

Christian Church Michigan Region

Regional Assembly

May 20, 2023

Supplemental Report

Board Meeting March 4, 2023

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MICHIGAN REGION REGIONAL

BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2023

Via Zoom

Welcome/Call to Order: Moderator Anne McCauslin @ 10:04 am EST/ 9:04 am CST

Roll call/Attendance: (Minimum quorum of 10 people to vote present).

Rev. Teresa, Anne, Armand, Sophia, Jeff, Sandy, Mitzie, Barbara, Julie, CCMR Staff, Rev. Paul, Diana, Tanisha, Tim, Rev. Gwen, Brenda, Elijah, Ron, John, Vicki K., Vickie W., Doug, Apostle John, Neil, Alan, Emilee

Opening Devotional: Pastor Mitzi Hall- “Lady and the Wildcat”

Reading of Mission:

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH MICHIGAN REGION:

To be a radically welcoming region of connected Disciples congregations, called to radiate the Creator’s love, extend Christ’s mission, and support one another as the Holy Spirit acts among us.

Reading of Priorities:

Priorities of the Michigan Region for the year 2021-2023:

- Discover and develop new ways to support, engage and strengthen our congregations, clergy, and region in a covenantal partnership with the assistance of Regional Associates.
- Commit to promoting unity in diversity through the work of anti-racism.
- Develop educational opportunities, drawing upon gifts of clergy and lay leaders in the region and beyond.
- Engage our congregations, members, and region in a covenant of partnership by strengthening our communication and connection with each other.

Review of Agenda (pg.3-4):

Review of Regional Board Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2022 (pg.5-10)

Motion: Neil moved that the minutes be accepted as is.

Tim Murtaugh seconded.

Motion approved.

Review of Regional Assembly Minutes - October 15, 2022 (pg.11-13)

Motion: Elijah moved that the minutes be accepted as is.

Ron seconded.

Motion approved.

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New Business/Old Business (ordered by discussion):

1. Removal of two Muskegon congregations and one Cadillac congregation:

- Supplemental package (pg. 13) includes details of background.

Discussion: Members did not want to attend Clergy zoom offering. Appeal options were/or will be provided to the Churches. (Must eliminate symbols/signs/removal of 501c3 status).

Motion: Neil moved that First Christian Church, Muskegon MI, Harvest Time Christian Church, Muskegon, MI, and Clay Hill Christian Church, Cadillac, be removed from standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region and that such action be forwarded to the General Offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada for removal.

Armand seconded.

Motion approved.

2. Constitution and Bylaws revisions:

- Supplemental Package (pgs. 3-12) has the details.
- Needed revising due to operations not in alignment with reality of functions and on paper was a mismatch. Brenda, Anne, Barbara, and Alan members. Alan with updates: some areas not updated due to bylaws being updated. Smaller groups take control of the minor issues. Additional body and roles within the constitution. Focus on Vision and seeing the mission through. THE VISION TEAM: discerning the mission and listening to God, community, and one another to ensure mission is followed. Partnership with Board and Vision team 3 fewer members.
- Description and role of Michigan Regional Assembly (fellowship, community building, and not a focus on voting). Still business oriented for passing bills, but board and team in dialogue to change.

Discussion: Ron-What is the expectation of communication between [Regional board] =Operations and Implementations Team with Vision Team? Dialogue with Congregations throughout the year for needs and current concerns. Vision team intentionally listens to Region. Neil- Property ownership, term limits, amount of time we meet, board member totals, congregation engagement, holding board accountable. Operations board wasn't originally current board members. John suggests it should have implementation as its focus. Commissions are now included. Sandy states that true connection is success. Armand states that this is the beginning of ministry instead of governance; include objectives in constitution.

Session break: resume at 11:22 am EST/ 10:22 am CST

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3. **Crystal Capital Campaign Committee** - Michael Dirksen and [Emilee Syrewicze co-chair from Cascade Church reporting:

- First, dedicate fundraising patch work and secondly, partner with Architect to complete overview of work. Three proposals submitted by next month. Two additional bids after decided on Progressive A.E. 7-8 years overview broken into smaller chunks. Masterplan completed by the Fall with use of satellite pictures.
- Fundraising resume: Create fundraiser and “Friend raise” (reestablish within Ministry). Brock McCracken connection. Request sent out to individuals. No restrictions on fund solicitation (Lead Manager Mike Carr with Eric S.).
- Timeline created.
- Survey study completed.
- Researching and design summer of 2023.
- \$25,000-\$40,000 for guides.

Motion: Tim moved that we authorize up to \$40,000 of current funds to cover Architect administration fees and guides. Ron added the addition of “and to begin soliciting major donors and gifts. Julie added the addition of “and donate 10% to Global Ministries.

Ron seconded.

Motion approved.

4. **Regional Assembly 2023** - Armand Aronson #EXPECTTOCONNECT

- Flyer located in Supplemental Package (pg. 14). Committee responsibilities: Teresa (speaker), Lisa (music), Jill (camp leader to lunch), & Tim (Master of Ceremony/registration).
- Main Worship/Business event: May 20, 2023, 11am – 3pm [Dawn Weeks via Zoom “Radical Welcome”!; Lunch in dining hall; Chapel for Meeting lead by Anne.
- Communion together. “Forgiving is God’s way” by Dr. Angelete L. Lakes
- Dinner is available Friday @ 6pm, early breakfast Saturday, and Worship on Sunday morning.
- Volunteers needed for workdays at Camp Crystal 5/6 & 5/13. Eric on team to help with Camp clean up.
- Stay is \$25 p/night, Food is \$10/\$12/\$15 p/ person.
- Transportation golf cart, Ranger Chuck, and Pam for food issues.

5. **New Regional Associate for the Northern Area**, Tim Murtaugh

Motion: Armand moved for the elimination of the title Interim and to make Tim Murtaugh the official Regional Associate for the Northern Area.

Julie seconded.

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Motion approved.

6. Covenant Partnership review - Neil Topliffe reviewed from report (pg. 14/115)

- How do we build a partnership? What was completed in 2022? Agreement at Assembly Fall, 2022 was an annual review.
- Enhanced programs and ministries by Brenda second by Anne. Understanding and communication improvement as witnessed in retreat. Uplifting Regional Ministers (John and Bob and Tim)
- Monthly payments for amounts.
- Administrative duties in position? Peggy of WI/IL current handles. Jeff and Angie utilize as backup. Lynn, Julie, and others are to have that conversation.
- What do we need to move forward in processes? (Sandy wants to volunteer for the committee).

Motion: Neil moved for that MI & WI/IL regions continue to have partnership as outlined in coming year.

Tim seconded.

Motion approved.

OFFERINGS:

Moderators Report: Anne McCauslin (pg. 15/115)

-Additions: Special thanks to the committee.

Regional Minister: Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker (pg.16-17/115)

-Additions:

- Rippling hope: Boston group coming down to help with house for selling.
- Week of compassion gifts (Solidarity grant) are available to congregations/members/ and who were impacted by any storms. Volunteer for Congo Missionary. 18 to 39 churches in Michigan participated.
- Who will we find to serve in the churches that are declining and hanging on? Alex and Angie are working with Lansing church on relocation and revamp. Vision and mission targeted to who is in the neighborhood.

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Review of COMMISSIONS:

Crystal and Traverse City Conservatory: Tim Murtaugh – 15 minutes (no written report)

- Vic Lane (Traverse Conservatory) Marge Elliot (Chair of Cottagers) proposal to have invitation to Regional Minister.

Commission on Ministry: Paul Elliott (pg. 20-23/115)

-Additions:

- w/ Pastor John Harvey assisting. Barb came on board to assist with the project.
- Paperwork was missing. Determined/created End-care list for Ordination and Commission. Teresa helped lead.
- Scholarships money sitting in places with no way of accessing. New fund and criteria. Funds on seminary track and commission track with disbursement made. \$2000 given to Seminary. 1st year gift of 1400.00 to commissioner.
- Neil affirmed work for commission and ministers in process. And connection with IL/WI.

Motion: Neil moved for the Commission on Ministry continue to partner/cooperate with IL/WI Ministry Committee to develop members.

Vickie Wright seconded.

Motion Amended: Neil moved for the Commission on Ministry to work in concert with IL/WI Ministry Committee to develop members.

John seconded.

Motion approved.

Church Growth and Vitality: Gwendolyn Pettway (pg. 24/115)

-Additions:

- Pastor Sandy and Pastor Steven (new members; please pray for)
- First Christian Church contacted w/ to help with discernment process. Report as submitted.
- Dawn Weeks book suggestion by Armand.

Ecumenism: Vickie Wright – (no written report)

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-Additions: Committee still in progress.

Personnel: Lynn Cockleshell (pg.25/115)

-Absent. Report received and accepted.

Communications: Angelique Byrd (pg. 110-115/115)

-Additions and Review:

- Introduction to Mission Insite Platform (high level training available to all congregations).
 - Demographic (information about community)
 - Psychographic (social/moral/personal)
- What is needed?
- What are the current obstacles?
- “Call to Socialized”-MI FB group (65 members by word of mouth)
[CCMR Disciples] email sent to MI.
- “The Light” newsletter (avg. open rate 39% {exceeds national rate})
- Record 2-3 min video about church to add to MI website)
- Mission Insite
 - Updating data for report review
 - Training late summer 2023
- Phygital Church training (intentional goals)
- Social Media Stats -MI FB
 - July 2022 [346 Followers 489 reach]
 - Feb 2023 [414 Followers 909 reach]
- Jeff
 - Redesign website
 - Will create/help maintain websites for 10 locals
 - Contact at communications@Michigandisciples.org
 - *Walked us through new site

Communications/Development Committee: Vickie Wright & Diana Patton

Stewardship and Finance: Ron Osgood (pg. 26-107/115)

-Additions:

- Marybeth and Bill Louse Quarterly meeting in May. Implement permanent fund policy. Begin investing to earn interest. Budgets in process for later this year. Regional church

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(small deficit better than projection) and Crystal Conference (small revenue increase) center increase year over year.

Review of GROUPS & OTHER COMMITTEES:

Men's Ministry: Russ Tiller report and John McCauslin (pg. 108)

-Additions:

- John McCauslin additional reported meeting with Frank Gilard discussing increasing People of Color at Camp Crystal. African Americans dropping in numbers across the board. Creating a retreat that is welcoming and inclusive to all races. Pre-camp effort to promote camp and participation in the African American community. Camp Counselors also need an increased in People of Color.
- Contact the deans at Crystal to inform. Scholarships available of 8 guaranteed students and more if needed.
- Crystal helps with scheduling in advance to help future Counselor scheduling.
- How do we get people to experience camp for the first time and invitational?
- Camp Crystal program subgroup? Sophia volunteered to join the committee.

Women's Ministry: Vicki Kirby and Brenda Etheridge (pg. 109)

-Additions:

- Add speaker IL Dr. Beth Rupe volunteered to come on. She is the editor of the newly revised women's magazine. THEME: Self-care and love.
- Question: What is Michigan's contribution (Disciples Women's leadership Council) to the travel pool [women's ministry expense]? Separate bill sent to the Region.

Review from REPRESENTATIVES and PARTNERS

General Board: Sandy Harvey - April 14-17th, 2023 in Cincinnati, OH

Rep to the General Board - Sandy Harvey (no report as 1st meeting is next month)

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Additional Conversation:

Elijah-

- Regional Board meeting minutes needed to be updated.
- Burk lake Church BBQ is canceled due to overpopulation. May be localized amongst the church.

Teresa-

- October 7 in Little Rock Eugene James marriage!!

Sandy-

- Question??? Leadership development and congregational health? Pastoral and Lay ministry evangelism support or training? Fall Clergy retreat and regional assembly East event in the fall. Church/ growth/ and vitality to assist with via Pastor Gwen. You Version app suggestion by Armand to connect via the Word.

Reconciliation Team:

- Pastor Gwen, Armand, Vicki Kirby, Sophia, Tim, and John M.
- Rick Boyd no longer able.
- Diversity & Inclusion Group

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WITHIN OUR REGION:

CCMR/CCIW Clergy Retreat, 4/10-12

Regional Assembly, May 20, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Crystal. Option of May 19-21 stay.

Crystal Camping Season:

Disciple Women's Retreat at Crystal, August 18-20

Disciples Men's Retreat at Crystal Sept. 15-16

Exec Com, Sept. 20

Regional Board, Oct. 21

General Church:

General Board, April 15-18

General Assembly in Louisville, July 29-August 1, 2023

Closing Worship with Holy Communion: John McCauslin

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Song: Hezekiah Walker “I need You to Survive”

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-13

Meeting adjourned: ~2:00 pm EST/ 1:00 pm CST

Submitted with much love and continued blessings,

Mrs. Sophia M. Barnett

Secretary, Christian Church Michigan Region