

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region
Special Regional Assembly
Saturday, June 4, 2011
First Christian Church, Lansing

Minutes

Our moderator, Nancy Zerban, called the meeting to order beginning with roll call. The following churches were represented:

Ann Arbor, Memorial Christian Church – Diane Smith (D); Frank White (D); Jon Lacey (D)
Cadillac, Clay Hill Christian Church – John Martek (D)
Coral, Cowden Lake Christian Church – Bruce Dangermond (D); Bob Oliveira (D)
Detroit, Bethany Christian Church – Charles Rouls (D)
Flint, Vermont Christian Church – Jonathan Graves (D)
Flushing, New Covenant Christian Church – Arnold Lakes (D)
Fremont, Fremont Christian Church – David Dickinson (D)
Grand Rapids, Cascade Christian Church – Tim Murtaugh (D)
Grand Rapids, Central Christian Church – John Delger (D); Neil Topliffe (D); Kevin Knepper (D); Jeff Huyck (D)
Holland, Fuente De Agua Viva – Jose Suarez (D); Dinorah Suarez (D); Maria Zavala (D)
Ionia, First Christian Church – Armand Aronson (D); Jane Aronson (D); Dave Cook (D)
Kalamazoo, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Suzanne Coleman (D)
Lansing, First Christian Church – Rick Boyd (D); Janet Hoyt (D); Jerry McAllister;
Muir, First Christian Church – Greg Gladding (D)
Saginaw, First Christian Church-West – Jean O'Brien (D); Barbara Pratt (D); Keith Roberson (D); Kevin Greenwald (D)
Traverse City, First Christian Church – Nancy Zerban (D)
Troy, Central Woodward Christian Church – Bob Cornwall (D); Shirley Martinson (D); John McCauslin; Anne McCauslin (D); David Heym (D); Ray Cross (D)

D = Delegate

Staff

Maggie Mills – Co-Transitional Regional Minister
Eugene James – Co-Transitional Regional Minister
Brenda Murphy – Crystal Conference Center Director
Beverly Peeler – Administrative Assistant
We opened with worship.

Maggie Mills and Eugene James shared many blessings we have in the region:

- Motown mission, working at Northwestern Church
- Michigan convocation
- Regional elders
- Grant for church growth & vitality
- Regional financial status
- New congregations support & encouragement
- Scholarships for camps & educational opportunities
- Nature conservancy (garlic mustard pull, forest management)
- Future ordinates & seminarians
- Women's & men's ministry programs
- Regional membership spiritual gifts

The credentials committee, John Martek, Suzanne Coleman, and Beverly Peeler declared that there were enough congregations present to form a quorum.

The minutes from the Regional Assembly held in May 2010 were read.

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented, motion passed.

Maggie Mills covered the main proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws:

- Reduced makeup of regional board staff (no moderator elect position)
- Reduced number of committees by one
- Proposed board will consist of 5 officers, 6 members at large and chairperson of standing commissions.

All board meetings will be open for church members to attend.

Regional assembly will be held once a year, instead of every other year. There will still be board meetings held twice a year.

The regional elders were highlighted as a successful program that is helping to keep churches connected to the region.

John McCauslin questioned the lack of clarification in the bylaws regarding regional elders.

It was suggested that the regional elders get together with the regional board members at times other than official meetings to help foster a sense of community.

A concern was raised about reduced communication with the individual churches from the region without congregational representation present. Part of this will be filled by the regional elders.

A question was asked as to how the 6 members at large are selected. They will be elected at the next regional assembly in 2012, representing a cross section of our region.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed constitution and bylaws; motion was passed with two nay votes and one abstention.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the executive committee to make any necessary typographical and formatting corrections, motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to select 6 temporary at large members for the new board structure to serve until the next regular session of the Regional Assembly in 2012. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the following as Regional Delegates to General Assembly 2012; Earl Grimes, Melba Lacey, Jerry McAllister, Alex McCauslin, Stan Mills, Stonewall Pace, and Diana Payton. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept personnel changes to the board because of illness: Shirley Martinson to Ecumenism, Bob Cornwall to Church Growth and Vitality, and Kingery Clingenpeel appointed as secretary. The motion passed.

Neil Topliffe gave an update on the new regional website. Several changes were noted:

- Easier navigation for visitors to the site, with tabs for congregations, ministers, and visitors.
- More people can keep the website up to date. No longer limited to having one person perform updates.
- Local churches will have the ability to change information that pertains to their church themselves. A username and password will be required for each congregation.
- Upcoming events will be on the home page.
- Congregations can subscribe to email updates for regional events.
- A new search feature for searching the website.
- Find a church feature when you enter a street address or zip code.
- Crystal will have its own web page. Online registrations for events/camps will be coming at a later date.

List of resolutions that will be brought up at General Assembly:

- Addressing anti Muslim action in the US and Canada
- Call for reflection and advocacy for the republic of the Congo
- Commitment to the planting of new churches
- Moral injury and spiritual care in a time of war
- Human trafficking
- Justice and education reform
- Preventing sexual abuse and ministering to its victims
- Supporting kids & youth by opposing bullying
- Re-elect general minister & president
- Time & place committee for 2015 General Assembly, Columbus Ohio

First annual regional assembly will be in 2012.

Boundary training will be September 8, 2012.

Our business concluded, our worship continued.

Words of vision and thankfulness by Reverend Maggie Mills and Reverend Eugene James.

Pastoral and community prayer by Shirley Martinson.

Communion.

Benediction by Reverend Eugene James.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Knepper, Acting Secretary