



Greater KC Regional Center <office@kcdisciples.org>

Executive Committee Meeting December 6 2021

2 messages

Mark Willis <markswillis@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 1:45 PM

To: Greater Kansas City Christian Church <office@kcdisciples.org>, Bill Rose-Heim <billrh@kcdisciples.org>, Mary Kegler <mlkeg51@aol.com>, James Vertreese <james.vertreese@gmail.com>, John Steinmetz <johnmsteinmetz@yahoo.com>, Neil Engle <neil@hccck.org>

Executive Committee Meeting December 6 2021

PRESENT: BRH, MLK, Mark Willis, James Vertrees, Neil Engle

OPENING DEVOTION: Advent Devotion from Regional videos being put out for Advent this year by Rev. Paxton Jones

Bill's Sabbatical Notes-

Rest usually involved reading, more time with my family locally (5 children, 7 grandchildren), hiking, creek walking and silence
 Drove to Gillete, Wyoming to take photos of the land on which Independence Boulevard Christian Church owns a percentage of mineral rights and while there visited the Big Horn National Forest and did some hiking and climbing and stopped by to hike the foot of Devils Tower National Monument
 Took a four day silent retreat in early September at Wallace State Park in Cameron, MO and found what may be a small dinosaur head fossil.
 Visited the Southwest along the Santa Fe Trail with Donna and our UCC friends Dale and Debra Parson
 Visited Hays, KS, stopped along the way to Garden City at a site where there were monuments to the pioneers.
 Visited Brent's Old Fort in Colorado to learn about life on the Plains in the 1840's. They have period reenactors that included a group of traders from Missouri
 Visited Cortez, NM from where we went to Mesa Verde National Park to view the buildings constructed without use of metal and learn about the complex Pueblo culture
 Visited Ouray, CO and Box Canyon Falls
 We drove through hundreds of miles of desert and ended up in Williams AZ where we spent time in the Grand Canyon
 From there we went into the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert - reminders of the age of the Earth and our short life-spans in comparison
 We travelled to Santa Fe and Taos NM. The visit to the Santa Fe Museum of History was a moving experience to learn of the treatment of First Nations peoples at the hands of missionaries
 Coming back along Route 66 we stopped at Tulsa and toured the Greenville Rising Museum commemorating the life, destruction and resurrection of Black Wall Street and its resilient community.
 In November I drove to Bethany West Virginia and visited the Disciples History Center, talked with the curator about my research project, spend silent time in Alexander Campbell's study and walked through the adjacent grounds to his home and the cemetery.
 From there it was off to Rockland and Orange Counties in New York where I visited sites from when I grew up and reconnected with my last living elder relatives - my father's younger brother and his wife
 I spent five days in New York City looking driving to sites where my mother was raised and where I lived in the Bronx and while in NY treated our denomination's first vice-moderator to supper. She is the executive pastor of the Park Avenue Christian Church and has a wealth of information about how younger clergy view Regional life and work - very helpful.
 I visited my brother whom I had not seen since my mother's death and enjoyed time with him and his wife.
 On the way back I got to worship at our National City Church in Washington D.C.
 I began and continue with training in Aikido - a "soft" martial art that requires focus, balance, and compassion for anyone opposing
 We got to participate in my sister's wedding and host a Thanksgiving dinner for 19
 As for takeaways:

Finding a better sense of balance of prayer, work, personal mission, re-creation, and rest

Recognizing that there are "burning bushes" all around us if we take the time to notice them. For me that happened in the confluence of reading books like Braiding Sweet Grass, Think Indigenous, This Land Is Not Empty, The Sum of Us, and Howard Thurmon's autobiography - With Head and Heart.

Sensing ever more deeply the need for what Brian McLaren calls a spiritual migration from what we know in our bones to be obstructions to the good way of Jesus and his quest to preach freedom to people bound by conventional and popular ethos and practice. I am still working out my place in that work but it has to be done if the Church is to survive in future generations.

Asking for help. There is way too much that needs to be done that requires greater intra and inter-regional collaboration - not busy work but essential ministry and mission, not the least of which is helping us to lose our over-dependence upon autonomy without accountability, buildings, and comfortable indifference to the suffering God wants to heal in our city.

I took over 3,000 photos and videos for use in Regional communications, purchased equipment for composing underscores for our videos (buying rights to use other's recorded underscores is expensive!), and purchased an ergonomic work chair for my office at home.

Thanks to your generous offer to extend the time for using sabbatical funds, Donna and I will leave for Ireland on May 21 and on May 23-30 will be at a Center for Courage and Renewal Retreat in Dingle, Ireland. Later we will be joined by our friends Dale and Debra for a tour of Ireland, and Disciples history of racism in our founders research visits to County Antrim in Northern Ireland and Glasgow Scotland.

QUESTION - MLK asked about congregations in crisis - BRH noted many are because of covid or aging congregations - MLK asked based on other Regions, where are we in the mix? How are other regions faring with congregations in crisis? - BRH says all are dealing with what we are dealing with, aging congregations and declining memberships - starting to see openness in exploring different ideas/solutions as churches face their situations. Conversation about churches connections to the region, how to increase connections, before issues reach crisis stage.

2022 Budget/financials

Remaining sabbatical funds approved for use after official sabbatical due to covid restrictions. Funds are to be used by September 2023. Discussion on how remaining funds are to be used/restricted. BRH had some things already done that he will ask for reimbursement from the funds. The remaining funds are targeted for his aforementioned trip to Scotland and any unfulfilled activities that would of/could have occurred during sabbatical. All expenses incurred during sabbatical can be claimed against \$15000 region has given to support sabbatical.

FINANCES

Global Montessori - wanted status on notes. Worked with DTS, found out payments were reducing principal by incorrect amounts. Need to correctly amortize the notes based on payments and interest. Issue is being corrected so corrected amount can be given to Montessori.

UCCR Report for October - paid \$140,000 so far this year to cover short falls. Additionally PPP Funds of \$77,000 were utilized which we will not have next year. TO Board noting needed upcoming repairs around \$200,000. That looks like we could be ready to commit \$400,000 for TO next year from region funds. IF we want to sever relationship, takes 12 months notice. BOARD WILL NEED TO INITIATE THIS ACTION - TO NOTIFY UCCR OF OUR INTENT TO POSSIBLY END AGREEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Personnel Budget - discussion on budgetary lines around personnel funding - asking for 3% increase up to \$5500 to use for staff increases if needed/suggested. Budget numbers corrected based on questions raised during October meeting about discrepancies in budget amounts. Additionally Shandra Yost's amounts weren't being accounted correctly in budget. Her pension fund was not paid for last three years. BRH will reach out to Pension Fund for help in determining what amount needs to be sent to correct this based on what she would have earned during that time.

2022 Budget - projected \$104,954+ deficit. Discussion about identifying where this deficit will come from to "balance" budget. Will be taken from Regional Operating Fund. NEIL MOVED THE FUNDS FROM REGIONAL OPERATING FUNDS BE IDENTIFIED TO BALANCE 2022 BUDGET.

Ministry Innovation Budget - draw from endowments, budgeting \$30,000 to help churches in transformation, also helping churches in formation.

James also mentioned the need for someone to head Ordination and Scholarship areas in region.

South Summit Parsonage

South Summit, as you know, the purchase is complete. I handed the checks for the proceeds to Jessica last week so they can be deposited into our Region's account.

On Friday, Jeff spoke to the county again about the property tax rebate we are seeking and learned that we needed to send the county our closing documents so that they can see we paid the three years. I sent that info to the county over the weekend. We will see what we hear back and if they need anything else before they can provide a refund. About \$14,000, so hopefully this goes well and we get it all back.

Regional Assembly 2022

October 2022 - need to set date. Set for October 14 and 15. Asked Annetta Vertrees will head up planning. Will ask Country Club to host. Theme: harvest, garden motif. Will ask for estimate on expenses to set a budget.

Regional Minister Notes

-First Christian Church Kearney is pulling out of the Disciples - they have operated as an independent church ever since Doug Gilpin finished his ministry there, so, no surprise

-Woods Memorial Christian Church has voted to close due to dwindling membership. Tim Mabbot has served a very fruitful interim ministry there and the congregation got to experience help from our Region, Disciples Church Extension Fund and the Hope Partnership as well as consultation with Rev. Dr. Kennebrew, so, they will likely get to close with dignity and grace. I will talk with Tim this week and be up there for worship with them on December 19th.

-I will meet with the Smithville First Christian Church leaders Thursday evening to orient them to the search process for an interim minister. Fortunately, we have several newly trained interim ministers in our Region who may be willing to help that congregation discern its new callings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. BRH - need to replace my six-year old office computer which has been unrepairable. I have found a suitable model which would allow for upgrades to extend the life of the computer to keep up with changes in the demands of software and digital storage. With monitor, warranties, Office 365 and anti-virus, the combined pre-tax sales price quoted by MicroCenter is \$2719.94. (The Lenovo Yoga laptop that no longer works was \$2500 in early 2016). I am asking for approval to make this purchase this year at the sale price. We have a tax-exempt account at MicroCenter which will do 2-day onsite repairs and upgrades, however, we do not have a business account, and with a \$1500 limit on my office credit card, I would need to check with Disciples Treasury Services as to the best way to make the purchase provided I have your approval since it would be over-budget for this year.. James will seek to increase Region Minister CC to purchase new computer.

2. Discretionary fund (\$10K-\$20K for payment/reimburse to speed up Treasury Services) - local checking account - 10K seems low, but 20K might be high - TABLED TO DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Account will have two signatures, Reg Minister and Moderator and Moderator Elect.

Meeting closed in prayer by Neil.

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Mark Willis <markswillis@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 10:27 AM

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Corrected James last name

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