

**Christian Church in Ohio
Regional Church Council
Northwest Christian Church
October 28, 2017**

Report from Interim Regional Pastor

I have completed four months as Interim Regional Pastor. Even though I have not met most of the Disciples in Ohio, and a few that I knew before arriving I still have not seen, I do feel at home. I'm glad we are here today, even though, to be completely honest, I'd really rather be in Chicago with my grandson, John Gabriel, celebrating his 6th birthday.

1. A lot of time and effort over the past several weeks—months—has gone into tracking down documents. So today I hope we can at least start a precedent of doing a better job of receiving, and/or acknowledging significant gifts to the Christian Church in Ohio.

In August we received a letter from the Christian Church Foundation notifying the CCIO that we have been named a beneficiary the the Lakewood Ohio Christian Church Legacy Fund establish through the Christian Church Foundation, as Lakewood Christian Church close their visible ministry. The CCIO is to receive annually, on June 30, a distribution which is designated for Camp Christian maintenance.

Today we record this permanent fund in our RCC minutes. A letter to the correspondent for the former Lakewood Christian Church expressing appreciation for the gift will be sent, And a permanent fund file will be opened in the regional church office.

Motion: I call for a motion to affirm, with gratitude, the Lakewood Christian Church Permanent Fund, establish with the Christian Church Foundation, designated for maintenance at Camp Christian.

2. As you know at the October 3 Executive Committee meeting, the decision was made to terminate three regional staff positions. That is never easy. I think the remaining staff are trying hard to fill the gaps. There will be many days when only Jennie will be the only one at the office, and at times no one will be there. If you do not have an appointment, I strongly recommend you call before driving to the regional office, and find the door locked, and not one there.
3. I ask for your patience and your perseverance. Jeannine and I were visiting her sister in Colorado Springs. We had our picture made behind a sign on a children's playground. The sign said "Perseverance." I post that picture on Face Book on our wedding anniversary. It takes love and patience and perseverance for 44 1/2 years of marriage. We will need perseverance, along with much more patience love, to make it through the next year.

4. I have promised Transparency. I believe that is happening. Some do not. Transparency, too, often needs perseverance.
5. We will soon need to transition from talking about how much we are in the “red” financially, to how much we can begin to increase our giving so we can repay all we owe our selves, and work toward ending our financial dependence on our regional and general ministry partners.
6. The Christmas Offering will be received this year. The goal is \$60,000. Is that a realistic goal? I don’t know. Can we reach the \$60,000 goal? I have no doubt we can. We will need for you in your congregations, and all our pastors, and mission committees and moderators and elders to promote the Christmas Offering. Every congregation will receive promotional material around mid to late November.
7. We have a full agenda, but I request we pause at 3:00 pm for a reading of the short obituary, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Rev. Albert O. Kean. That is the hour of his Memorial Service today at Westlake Christian Church.
8. There was a Service of Reconciliation scheduled earlier in the fall. As you know that service was postponed. The service will be rescheduled. We don’t have a date set, but it will be held on a Saturday, between the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Lent—that means January or early February. Watch for the date, time and place, all to be announced soon.
9. There will be a Regional Assembly in 2018. Date, time and place to be announced. We are looking at a date in October 2018. And, we are looking for a person to lead the planning committee. If I get my way, which I rarely do, the CCIO will install a new regional pastor & president at that assembly.
10. Other items for my report will be found in other reports and actions today.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Richardson
Interim Regional Pastor