

**Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
of Greater Kansas City  
January 28, 2019**

Present: Trish Winters, Sheryl Tucker, Kristin Dow, Deb Morche, Laura Phillips, Bo Crow, Mark Willis, Gerry Jones, Dave Arnold, Matthew Silvers, Casey Sigmon, Rob Carr, Mary Lou Kegler, Bill Rose-Heim, Lyle Bracken and Jim Geary from Bonner Springs (Guests)

Opening Devotion: Bill Rose-Heim had us review questions from the formation of the Design of the Christian Church (DOC)

December Minutes: Kristin Dow noted she was present but not listed. Gerry Jones moved minutes be accepted with correction/Laura Phillips seconded.

**Budget and Finance Committee: Financial Report**

Need budgets from committees for 2019. Approved extending the 2018 budget through February 2019 until new budget can be approved.

**Bylaw Task Group**

No Report

**Stewardship and Development**

No report

**Nominating Committee**

Mark Willis reported the Nominating Committee met January 10<sup>th</sup>, with Neil Engle (Chair), Suzi Goldt, and Bill Rose-Heim present. The group discussed the open positions. Mark Willis accepted nomination for Secretary. James Vertreece agreed to stay on as Treasurer. We have asked someone to consider the Vice-Moderator position – they are considering. These were the only open positions discussed.

**New and Transforming Church**

No Report

**Community Engagement Commission**

Mark Johnson has reached out to create an affirming team for Regional resource to churches. There is an Inclusive Church Event in Des Moines in March.

**Tall Oaks Board**

The inaugural Tall Oaks Board meeting will occur February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Martha Pierce and Dale Herrick met with Miller management to finalize the arrangements for Miller Mgmt. to assume some of the financial accounting responsibilities for Tall Oaks September 1, 2019. The overall goal is financial independence for Tall Oaks from the Region by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Miller Management will provide another review opportunity as we move toward that goal. The Regional Board had already approved \$5000 for this transition. The Board reaffirmed using that money to pay for any expenses for Miller Mgmt. leading up to September 1<sup>st</sup>. The question was asked, will this move cause Tall Oaks to leave Treasury Services and the answer was "no". This will be an extra check as Tall Oaks moves toward financial independence from the Region. Motion made to use already approved monies in the amount of \$5000 to pay any retainer fees and initial July and August fees for Miller management. Approved. After vote, clarification given that there is no retainer fee.

**Commission on the Order of Ministry**

The Standing letter has gone out to ministers in the Region. Some were notified their standing was suspended due to lacking training on boundaries or anti-racism/reconciliation. There is a possibility of reinstatement if training is completed. There was an issue with the online forms – we are figuring that out. The Order will consider reaching out to communicate with ministers who have allowed their standing to lapse, to see if there are issues we are unaware of

impacting this act. This year and moving forward, Anti-racism/reconciliation training will be required to keep standing. There are trainings in February and May this year that would meet these standards. The goal is to provide trainings that meet the needs and availabilities of pastors. The order will keep communicating these standards and expectations to ministers. BRH mentioned GKC is taking the lead in the College of Regional ministers on formalizing and developing these standards. Questions asked about Standing cards, which have date and expire – see if we could update those to not have a date?

### **Young Disciples**

No report

### **Regional Minister for New and Transforming Churches**

No report – not present – at training

### **General Board**

Laura Phillips mentioned that Anti-racism/Reconciliation training will be available at General Assembly this year as well.

### **DWM**

Just got back from Leadership Training in las Vegas. The GA DWM dinner has been moved to Sunday afternoon. They are seeking sponsors to pay for a child's dinner (\$30). March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the Spring Retreat will feature Marty Steussy The September retreat will feature Debra Cornfield. We were encourage to challenge women in the churches to get involved with DWM. Looking into a scholarship fund to help with retreats.

### **MoKan**

No report. It was shared Rev. Warrick Graves mother had passed and to keep the Graves family in our prayers.

### **KC Covencion**

A consultant was brought in to assess Alta Vista building repairs. Not good news, two walls are separating. An engineer was brought in and said they don't think the walls are an immediate danger but they can't be sure without a \$5000 geological survey, which the Region and the church meeting there do not have the resources for at this time. The fix could turn out to be prohibitively expensive. The money is not available through New Church or Obra. Questions raised about the possibility of grants, or foundations that might be able to help? The possibility that we might have to sell was raised, but we would need a valuation on the property first. Region has no policy about how we respond to a congregation that can no longer afford to repair or keep up their property. We need to develop a policy about who needs to respond to congregational property issues.

### **More2**

There is funding available to be a part of More2. NKCCC might support Rev Trish Winters being a part and pay her fee if the region is unable to pay it. The Region paid \$300 last year to be a part of it. Region will assess how we can continue to find funds to be a part of More2. The first meeting is tomorrow – Rev Trish will communicate back to us.

### **Personnel**

We reviewed the attached contract for the Camp and Conference Coordinator Position. The compensation package is \$31,600 plus cell phone and lap top. Discussion about where funding for this position will come from? The Region has no money for this? Last month the question was raised about using the Tall Oaks Empowerment fund for this, and \$20,000 was approved to be used, however, it has been determined the empowerment fund was not established for this purpose. The empowerment fund was originally created to help TO though the slow periods of the year financially. TO Commission/Board feels strongly this position is important, but the Empowerment fund is no longer available to help with financial package. After some discussion on necessity of this position to coordinate an facilitate our camps this summer, motion made by Bo Crow to use Regional funds in reserve (we have about \$47000) to pay for the first year of this position until/unless other funds become available. Gerry Jones seconded. Discussion included this would be a significant financial burden, and would drain our reserves considerably this year. The consequence being the Region could run out of money by July. Question raised if we could find 2-3 volunteers to do this position – it was felt our ministers are already over committed to camp and none could pick up these responsibilities. BRH pointed out there are

several difficult decisions we will need to consider: Do we want camp to be a part of regional ministry? Does the GKC region need to be reabsorbed by other region(s)? There are several severe funding issue the region is facing and need to address them yesterday. Should we hire a professional fundraiser? This discussion was moved to Budget and Finance to continue at their next meeting. MLK did bring up the need to tighten our belt region wide. She was also adamant that we make sound financial decision that don't lead any of the executive members or board to jail.

### **Regional Minister Report**

See written report.

Reported Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord-Owens enjoyed her visit to KC and thanked us for the time spent with her. Regional Staff Jessica and Delesslyn attending training this week on how churches function and networking connections. Developing list of non-responding church in region to bring to board for discussion/review on removing them from region. Listed some responsibilities of Regional Minister we may not be aware of.

### **Action Items**

#### **Resolution to affirm Hillside Christian Church and Multi-Nation Church**

The Board of Directors of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City commends Hillside and Multi-Nation churches for modeling the benefits of sharing sacred space. Motion carried.

### **General Discussion**

Rev. Donna Rose-Heim is facilitating a dream walker session at Longview Chapel to raise funds for a new ministry position there.

MLK encouraged all of us to seek transparency and confidentiality in board matters.

Rev. Dr. Casey Sigmon asked us to consider the question: Why do we exist as a region. Board is going to think and pray on that.

Happy Birthday to Rev. Kristin Dow

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** The Region Board will meet February 25th at 9:30 am at Merriam Christian Church  
We closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mark Willis, Secretary

Dates:

- February 9-12 General Board (Phillips/Rose-Heim attending)
- February 13-15 College of Regional Ministers – Indianapolis (RMP attending)
- February 18 President's Day Federal Holiday

February 25-27 Introduction of the Analysis of Anti-Racism (pre-requisite for Train the Trainer) Tall oaks

- May 20-21, Heartland Regional Ministers meet at Tall Oaks
- July 20-24, General Assembly, Des Moines, IA 1 <https://ga.disciples.org/>