

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City
Merriam Christian Church
January 22, 2018
(Motions in italics)

Present: Rudolfo Acosta, Rob Carr, Erin Wathen (Chair), Travis Smith McKee, Kristin Dow, Bo Crowe, Casey Sigmon, Elaine Henneman, Gerry Jones, James Vertreese, Laura Phillips, Jeff Hon, Suzi Goldt and Bill Rose-Heim.

Opening Devotion Bill led us in a devotion based upon Acts 26.

Introductions

Minutes: *Gerry Jones moved, Bo Crowe seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.*

Financial Reports: End of year reports are not yet available. It was questioned whether we need to seek competitive bids for providing financial reporting. James will check with Miller Management and Keller & Owens to get a competitive bid to compare with Treasury Services.

New Church: A job description for the Regional Minister for New and Transforming Church position has been approved by the team. They are looking to fill positions on the search team. Rob Carr suggested Josh Patty from the Ordination and Standing Committee. (Mark Harmon and Sherry McLaughlin are also possibilities). Mary Lou Kegler was suggested as a representative from the Board. In February we will have a conversation around the 5-year strategic plan for planting churches.

Kristin moved, Rob seconded to approve the members of the search committee as submitted, and to allow the committee to fill the unfilled positions. Motion carried

Tall Oaks Commission: Kristin brought to the board a letter of engagement for forming Tall Oaks as a separate 501 (c) 3 non-profit, wholly-owned subsidiary of the Region.

The Commission recommends that we enter into the agreement with attorney Greg Lam of Copilevitz & Canter to provide the services outlined in the Letter of engagement. Motion carried.

Then we moved into the discussion of how the contract will be funded. No one objected to the Region paying the original \$4,350 upfront costs. We talked about the fund-raising efforts for both the Region and Tall Oaks. The Region's focus is to fund the New and Transforming Church position. Tall Oaks would be raising money to add to the Empowerment Fund. Rob suggested looking into the line of credit that was opened at Church Extension for cash flow needs. Bill suggested bringing Church Extension in to discuss funding.

Tall Oaks commission moved that the Region pay the initial \$4,350 in costs. (\$3,000 for Copilevitz and Cantor and \$850 for the IRS.) Motion carried.

Ordination and Standing: Rob thanked those that completed their O&S forms.

Obra Hispana: Rudolfo said they are working together with all of their pastors. They are also planning a marriage enrichment course.

MoKan: No report

Personnel report: Personnel hired Jessica Lopez full time. They are working with the Tall Oaks Commission on the director search.

Regional Minister Report:

- Many thanks to Kristen Dow and Suzi Goldt for their over-and-above investments in the work of the Tall Oaks Commission. Thanks, too, to Casey Sigmon for her leadership of the New and Transforming Church Commission. Both of these Commissions are doing inspiring work and giving extraordinary time and energy to advance the mission of our Region.
- Yearbook Report Forms are being mailed from our Regional Office this year. Please look for them in the next 7-10 days.
- End of Year Donor Letters are delayed as the new and former Finance Managers have been unable to meet until Saturday, January 27 to review the end-of-year processes
- The Poor Peoples Campaign begins a 40 day period of activity in 25 states including Missouri and Kansas, co-led by Rev. Dr. William Barber (a Disciples pastor and former President of the North Carolina NAACP. Rev. Dr. Rodney Williams (Swope Parkway United Christian Church) is one of three co-organizers of the Missouri Poor Peoples Campaign activities. The Campaign is said to run from Mothers Day through Independence Day. Our General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens is planning to be with us in Kansas City for one of those 40 days. For more information, go to: <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/>. For information undergirding the Campaign, please see [THE SOULS OF POOR FOLK: AUDITING AMERICA . . .](#)
- Home Missions President Sotello Long has asked Regions to help contribute a total of \$10,000 to the cost of retaining a full-time attorney who is available to help churches address immigration issues and the specter of deportation of undocumented Disciples. Other Regions and General Units have pledged to provide an amount every year over three years include:
 - Illinois/Wisconsin
 - Tennessee
 - Northern California/Nevada
 - Kentucky
 - Capital Area
 - Oregon/SW Idaho
 - Central Rocky Mountain
 - National Convocation
 - CAN GREATER KANSAS CITY COMMIT TO \$1000 A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS USING THE RECONCILIATION FUND?
 - Rational, Reconciliation Ministry is about addressing root causes of racism and reducing systemic racism. The immigration crisis is providing the Church an opportunity to address the historic, systemic and current racism that has resulted in a broken immigration system and the recent rise of fear among many of the anticipated loss of a white majority in the U.S. within the next 40 years.

Gerry moved, Travis seconded that the Region help to support the funding of an immigration attorney from Disciples Home Ministries for \$1,000 per year for three years from our Reconciliation Funds.

Young Disciples: Travis reported that the Chi Rho Midwinter Retreat will be February 23 and 24. Registration form is on the Tall Oaks website. He also reported that the CYF Midwinter retreat went well and they appreciated having Gabe Combs as keynoter.

Open Board Positions: We will put this at the top of the next agenda.

We discussed whether the position of Stewardship and Development Chair should be a member of the Board. A bylaw change needs to be made, and it was recommended to bring that motion to the next meeting.

Erin read a letter from Edith Mendoza as she completes her position with New Church.

Erin suggested that we streamline the meeting with reports being sent in advance so that a Consent Agenda can be prepared. Now that Jessica is full-time we hope to be able to get the reports out before the meeting so this can be done.

Our next meeting will be February 26 at 11 am at Merriam Christian Church.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Suzi Goldt, Secretary