

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region
Executive Committee Meeting
1-20-20

Attending: John Keener (moderator), Amy LaCroix (moderator-elect), Bill Jennison (treasurer), Jennifer Prekeges (secretary), Yessie Jarvey (member at large), Sandy Messick (transitional regional minister)

(Note: all officers are provisional until elected at the Regional Assembly to be held in May 2020.)

Agenda:

- 1) Determine date of first regional board meeting
- 2) Bequests received by the region
- 3) Disciples Mission Fund giving
- 4) Regional assembly update
- 5) Lawsuit update
- 6) General Board representative – approve Amy LaCroix

Discussion: the meeting was called to order at 6:35/7:35 PM by moderator John Keener with a prayer. We introduced ourselves. Member-at-large Clint Collins was not present.

- 1) Determine date of first regional board meeting – we need to have a regional board meeting in February, using distance methods. Sunday evening Feb. 9, starting at 6 PM, works for all of those present. Sandy will ask Amber to send out invitations.
- 2) Bequests – the Northern Lights Region has received \$78,000 from Origin Christian Church in Spokane and \$1,500,000 from University Christian Church in Seattle, both congregations having closed. The funds from Origin CC come without restrictions and will initially be invested in the Christian Church Foundation (CCF). The funds from University CC will be added to the region's endowment, and will initially be invested in the Bostick Fund, which invests according to socially responsible principles. It will bring our total endowment to about \$3 million, which should allow us to balance our budget while withdrawing only 4% per year. This is the draw amount recommended by Treasury Services and should maintain the principal even in the face of inflation; the Northwest Region had been withdrawing about 5.5%.

Bill noted that the Finance Committee needs to develop policies for receiving and investing bequests. He also needs individuals from the Montana and Salish Sea areas; names were suggested.

Sandy noted that the gifts from Origin and University will be publicly acknowledged at the Regional Assembly.

- 3) Disciples Mission Fund giving – of the monies that congregations give to the Disciples Mission Fund, a percentage comes back to the region. That percentage varies by the region; prior to our merger, the Montana Region was getting 93% back whereas the Northwest Region was getting 67% back. We will continue to receive from Montana and Northwest congregations through 2021, after which we need to step down the Montana amount to the Northwest amount. This proposal will need to be drafted by the Finance Committee, including the timeline for the step-down process (likely between 2 and 5 years).

- 6) General Board representative – Bill moved that we approve Amy LaCroix to be the Northern Light Region’s representative to the General Board; Jennifer seconded the motion and the vote was favorable.
- 4) Regional Assembly update – the assembly will be May 22-24 at the Coeur d’Alene Best Western. Derek Penwell, pastor of the Douglass Blvd Christian Church in Louisville, KY, will preach Friday evening and will offer a class Sunday morning; Terrell McTyer will be preaching Saturday morning; and Sandy will preach Sunday morning. Saturday afternoon there will be time for fun activities, including a lake cruise, a nature hike, and a tree-to-tree adventure. Saturday dinner will feature barbecue, a variety show, and mission fest.

Registration for the event pencils out to \$125, including Saturday lunch and dinner. This is more expensive than regional assemblies usually are, and hotel costs are above and beyond this amount. Jennifer moved that we take \$3125 from the Regional Assembly fund to cover a \$25 scholarship for up to 125 adult attendees. We discussed that some may wish not to accept the scholarship; Amy suggested a checkbox to decline the scholarship. The vote was favorable.

Sandy noted that we have learned that a good technology team is essential to an event of this nature with audiences in multiple places. The Regional Assembly team is taking bids for a company to provide technology services, including video and audio connections. Bill moved to authorize expenditures from the Technology Fund and the Technology Coordinator fund to cover the cost of contracted technology services. Amy seconded the motion. The vote was favorable.

- 5) Lawsuit – the Northwest Region and Kent First Christian Church are currently being sued over incidents that allegedly occurred around 2008-09 involving improper conduct of a youth leader in relation to a minor. The region is covered by insurance and is represented by counsel. The suit is currently expected to go to trial in May, but Bill anticipates that the case will be continued to a later date, because the defense attorney is new to the case. Our desire is to be supportive of the minor while at the same time defending the region. Sandy has been deposed in the case. We have suggested mediation, but the defense has not agreed. John, as moderator of the Northern Lights Region, will be copied on future emails so that he is in the loop.

We discussed how much of this should be made known to the region. A general notification has gone out to NWRCC congregations. Bill and Sandy will be prepared to answer questions as they might arise at the Regional Assembly. The only potential risk to the Northern Lights Region would be if a jury awarded a settlement that exceeded our insurance coverage; this is an unlikely outcome.

- 7) Restated Articles of Incorporation – these should have been filed with Washington State last week, so we are officially the Northern Lights Region.

Bill moved and Amy seconded that we adjourn; the motion was favorable and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Prekeges, secretary

