

Regional Executive Committee Meeting – March 6, 2023

Present – John Steinmetz, Bill Rose-Heim, Mary Lou Kegler, Kathy Harris, Peggy Chandler

Bill opened with prayer at 11:03AM

John S – Went over agenda

Bill RH –

- Notes were shared from the recent meeting in Topeka of the Regional Ministers in the Tri-Regional Partnership; Mark Dunlap (member of North Oak CC will be writing the grant proposal) – this partnership will be seeking a grant with the Lily Foundation to secure funds for identifying ways to promote healthier and more effective leadership in congregations. That we are not all working on the same page and not all coming to this equally skilled so we would build common language and networks of mutual support, as the challenges of the congregations are different than anything we have faced so far. All three regional boards will need to approve the proposal. Kansas and Nebraska and greater KC region are the regions in partnership and have been for three years.
- Community and Park Hill Information - met last week via zoom; Amy Shoemaker and Terrel McTyre (GKC Regional Ministry Innovation Commission), Peggy Chandler (Regional Executive Committee) participated by Zoom. Park Hill Christian Church had difficulty finding a new pastor and were down to about 30 members and Bob McGee stepped in as interim minister and settled things down, he completed his ministry at the end of August. Community CC has been sharing a minister with them, and are continuing to stream services and working on the quality of worship service and building capacity on the campus. Fast growing part of KC and aren't willing to let it die – they submitted a proposal to get money from the Region to fund their efforts. They are modifying their request as the big lump sum wasn't received well. We are working to identify models to help congregations that are losing members and have aging congregations for them to share resources and ask for additional help from the region. This partnership initiative has spurred on other congregations who are asking for more information.
- New Song CC Closing - received letter that New Song is no longer operating and they have distributed their assets to local social justice organizations. Their pastors resigned in December of 2021 and the congregation had been operating without pastors. They have concluded their ministries officially.
 - Mary Lou Kegler moved that we received the letter from New Song CC as it is written.
Kathy Harris Seconded.
- The motion was approved

- Broadway CC closing – have no received letter, but pastor Rev. Amy Shoemaker verbally confirmed that the congregation has decided to conclude their ministry. Peggy Chandler motion made to accept their letter when submitted.
 - Motioned made by Peggy Chandler; seconded by Kathy Harris.
 - The motion was approved
- Ministry Innovation Intern has written a job description for an Interim Director. Duties listed in the document submitted. The decision to call an interim Director was intentional as our region is in flux while we look at our direction and goals, etc. Full time – same package was currently offered to Rev. Dr. Kennebrew or could be reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ time with compensation adjusted accordingly. Being open to flexibility to the person called. It will go through search and call and will be posted in our region. Beyond that it could be advertised elsewhere. Does not necessarily need to be clergy, but rather a focus on what leadership is needed for the future.
- Tall Oaks Steering Committee (Peggy C) – Sent a letter and update about the steering committee meeting. Peggy communicated about the Committee's progress so far. Appreciative of being more included. Interviewed people from UCCR - CEO Mike Carr and Tall Oaks Site Manager James Box. The Committee discussed with a marketing person about how TO could be marketed in a better way. Meeting tonight again (March 6, 2023) and talking to the person who takes care of reservations for UCCR. Will be meeting with the director of the Christian Conference Center in Newton, IA and Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister for the Christian Church (DOC) in Virginia about how they worked to transition the Christian Conference Center into a sustainable ministry of the Upper Midwest Region. Members of the Steering Committee are inquiring about Treasurer what happened to the money from the land sold out of Tall Oaks and did it go back into Tall Oaks?
- Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Coordinator – recommendation from exec committee to give a stipend of to the three individuals who have been putting camps together, registering them, etc. Kathy H proposes to wait on the stipend until we figure out what to do with the Tall Oak board
 - Tall Oaks Board Members currently are: Ann Morton, Jeff Hon, Dan Merrick, Sandy Alen, Debra Herrick, Ryan Sprugel
 - So – do we compensate the three individuals filling in the gap? Do we do a camp and conference coordinator position? Or do we put together a Tall Oaks board?
 - The regional executive board is recommending to move forward with filling the Camp and Conference Coordinator position. And a stipend of \$833/month to each of the three individuals who have been continuing the work normally done by the Camp and Conference Coordinator. Payments would start in March, 2023, for their work in serving as interims for that position and until that position is filled.
- Tall Oaks board –
 - After a lengthy discussion, there was consensus to recommend to waiting until we have input from the steering committee to determine whether to reconstitute the Tall Oaks Inc. Board.
- Regional Discernment Work – This will be a primary item of business at the next regional board meeting. The idea is to perhaps ask more deeply *what is discernment?* Spend more time in prayer to hear what God is leading. To be opened. We will think about asking that question at the regional board meeting. Bill has asked permission to invite Regional Ministers Ken Marston and Tom Stanley (Christian Church in Kansas) to be present via Zoom to listen in at the response.

Meeting was closed at 12:37pm with prayer by Bill Rose Heim