

Minutes of the Called Regional Church Council Meeting

February 15, 2018 (via Zoom)

In attendance: Tom Stephenson (Moderator), Merlyn Winters (Secretary), Jeff Gill, Steven Gower, Thomas Barnes, Judy Alston, Deborah Bolen, Harry Bolen, Rich Swain, Jackie Bunch, Ed Davitian, Janice Hill, Heather Schimmel, Michael Doerr, Cynthia Tyson, Janice Burns-Watson, Laurie Metzko, Jack Sullivan, Steve Hurd, Cynthia Tyson, Candis Wilson. Staff: John Richardson

Moderator Tom Stephenson called the re-convened meeting to order and opened with prayer.

1. Disposition of Ohio Disciples Outreach

Action Item #3 of January 18th meeting was raised for discussion and Harry Bolen, Chair of ODO offered that he was in favor of such action.

[Motion was placed that all assets be reset to zero effective January 1, 2018 and that we cease using the Ohio Disciples Outreach formula. This motion is to help the region focus on ministry rather than on debt. Janice Hill moved to accept and Jack Sullivan seconded the motion.]

Discussion followed and it was confirmed that several ministry leaders have been informed. Motion was put to vote and passed with one dissenting vote.

2. Letter of Resignation of Associate Regional Minister

Moderator Tom Stephenson offered a new item for discussion for which he forwarded a letter by e-mail to all Regional Council members. John Richardson read Steve Bentley's resignation letter to all on the call. He also stated that he had discussed this issue with Steve and that his resignation is effective May 15th, 2018. The Executive Committee had received this letter on Monday.

Tom Stephenson proposed the Motion that the Regional Council receive the resignation of Stephen Bentley effective May 15th with regret and thanksgiving for Steve's ministry. His final months will honor the terms of his Letter of Call. John Richardson offered that Steve is leaving voluntarily and in a spirit of cooperation and is willing to help the region move forward in any way he can. Camp Christian staff has been informed. Jackie Bunch so **moved** and Steven Gower **seconded**. The motion was put to vote and passed unanimously. John Richardson noted that decisions made today will be released tomorrow. It was also part of the motion to determine a time and place to celebrate Steve's ministry with the regional church sometime prior to its conclusion.

3. Moderator's Report of Meeting with General Church Partners

Moderator Tom Stephenson presented the Report Concerning General Ministry Conversation.

[On Friday, February 2, 2018, Interim Regional Minister John Richardson, Moderator Rev. Dr. Tom Stephenson, and regional records investigator Rev. Jeff Gill gathered at the general offices of the Christian Church in Indianapolis at a called meeting with General Minister Terri Hord Owens, Church Extension President Rick Reisinger, OGMP Treasury Services Vice-President John Goebel, Christian Church Foundation President Gary Kidwell, Indiana Regional Minister Rick Spleth, and Alabama-N.W. Florida Regional Minister John Mobley.]

After explaining the purpose and content of the meeting he went over the *program* and *fiscal* advisements the General church leader offered for the Ohio Regional Church. Also discussed was the Lilly Grant (Thrive) and the necessity to withdraw from this program (see below). The floor was opened for questions/comments and discussion followed.

4. Report on recent February 12, 2018 Executive Committee Actions

Moderator Tom Stephenson read the proposed motions from the Executive Committee Meeting:

a) **Motion 1:** It was moved that the Executive Committee immediately withdraw from the Lilly Grant program and adopt the recommendations of the Lilly Foundation to notify Lilly in writing of our intent to withdraw, to develop a shutdown budget, to notify the Grant Director, Rev. Dr. Janet Mers immediately of the grant termination, to provide the required narrative and financial reports, and to instruct Treasury Services to return the corpus and deficit amounts to the Lilly Endowment as soon as the closing program expenses are completed. The motion passed by the Executive Committee unanimously and reported to this meeting of the RCC.

b) **Motion 2:** It is was moved by the Executive Committee to immediately accept the terms offered by Disciple Church Extension to reduce the region's loan payments to an interest only arrangement of \$810 through December 31, 2018, deferring the principle payments for this period. The motion was discussed at length and adopted unanimously.

5. Amended Regional Budgets from Treasury Services

The revised Regional Budget for 2018 was discussed. The budget originally presented by John Richardson and John Goebel was incomplete and thus this revised budget from John Goebel. Jeff Gill moved to accept the Proposed Motion. Candis Wilson seconded. After answering a question that called for clarification on line item for Depreciation as it appears, the motion to receive this revised regional budget was put to vote. All voted in favor.

Additional Announcements & Important Dates

- Moderator, Tom Stephenson announced that the Regional Search Committee will have its first face to face meeting this Saturday, Feb. 17th with Regional Minister Rick Spleth of Indiana, and with an approved Anti-Racism trainer.
- Also, Listening Conferences by the Search Committee will take place this spring and summer.
- John Richardson announced that he and his wife will be leaving on a Mission Trip to Nicaragua and will return on Feb. 26th.
- Also, Stephen Bentley and his wife will be travelling to San Diego and will return late next week. Jennie Stoddard Bernard will be available in the office.
- Next Meeting of the Regional Church Council is scheduled for **April 21st** at Northwest Christian Church.
- Prayer concerns were raised. Harry Bolen was thanked for his leadership role with ODO. Harry offered prayer to bring the meeting to a close.

Respectfully submitted,
Merlyn Winters, Secretary