables, plus one at the Assembly, which is a new structure element for our Region. Want to know what's going on in our Region? Be sure to attend the next Common Table. All are welcome.
- Western Regional ministers & leaders met in Vegas to discuss how we can support one another; we're being intentional in sharing one another's stories, looking at how can regions better support congregations in transformation. (The point was raised that we need to be sharing stories as laity, as well. What are we doing in our congregations that might help one another?)

Spiritual Pause- Reflections on Isaiah 43:16-21 led by Sandy Messick

Business Session: "Business is our Mission"

1. Sandy explained the PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ACCUSATION OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST CLERGY WITH STANDING and the work Laura Bailey has been doing on behalf of the region; there has been no change of policy, just change of procedures; Dr. Marie Fortune reviewed the document for us; the policy will be available on the regional website, presented at the next regional assembly, and available to congregational leaders. (Marvin Eckfeldt, Carol Rawlings, Ken Colman will be working on a compassion piece for laity volunteers when they are working on behalf of the region.) Bill Jennison questioned the order of reporting under the RM position; specifically v. should follow ii. This recommendation will be asked to be considered by the COM. Another question was asked, When is the law informed? Answer: when a crime has been committed. The COM will share as is appropriate within the structure should a misconduct occur. This document will be shared in churches, on the NWRCC website and will be made available on request. The document was affirmed.

2. Cooperating Ministries in Higher Education – We have received a request from CMHE Seattle regarding the distribution of funds that the Region will receive from the sale of Covenant House on the UW Campus. Background: Years ago the region, along with other ecumenical partners, participated in the purchase of the Covenant House Building to house campus ministry at the University of Washington. In 2010, the building was sold and the proceeds distributed to the participating partners. Beginning in 2011, NWRCC will receive approximately \$7100/year for 10 years as our portion of the proceeds. The Exec. Committee of the Regional Board has had some discussion about this. It was determined that precedence called for the monies to be given to CMHE Washington to be distributed to all campus ministry programs. After discussion, the following decision was made: Bill Jennison moved that the monies received from the sale of Covenant House would be designated for and given to CMHE Washington. David Helseth seconded the motion. It was approved by consensus.

3. Ongoing funding of Ciudad de Dios in Pasco. Upon discovery that the Ciudad de Dios, our church in Pasco has been funded in the amount of \$1000/month for two years, there came a question as to how long this support should continue. Sandy found records indicating that this support was to have ended in December of 2009. In consultation with the New Church Companions Team, it was decided to propose support of \$1,000/month to the end of 2010 and \$500/month for the first six months of 2011. Gary Shoemaker so moved, Sandra Kortum seconded. Approved by consensus. Christy Bristow agreed to communicate this decision to the congregation. The board wished to note our expressions of blessings upon Ciudad de Dios and express appreciation for their enthusiasm about their church and about being Disciples!

4. Transformation Grant proposal application process for congregations – The Exec. Committee proposed that Transformation Grants up to \$1000/year be made available for congregations doing innovate or transformational work. The Region would dedicate a maximum of \$5000/year for three years to fund these grants. Funds will come from the Regional Transformation funds. At the end of three years, we will review to see if offering these grants allowed congregations to move forward in mission and vision. The Grant Application was reviewed and affirmed with one correction. Affirmed by consensus.

A Pause to Stretch, Refresh, followed by a Body Prayer of Compassion from Joyce Rupp, Out of the Ordinary, page 104 led by Debbie Little.

5. Regional Minister's report – Sandy presented a report written in the framework of focus areas of our Mission Plan.

She mentioned that her first yearly evaluation is complete. She will be on medical leave from Nov. 15-Dec. 6. Rod Smith and Mike Denton (UCC) have offered to oversee Regional leadership; Debbie will see that there is pastoral leadership from each area for the time Sandy is on leave. After some discussion, it was agreed that the NW Region will email information of contact information for those serving to help during Sandy's time of recovery. May God bless her with a time of restoration.

Budget Report –

A Pause for Spiritual Reflection concerning Stewardship and Resources led by Wahhab Baldwin

Wahhab Baldwin shared a story concerning a man who built a factory to insure his future. He helped us to see this metaphor as it related to our NW Region as we share from God's abundance to insure our ministry and mission call. He shared a poem that underlined the truth that all things come from God. He challenged us to reflect on how we might share from our position of abundance. He asked us to write a note to ourselves specifically stating our personal intentions of how we might support our NW region.

We talked about the work being done by the regional church and the importance of supporting that work. When we talk to our local church boards, we need to remind them to include DMF. And always remember Christmas offering can be given all year round. Christmas in July helps tremendously. Remember, this is our mission, this is what keeps us going and we're the key players!

The regional board members were challenged to make a monthly pledge to help support the expenses of the region.

The board and the finance committee are also looking at other ways to cut regional expenses, including less expensive ways to make conference calls. Sandy will direct Amber to explore these options.

Debbie Jennison presented the 2011 Budget. After much discussion, the budget was approved by consensus with an operating income of \$225,910 and expected expenses of \$223,477. Key things to note:

- It was suggested we re-evaluate the tithe portion of the Christmas offering and the agreement with Yakama Mission. The original agreement was to include help from the mission in promoting the offering.
- Ken Colman (Personnel Chair) will be directed to look into other alternatives for Amber's health insurance. He will also be asked to develop a policy/procedures statement for at-home offices including expectations and reimbursements.

· \$12,500 of the \$106,000 received from the Cliff and Donna Albright gift will be used as operating income as a challenge matching incentive. Projected income from individual donations was increased by \$10,000 in the expectation that individuals will be challenged to increase their donations to meet this challenge. Promotion will begin in January and celebrated after the first \$12,500 of individual contributions are received in 2011.

As noted, a gift was received 106,041.47 from the Cliff and Donna Albright Foundation. The Region has a policy for the distribution of undesignated gifts greater than \$5,000. After discussion, the gift will be disbursed as follows:

\$12,500 – Challenge Matching incentive for operating expenses 2011

\$10,000 – Yakama Mission White Swan

\$7,500 – Week of Compassion

\$7,500 – Outreach to be distributed as follows

 \$2000 – Disciples Peace Fellowship Summer Intern Program

 \$1000 – School of Theol. And Ministry at Seattle U

 \$500 – CMHE

 \$250 – Alaska Convention of Churches

 \$3750 – to remain undesignated and held in Investments for future distribution

\$5,000 – Youth Fund

\$5,000 – Lane-Salmon Fund

\$2,500 – General Church (to remain undesignated and held in investments for future distribution)

\$56,041.47 – To be held in investments in an Albright Fund until decisions are made regarding its distribution through one of our special funds.

The Finance Ministry Team, with input from the Mission Council and the Board will consider the best use of the undistributed funds and will make future recommendations.

Housing Allowance for Regional Minister: Sandra Kortum moved that the board designate \$24,000 for the Regional Minister's housing allowance for 2011. Motion approved by consensus.

Debbie Little recognized the Executive Board and thanked them for their long hours and good practice of stewardship. Sandy, Wahhab, and Debbie met last week to go over Sandy's evaluation which was glowing. She will have a hard time living up to her own high standards. We appreciate the gift that she is to our region.

Sandy, Wahhab and Debbie concurred that it was time to allow Mission Council to use conference call time to implement mission of the NW Region. We are in a time of change and excitement. It is also a time that demands intentionality. We need to trust each other; to communicate and to be transparent; to put our best efforts into working together and travel together as well as to see that everyone is on the path. The Executive Board will continue to oversee budget reports from treasure Debbie Jennison for review by email but will not have conference calls unless needed.

The Regional Board would like to recognize the monumental efforts of Amber Saladino during the moving of our offices. We would also like to recognize Larry Moorman and Sandy Messick who have all given considerable hours of conversation and planning to make this happen. It was suggested to purchase a plant for Amber and perhaps a plaque to demonstrate a token of our appreciation.

Thank you for your attendance at this important gathering. We look forward to our next gathering which will be a phone conference on January 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned by Debbie Little, moderator.

Closing Prayer, Sandy Messick and David Helseth

Respectfully, Sandy Messick, Debbie Little, Tamalyn Kralman