

Recommendation to the Regional Church Council 'Effective Dissolution' & Re-establishment of the Ohio Region Called RCC Meeting, July 28, 2018

1. The Regional Church Council (RCC) declares “financial exigency.” This represents an alert to our membership, employees, ministry and financial partners that as the sole governance body of the current Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) we do not see a path forward under the current structures.
2. The RCC sets a date for a Regional Assembly [somewhere between September 29 and November 10]. We propose this Regional Assembly spend time in reflection on congregational finances as a necessary starting point for restoration of regional cooperation. The Regional Assembly will conclude with an intentional act of Re-establishment with the General Minister and President presiding if she is available.
3. The RCC suspends the current search for a new Regional Minister pending further review and revisions of our regional charter and constitution; and the Regional Moderator form a Task Force to conduct a thorough review and revision of our Constitution with an eye to facilitating a faithful, accountable, and effective organizational structure with a new management model for regional life, incorporating the recommendations of the Vision Team (*presented to RCC in April 2018*). A preliminary report and/or a schedule of “Table Dialogues” around the state could be shared at the next called Regional Assembly.
4. For the next 12-24 months, the regional staff would consist of two full-time positions: “Regional Administrator” and “Camp Christian Superintendent”; and a part-time position: “Food Services Director.” Volunteers and staff will lead essential ministries of the Commission on Ministry, Camp Christian programs and marketing, and Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation. Search and Call and responsibilities common to the regional minister (pastoral care and other RM functions) can be performed under contract with available and/or neighboring Regional Ministers until a new, more complete model for regional leadership is adopted. Upon Regional Assembly approval of the recommendations, arrangements will be negotiated between the region and these individuals and their regions, in consultation with the College of Regional Ministers. In concert with the contracted R.M.(s), the Regional Elders will assist with pastoral care and identifying interim and/or transitional pastoral leadership needs for congregations. The regional church office will be located at Camp Christian but staff may work from virtual offices as well. The mailing address for the region will be 10335 Maple Dell Road, Marysville, Ohio 43040. The telephone number will be determined.
5. Create a Camp Christian Foundation, a 501(c)(3) which would be responsible for fundraising, budgeting, fiscal management, and personnel oversight of the Camp Christian property. This foundation would be entirely held by the current corporation (*Christian Church in Ohio, Inc.*), but all camp income and expenses would be kept within the Foundation’s books overseen by Treasury Services. The Camp Christian Foundation would

have a small but active Board of Trustees which would be hands-on with property and program. The regional corporation would still own camp reducing the complexity of the transfer issues which will most likely take us well into 2019. The Camp Christian Foundation as a distinct entity could be the basis both for more confidence in giving to support camp & conference programs as well as the property itself, allowing us more clarity and resulting in higher confidence in giving to the region through Disciple Mission Fund.

- 6. We become, for public purposes, a regional church known as ***Ohio Disciples***. It can be, in a modest charter revision, “Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ), Inc. dba¹ ‘***Ohio Disciples***” with new branding to reflect this change.

This is to say: “***Ohio Disciples***, established 1852; re-established, 2018.”

Ohio Disciples, as a regional church, has a valid set of reasons for existing and warranting the support of the congregations and members of Disciples of Christ in Ohio. One of those reasons is our ability to resource and empower initiatives like the distinct mission and ministry of Camp Christian.

Ohio Disciples has the capacity to discern other shared missions & ministries. We have tried to work and act and live as if we still had the size and strength of earlier years, doing too much with too little support, leading to little or no outcomes but much to talk about: we will need to focus our attention and discipline our witness in the years ahead for Ohio Disciples. A distinct management structure for the Camp Christian Foundation can simultaneously give us a more solid basis for at least a few years to develop a sustainable plan for camp, forcing us to look at ourselves as a region to determine how we will move forward together in the peace of Christ and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Ohio Disciples
Established 1852
Re-established, 2018

¹ dba = doing business as