

NORTHERN LIGHTS REGION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
3/9/23

Attending: Bill Robey, Bill Jennison, Mary Palmer, Doug Garner, Jennifer Prekeges

Agenda:

1. Opening greeting and spiritual centering—Bill J
2. Financial update—Mary
3. Leadership changes
4. Regional voting representatives to General Assembly—Bill J
5. Expense assistance for reps
6. Scholarship request—Bill R
7. 2024 Regional Assembly dates and arrangements comm. members—Bill R
8. Agenda for upcoming regional board meeting
9. IRM update (anything you think we need to know) – Bill R

Discussion:

1. Opening greeting and spiritual centering—Bill J reminded us that our work is not about the nuts and bolts of the region's operation but rather about staying in touch with God and God's vision for the Northern Lights region. He opened with a prayer. He reported that the regional minister search team is meeting tonight, and is aiming to have the regional profile ready for board approval at the May meeting. We could call a special meeting or an electronic vote if it is done before that.
2. Financial update—Mary has asked Treasury Services to send the monthly dashboard, financial statement, and status of funds to all members of the Executive Council. We reviewed the January 2023 dashboard. The March 31 distribution from investments will be \$4315. We currently have \$625,000 held in cash; John Goebel suggests keeping only \$75-100,000 in cash and putting the rest into the Bostick fund and in 3-year notes with the Church Extension Fund, which is highly liquid. Due to a miscommunication, this has already occurred even though the Finance Team has not approved it. It will not be difficult to effect any changes that the team might make. Bill J. notes that this cash came from our quarterly investment draws, so we are in part putting money back where it came from. He suggests that the Finance Team keep an eye on the cash flow as we return to normal operations.

Mary also reported that she and Robin are working on supporting documents for regional leaders, starting with the treasurer functions.

3. Leadership changes – Bill J, Moderator-elect, will replace Amy LaCroix as moderator. Doug Garner has agreed to serve as Moderator-elect. The committee approves this change; it will need to be affirmed by the board. This means we need a replacement for Doug's board position and an at-large Executive Committee member. Doug suggests Amber Dixon out of Miles City or Jeff Foster from Kalispell as the Big Sky clergy rep. Bill R. reports that Amber has not been responsive to requests to update her standing with the region. Doug will reach out to Jeff; we'll

keep Amber in mind. Gloria Soja and Kathy Helseth were suggested as potential at-large members of the Executive Committee; Bill J. will reach out to Kathy.

4. General Assembly – we are entitled to 2 delegates to the General Assembly in Louisville. Bill R. suggests Tom Yates’s wife Patty, Helen McNeil, and Mary Palmer. We agreed to “nominate” Mary and Patty; the Bills will confirm. We have not generally paid expenses for our delegates to General Assembly, but we have the income to do so at this time. Bill J. suggests we allocate \$1000 to each delegate (in the miscellaneous expenses line) to help defray their costs. He further suggests that we put a line item in the budget for delegate expenses. Bill R. suggests that in return for this funding, we ask the representatives to help spread the understanding of changes in the general church structure that will be voted on at this General Assembly. These recommendations (delegates and new line item) will go to the board for final approval.
5. General Board meeting – coming up after Easter. Normally the Office of the General Minister and President covers travel costs, but asks that board members cover their own costs where possible. Bill R.’s expenses will be covered by the region.  
**MOTION:** Mary moved and Doug seconded that the region cover the expenses of the regional representative to attend the General Board meeting. The vote was favorable.
6. Scholarship request— Devin Wright at MissionGathering has asked if the region can help with his expenses (estimated at \$1800) to attend the General Assembly. Bill J. suggests that this could be covered from the Zephyr Heritage Fund. Bill R. suggests that we use this fund to cover the costs the regional delegates and Devin. Jennifer suggests that Zephyr Heritage Fund could be in part allocated to sending newly ordained clergy serving a church in the region to one General Assembly. This would tie new clergy to the general church and give them a vision of its operation and function. Bill R. said that Annie Grogan would be in the same boat; he will let Annie and any others in the same position know that there is some regional funding available. Bill J. will work on a policy for the fund.  
**MOTION:** Doug moves and Mary seconds that we use the Zephyr Heritage Fund to cover \$1000 for Devin Wright for expenses related to attendance at the General Assembly in Louisville this summer. The vote was favorable.
7. 2024 Regional Assembly dates and arrangements comm. members—Our Global Missions partners in Colombia are planning to visit next spring. It would make sense to plan our Regional Assembly close to that of the Pacific Northwest conference of the United Church of Christ, to facilitate their time with both organizations. The conference has identified the last weekend in April, 2024 as its meeting date, to be held in Bellingham. Bill R. proposes May 3-5, 2024; these dates and the location need to be approved by the board.
8. Agenda for upcoming regional board meeting – Jennifer asked that we address the Transformation Team’s Feb. 12 report to the regional board at our upcoming meeting. Bill R. will ask Robin to request committee reports at the end of April, so that we can have them before the Executive Committee meeting on May 4.
9. IRM update (anything you think we need to know) – see attached report. He calls our attention to the “DOCTalks” being hosted by the Virginia region, on topics of current interest to many clergy and regions. He also made note of a new “short form” congregational profile that can be used in some situations.

Next Executive Committee meeting to be at 5:30/6:30/7:30 PM on May 4.

Interim Regional Minister Report to the Executive Committee  
March 9, 2023

Here is what I have been up to since the last Executive Committee meeting on January 12, 2023:

- I participated in 42 Zoom calls/meetings with various committees, groups and individuals.
- I had one-on-one in-person meetings with six individuals.
- I worshipped at and brought Regional greetings to Renton United Christian Church, Journey CC (Seattle), FCC Olympia, Mission Gathering (Bellevue), FCC Longview, FCC Port Angeles.
- I met with the Search and Call teams at Waterville Federated Church, United Church of Moscow.
- I completed three Search and Call Profile references.
- I completed four chaplain endorsements.
- I answered calls and emails from disgruntled congregants from two different congregations.
- Coordinated the placement of a Situation Support Team (UCC) with the PNW UCC Conference Minister.
- Planned a trip to Waterville, Ephrata, and Othello for later in March.
- Participated in two DOCTalks presented by the VA Region.

Search and Call Update

- Englewood Christian Church (Yakima): received their second round of clergy profiles for consideration.
- First Christian Church (Bellingham): interviewing candidates
- First Christian Church (Bremerton) continuing Congregational Profile preparation
- Opportunity CC (Spokane) completed "short form" Congregational Profile and received first round of clergy candidate profiles.
- United Christian Church (Moscow) decided to continue in Search and Call. Completed short form profile, receiving candidate profiles.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robey, Interim Regional Minister