



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*A covenant network of congregations in mission:*

*We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ  
to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities*

# Regional Church Council Meeting

*October 4 & 5, 2019*

*Camp Christian*

**PLEASE NOTE** – *This docket contains all of the documents and reports that were made available prior to October 4th. Some items listed in the table of contents will be handed out at the meeting.*

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August 24, 2019
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September 20, 2019

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### ***Highlights from the Regional Calendar***

*AGENDA*  
*Regional Church Council Meeting*  
*October 4-5, 2019*

*Friday, October 4, 2019*

<i>7:00 Call to Order</i>	<i>Regional Moderator</i>
<i>7:05 Approval of Minutes</i>	
<i>7:10 Treasurer's Report</i>	<i>Regional Treasurer</i>
<i>7:30 Reflection</i>	<i>Vision Committee</i>
<i>8:00 Continued Conversation and Strategic Plan</i>	
<i>9:30 Closing Prayer</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan Jr.</i>

*Saturday, October 5, 2019*

<i>7:45-8:15 Breakfast</i>	
<i>8:30 Call to Order and Devotions</i>	<i>Finance Committee</i>
<i>8:45 Regional and Committee Reports</i>	
- <i>Regional</i>	<i>Regional Support Staff</i>
- <i>Elders</i>	<i>Rev. Phillip Hunt</i>
- <i>Personnel</i>	<i>Rev. Pamela Barnes-Jackson</i>
<i>9:45 2020 Budget Review</i>	<i>Finance Committee</i>
<i>10:15 Ministry Reports</i>	<i>Regional Ministry Leaders</i>
<i>11:45 Business Items from the Floor</i>	
<i>12:15 Important Regional Dates</i>	<i>Regional Moderator</i>
<i>12:30 Closing Worship (Communion Included)</i>	<i>RCC Officers</i>

**Minutes of the Regional Church Council Meeting  
August 24, 2019  
Camp Christian**

**Members Present:** Faith Solon, Pamela Barnes-Jackson (left early), Roger McKinney, Edgar Wallace, Matt Every, Jack Sullivan, Jr., John Cox (left early), Cory King (left early), Tyler Reeve, Gladys Davis, Candis Wilson,

Members on Zoom: Frances Dudley(left early), Chad Delaney

**Visiting Regional Ministers Present:** Thad Allen, Rick Spleth, Eugene James, Dean Philips

**Regional Staff Present:** Jennie Stoddart-Bernard, Wendy Taylor, Ted Nelson

**Guests:** Priscilla Jackson, Phillip Hunt, Jeff Gill, Ali Miguel, Josh Baird, Alan Dicken, David Tietsort

**I. Call to Order and Devotions, Candis Wilson**

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- A. March 30 RCC Meeting Minutes
- B. May 11 General Assembly Minutes
- C. May 11 RCC Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Objection to May 11 RCC Minutes. Was not a "called" meeting, was not advertised to RCC members and non-members beforehand. Move to amend title to "RCC Meeting Following the Called Regional Assembly." This way it will not count against absences.
  - 2. Add Roger McKinney in attendance

*Move to approve above minutes with corrections by Edgar Wallace, second by Jack Sullivan. Motion unanimously carried.*

**III. Treasurer Report, Gladys Davis**

- A. Wendy and Jennie have been instrumental in cutting costs for camp and the region. These cost cutting efforts are admirable, but NOT SUSTAINABLE in the long-term.
- B. The Camp and Region is currently projected to I run a combined \$85,000 surplus for the year. This could go down if we have significant repairs.
- C. We are within \$33,000 of being back in trust with the permanently restricted funds. This is a huge milestone in our financial recovery as a region.
- D. Jeff Gill: We have not been collecting interest on the Permanently restricted funds. Once we are in trust, we can draw on this interest. This should coincide with the restoration of DMF giving back to baseline. These should offset one another.

## Regional Office

	July YTD	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$170,619	\$319,686	\$298,672	\$389,593
Expenses	117,724	208,103	224,726	254,280
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$52,895	\$111,583	\$73,946	\$135,314

## Camp

	July YTD (corrected)	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$278,106	\$342,891	\$429,640	\$388,822
Expenses	240,157	369,690	438,148	410,041
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$37,949	<\$26,799>	<\$8,508>	<\$21,218>

## Combined

	July YTD	Projected 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Income	\$448,725	\$662,577	\$728,312	\$778,415
Expenses	357,881	577,793	662,874	664,321
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$90,844	\$84,784	\$65,438	\$114,096

Jack Sullivan Jr. move to accept the Treasurer's report with necessary amendments. Matt Every second.

#### IV. Regional Assembly Overview

- A. General Minister and President was outstanding.
- B. The Regional Transition Team shared some great ideas.

#### V. Regional Transition Team Report

##### A. Review of Recommendations, led by Josh Baird

1. "Build on the strength of our relationships with each other. Nurturing relationships outside the region. Calling and developing leaders gifted and equipped to lead in new ways." (Pulled from the RTT report)
  - a) Walk through of recommendations 1-9 from the RTT report.
    - (1) Freeze the region's DMF Share at 50% during this time.
    - (2) Call transitional staff appropriate to the journey we are on.
      - (a) Think beyond the old, traditional style of regional ministry. Still open to a new model. Curate would not oversee search and call.
    - (3) End current relationship with neighboring regions and visiting regional ministers.

(a) Reimagine search and call in such a way that we can close out, with deep gratitude, the partnership with visiting regional ministers.

(4) Fund new ministries and special events

(5) Debt repayment plan

(6) Build up a cash reserve to cover 6 months of operating expenses. Make this policy and not just best practice.

(7) Giving strategy.

(8) New opportunities for partnership with nonprofits and secure grant funding.

(9) Develop a sustainable plan for Camp Christian.

(a) Need for a capital campaign for Camp.

**B. Recommendation presented by Alan Dicken (Created with Josh Baird, Audrey Connor, Gladys Davis, Jeff Gill, and Alan Dicken)**

1. Send two page proposal letter to the Lily Grant. The Lily Foundation accepts proposals in September and November. They hope to get something created and sent in for the September deadline.
2. Regional Curate Program: funding for a regional curate. Regional curate will run search and call, with the ultimate goal of streamlining and revisoning this process. The Regional curate will also be responsible for increasing connection among the region.
3. We would have to match some funds in order to call a regional curate, the exact figure is up for discussion.

**C. Small Group Discussions Report Back to the Larger Body**

1. **Group 1:** Affirmed that curate position was necessary. Desire to maintain the relationship with neighboring regions and visiting regional ministers. Need for a capital campaign for Camp Christian. Possibility for camp not being operational during portions of the summer for construction. Need for a leadership campaign to start before December to cultivate new volunteers and leadership.
2. **Group 2:** Need for a sense of urgency. Strengthening congregations for Christ's mission, beginning right where we are. Empowering, giving guidance. Desire to stop following the 1950 white church model. In the African American church, the pastor casts vision, this is more what we are looking for. We are not wanting what we had, but something new. Need for a change in purpose. Need for a CEO versus a curate. The term curate can imply maintaining, not moving forward. Curates in conversation die. Camp Christian creating new leaders. Support for a Camp Director. Support to create a property committee to work proactively to maintain and update camping facilities. Proactive rather than reactive. Renegotiate the 50/50 split for DHM. Take that 10% to fund new ministries.
3. **Group 3:** A lot hinges on the question of leadership. It makes sense to continue partnerships with the listing regional ministers, but we are looking for a way to have some Ohio leadership as well. The need for leadership manifests at Camp Christian, but flows outward. Discussion about some congregations sending their kids to camps that aren't Camp Christian. Need for a staff person to share resources and focus on outreach. Finance wise, we need to figure out a way in which to pay for Ohio leadership. Increased plan funding for the compensation of visiting regional ministers, it would come to about \$30,000. Question posed regarding using that funding to support Ohio Leadership.
4. **Group 4:** Yes to submitting an application to the Lily Grant. We are seeking an additional staff person to support and provide vision to current staff. We also need to have someone work with General church in order to hasten changes to search and call, as well as commission on ministry, regional lines. We as a region need to better know ourselves and what this manifestation of church means theologically, practically, and covenantally. Camp Christian, still not financially stable.

**D. Group Visioning and Planning**

1. **Leadership:** Need for a new staff person who is transition specific. This person will mend relationships and be a point person for the work of re-visioning the region. Someone to cast a

vision and create a plan to further Christ's ministry. A person who will create and embrace change, structurally, relationally, and ministerially. Someone to explore what it means to be church together and move toward outlining that in our values and practices. This new role will require a large cultural leap on the part of many of our congregations. This is require lots of education and communication by the Regional Church Council to congregations.

- a) Still under discussion: Should they be laity or clergy? Full or part-time? What should this person's title be? Is this person a regional minister or something new? Who and how to pay for this position?

## **2. Visiting Regional Ministers**

- a) Still under discussion: Continue relationship with the neighboring regional ministers, but for how long?

## **3. General Planning**

- a) The Regional Church Council no longer has a quorum, and cannot make a motion because there are not enough members present.
- b) Roger McKinney (with the assistance of Jeff Gill) suggests that the Regional Moderator uses her executive authority to start immediately looking for a contract person with a title to be determined, to help us move forward with our mission and ministry. This person will not replace the visiting regional ministers, but will augment their work by being a physical presence in Ohio. Call for a job description and funding plan for this person.
- c) It is also suggested that the Regional Moderator considers reestablishing a search committee to move toward the ultimate call of a new regional leader to a term of 3 years. Invite the search committee to October meeting to be ready to move immediately.
- d) Call for a show of hands to empower Candis, Gladys and Jennie to fully move forward with anything that the three of them agree is necessary.
- e) Joshua Baird point of privilege: Concern that the conversation during this time had moved into a direction of technical changes rather than adaptive changes and that the body was addressing only a portion of the RTT report recommendations. Significantly left out was attending to the suggestions for focused working groups.

## **VI. Important Upcoming Regional Dates**

- A. Regional Elders Meeting Sept 5**
- B. Ohio Council of Churches 100-Year anniversary- Sept 6**
- C. Grandparents and Teen Camp- Sept 7 & 8**
- D. Ethical boundaries- Sept 21**
- E. True Belongings Retreat for Women- Sept 28**
- F. Workshop for Ministers- Sept 30**
- G. Reconciliation Offering- Sept 29 & Oct 6**
- H. Regional Church Council meeting- October 4 & 5**
- I. Lectionary Preaching Camp- Oct 24 & 25**
- J. Workshop for Commissioned Ministers- Oct 26**
- K. Anti-Racism Training- Oct 30**
- L. Silent Retreat- October 28-November 1**
- M. Chi Rho Rally- November 2**
- N. Interim Ministry Training- November 11-13**

## **VII. Closing Prayer, Rev. Roger McKinney**

## **Regional Administrator Report to the Regional Church Council October 5, 2019 – Jennie Stoddart Bernard**

In addition to my regular tasks, here are a few of the highlights, larger projects, and reflections on what I have been working on since the Spring Regional Church Council meeting and will be working on over the next few months.

**Ministerial Standing Forms** - Working with the Commission on Ministry, we were able to get the Ministerial Standing forms updated, posted and sent out in September. The deadline is set for December 1<sup>st</sup> so that we are no longer competing with Christmas and other year-end conflicts. Team 3 of the Commission on Ministry has been very helpful working with ministers around the Region in getting this accomplished. Getting the form out earlier is also helpful because it does not conflict with my Annual Year Book & Directory responsibilities that will start early next year.

**Ministerial Standing Trainings** - Per the updated requirements of the Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry, we are offering the Anti-Racism and Ethical Boundaries Standing trainings more frequently throughout the year. While this is a good and necessary thing, it has created an increase in administrative support needs. In 2019, we offered both the Anti-Racism and the Ethical Boundaries trainings 5 times each. In addition to registration administrative tasks, they also require preparation of training materials, and facilitating distribution of training materials to the Congregations since they were not all held at Camp. To be more prepared and efficient in 2020, I would like to revisit this with the leaders, and prepare a large quantity of materials early on in the year for trainers to have and be responsible for each training. More materials can be prepared later in the year if needed. Potential plans to update some materials may also create more efficiencies.

**Financial Administrative tasks during the Summer** - This was the first Summer that I have truly been the only Regional Church Office staff person during the Summer. For the most part, that was fine, but one area that I noticeably could use some help during the summer is with invoices and deposits. With the large influx of donations and registration income, as well as outgoing invoices, on top of my other tasks, it would have been helpful to have some assistance. I did ask the Camp Secretary Colleen McDaniel a few times to help out with double counting cash deposits with me or helping me with receipts. Going forward it would be helpful to have a volunteer, from the Finance Committee, or from the Regional Church Council in general come to Camp once a week during the Summer to assist. It would not have to be the same person each week. During the rest of the year this has been completely manageable.

**Donor Wish List Items** - Ted, Wendy and I have been working together to create a running list of Camp Christian large quantity supply needs, capital needs, and wish list items. This was specifically requested for potential large donors. We are now working it into the potentially upcoming Capital Campaign.

**Camp Rentals and Events** – I have been working with both Regional and outside groups on their events, retreats, meetings, and rentals at Camp Christian. Since Summer programs wrapped up, we have had 8 groups out at Camp and as of right now, we will have 14 different groups utilizing Camp Christian between now and the middle of November. There are still openings in the schedule for December.

**Regularly Scheduled Update Meetings** - Wendy, Ted, and I have also set up weekly meetings on Tuesdays for the 3 of us to sit down and discuss Camp usage and rentals as they are coming up, as well as any other Camp or Regional topics we all need to be aware of.

**2020 Summer Schedule** - Summer Program Dates have been finalized (see Regional Calendar) and I have posted these online and emailed out these dates to Congregations, Pastors, Leaders, Parents, and Former Campers. In the next few weeks and months, I will be working with the Camp Christian Committee and Directors to update registration paperwork for each Camp/Conference.

**Revival of Regional Newsletter** - Something I would love to reestablish for 2020 is some form of a Buckeye Disciple newsletter. We have removed the budget for a hard copy mailing entirely, but an online version would be feasible. I am planning to find some volunteers who can commit to assisting with content.

## **REGIONAL ELDERS' REPORT to the RCC**

October 4-5, 2019

On September 5 the Regional Elders met at Camp Christian. 14 Regional Elders (15) along with the 4 visiting Regional Ministers were in attendance.

I gave a report from the RCC.

We put together the following plan of action:

1. Rick Spleth will contact John Goebel at Treasury Services to assist the RCC with finances and budget.
2. We want to make sure the Camp Christian Committee remains active. We need to address the issues of immediate crisis, the sewage lift station and the drainage issues with the cabin clusters and gym. We thought the idea of a committee of experts to address camp maintenance on a regular basis was a good idea.
3. Have 2 but not more than 3 Regional Elders at RCC meetings.

The Regional Elders are working with Jennie on the Featured Congregation on the regional web page.

Zoom Meeting, "Closure is not the End" sponsored by the Interim Ministry Network on September 30 from 1-4 at various locations around the region.

Interim Ministry 3 day training Nov. 11-13 – can register online.

Next meeting: Zoom, on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. – Noon.

Regional Elders continue to make visits to congregations and we are lifting up DMF giving.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Philip Hunt, secretary

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

10/4/2019

Business Meetings:

### **2019 Camp Christian Christmas Holiday Closing:**

Summary:

*The following holiday closing has been approved for 2019 by Regional Moderator Candis Wilson and Personnel Chair Rev. Dr. Pamela-Barnes Jackson with the understanding that it will be presented along with the entire updated Employee Policy Handbook to the Regional Church Council for approval of a permanent policy change. (This has been the policy in practice for a couple years now but had not been put in writing.)*

*\*\*In the event of an emergency or other urgent matter involving the Regional Church or Camp Christian during this break, staff will attend to the matter as quickly as possible. In the unlikely event of a Camp Christian Retreat or Rental occurring during the time, Camp Staff will work with the group to attend to their needs.*

The Regional Church Office and Camp Christian Staff will have a Christian Break from Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> through New Year's Day January 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the Regional Church Office and Camp Christian will be closed during this time.

### **Camp Christian Personnel Team Meeting**

Rev. Pamela met with Wendy (Food Service Coordinator) and Ted Nelson (Campsite Manager) via zoom. It was determined that a third part-time person be hired to help assist Wendy and Ted. However, Wendy and Ted would like to have additional help through the temporary agency. It would be extremely helpful to have an extra hand for both Wendy and Ted. We all agreed to take it to the RCC and determine if an extra person could be hired during the camp season.

### **RCC Meeting Camp Christian**

Met with RCC regarding RTT suggestions for direction CCIO should take

### **Part Time (Non-Contract) Employee:**

It was suggested that we hire a part time (non-contract) person to act as overseer of Camp Christian and the CCIO. (See next page)



## **Position Description for Part-Time (Non-Contract) Employee (Up to 2-year appointment)**

### **Vision & Mission Statement:**

#### **VALUES AND SEEDS OF VISION**

##### ***A covenant network of congregations in mission:***

*We are the body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our communities.*

#### **The Person We Seek:**

We seek an energetic, gifted, outgoing, engaging, and creative individual who will share our ministry with passion and devotion for 20 hours a week.

#### **Skills, Gifts, Passions for Ministry:**

- Passion for the spiritual development of children and youth
- A heart for pastoral care
- Ability to work collaboratively and creatively with other worship, pastoral, formation, and administrative leaders
- Willingness and ability to take initiative and lead while collaborating with other clergy, staff, and lay leadership is vitally important
- Ability to plan ahead and be flexible at the same time
- Recognition of the importance of building and maintaining relationships in ministry, as well as building and maintaining programs

#### **Responsibilities & Expectations:**

The individual can be either lay or clergy

Regional office presence during camp and conference season

Regional Liaison for commissions and ministries to rebuild relationship and re-establish accountability for timelines and processes

Mend relationships throughout the regional membership

Be a point person outside of Regional Administrators duties

Focus on reviewing and restructuring regional processes (i.e. communication breakdowns, search and call, etc)

Other duties as assigned

#### **Proposed Salary Recommendation (Treasurer/Personnel):**

\$35,000 (not to exceed \$40,000)

## **Ministry Reports**

*(Some may be presented or handed out in person.)*

### **Adult Conference**

### **Advance Ministries**

### **Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation**

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission Report to the Ohio Regional Council  
October 2018 - October 2019

The Commission continues to work hard to provide training for ministers and others. To reduce travel expense and time, most of this year's meetings were done via video conference. We expect that will continue next year.

Our work was taken to a new level with the new requirement that ministers in Ohio need to participate in anti-racism training every 5 years. To meet this need the commission added two additional training dates, developed a "level 2" training and, with the blessing of the Commission on Ministry, offered a study based on the book "Anxious to Talk About It" in two Ohio Districts. In the 2019-2020 program year we will again offer additional trainings. We also expanded locations with two of the trainings being held in the Cleveland area to reduce travel time for those in the northern half of the state.

The Commission is also looking to expand its pool of trainers and expect to use some of the Reconciliation Offering funds to send commission members to "Train the Trainer" sessions. Several of our members attended the anti-racism training at this summer's General Assembly.

We urge the members of the Council (and all Ohio churches) to give generously to this year's Reconciliation Offering so that our work can continue and expand.

We are working on plans to bring the play "Standing on the Promises" to Ohio in 2020. We have been in contact with the playwright/director as well as with the Reconciliation Ministry office in Indianapolis regarding possible funding.

We are grateful to all of the members of the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission for their generous donation of time and energy.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne C. Sowell and Rev. Roger D. Osgood, co-chairs

## **Camp Christian Committee**

### **The Camp Christian Committee Report 09 2019**

The Camp Christian Committee (CCC) was formulated in March of 2019, tentatively commissioned by the RCC, on 09/20/2019, and held its first meeting on June 6, 2019.

The CCC is comprised of 14 members, from across the Region.

*Members:* Chad Delaney, and Alecia Hayes, Co-Chairs; Jim Bane, Amanda Blaine, Audrey Connor, Julie Gromofsky, Klair Hoover, Bruce Jett, Ali Miguel, Marsha Mueller, Ann Overturf, Daun Seitz, David Stonebraker, and Gerald Western.

The CCC is then broken down into 3 subcommittees, Finance, Communications, and Grounds; our reports are as follows:

#### **Finance Committee Summary**

Camp Christian Commission, RCC, the region in general need to keep a focus on is registrations in total for the summer: we went from 950 paid registrations in 2014 to just over 600 in 2019, and our ability to keep the facility open and operating year-round is dependent on us keeping above 600 and closer to 700 campers. A new income source, of say \$10,000, which sounds like a lot, is counterbalanced by losing just 25 campers. We have to get the camper numbers up in 2020.

#### **Communications Committee Summary**

CC Communications Team hopes that we can find more ways to communicate the news and needs of Camp Christian to the RCC and to the Christian Church in Ohio. The needs that have emerged are weekly/month updates, social media consistency, and website updating/curating.

Therefore, we suggest RCC commission a volunteer positions to aid this work: *Camp Christian Website Re-Design Person (volunteer)*

Help design and maintain a Camp Christian webpage. Camp Christian owns "campchristian.org" but it needs developed and maintained. The website is Camp Christian's "front-door" and is an important ministry to be shared with region and the world at large.

#### **Grounds Committee Summary**

Focus: To be proactive with Maintenance requirements while also planning for Capitol Campaign needs. The basic maintenance plan we need to keep the facility safely (and legally) open to receive those registrations, which will have to be a three part plan.

- 1.) Items which need immediate work to stay in compliance with county & state regulation for overnight youth occupancy. Review our policies and procedures to make sure we are and remain in compliance.
- 2.) Items which have implications for the ongoing operation such as under-slab drainage or equipment replacement short-term needs.
- 3.) Items which will help attract new usage or rentals.

*Camp Christian Committee continued on the next page*

## ***Camp Christian Committee Report Continued***

### ***Tasks in process for ongoing maintenance and to attract new usage and/or rentals:***

*Ongoing:* 2017 Level II Energy Plan Assessment received on 09/25/2019. Gather information about what has been implemented. Investigate: item 2 on page 7, and item 5 on page 8; Identify possible (leaks- to-ground), Page 7 item 1, Cabins B and C; Follow-up on: item 3 page 7; item 4 page 8; Pages 29-32 LED lighting replacement; Hot Water tanks: Ongoing schedule for flushing; Set to vacation setting during off season. Furnaces: scheduled cleaning and filter changing; Prevention for Bed Bugs: extermination/hot box.

*New Usage/Rentals -Capital Campaign Items:* Gym Excavation: Waiting for report from Kirk Donges; upgrade bathrooms. Roofs and Gutters – need estimates. Monroe Lodge: obtain estimates to repair/upgrade bathrooms, showers, furniture, kitchen, fireplaces, and HVAC needs. Use the 2017 Energy Plan to upgrade to LED lighting, and replace fixtures. Then, install a team building obstacle course. Last, the possible addition of Solar Panels.

## **Chi Rho Commission**

Recap of Summer 2019 – We discussed the need for swimming facilities. It is unclear which committee is responsible for looking into lake or pool swimming (perhaps a temporary above ground pool) for 2020 and beyond. The committee agreed that swimming is essential and hopes there will be a plan in place before Summer 2020. We hope to know more about the pool plans and the financial situation after next week's Regional Committee meeting.

Rally on November 2 – Summer's Never Over! Each camp will contact its campers to invite. Cost will be \$10 per person. We will have a photobooth during registration. Kids will be encouraged to bring their phones to jumpstart our new Chi Rho Instagram. Members of the committee will donate water, chips, desserts, plates, and napkins. We will be collecting new and gently used towels for the free store as a service project. Parents are welcome to pay \$5 to cover their lunch and work in the Free Store or help with other projects during the rally.

Consecration – We discussed making a collage of various depictions of Jesus that would hang in front of the cross and would be revealed as the cheesecloth burns. We decided to split the consecration offering equally among camp facilities, camp scholarships, and the free store.

Social Media – Erin Werking is setting up a Camp Christian Chi Rho Instagram account that can be used by all three camps. It will be up and running by the rally and will hopefully will be useful in keeping in contact with parents and camper moving forward. Erin shared her method of posting a picture from Damascus on the Damascus Instagram.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 14. Time and place TBD.

## CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) Commission

### Commission on Ministry

Ohio Commission on Ministry Report to the Regional Church Council - October 5, 2019

The Commission on Ministry held ordination interviews at Northwest Christian Church on Thursday, December 20, 2018 and Tuesday, June 4, and approved the following candidates for ordination to Christian Ministry in 2019:

<u>Ordinand</u>	<u>Location and Officiating Regional Pastor</u>	<u>Date</u>
Allison Paige Wheeler	Northwest Christian Church, Columbus Rick Spleth, Visiting Regional Pastor	January 6
Karen Gebhart	Central Christian Church, Newark Thad Allen, Visiting Regional Pastor	February 23
Faith Lemon Solon	Northwest Christian Church, Columbus Rick Spleth, Visiting Regional Pastor	June 9
Jack Paul Veatch	First Christian Church, Stow Eugene James, Visiting Regional Pastor	July 14
Lisa Jane Stover	Karl Road Christian Church, Columbus Rick Spleth, Visiting Regional Pastor	August 17
Jennifer Ann Berlyoung	Harmony Springs Christian Church, Uniontown Eugene James, Visiting Regional Pastor	September 1
Richard James Hinkelman	Franklin Circle Christian Church, Cleveland Eugene James, Visiting Regional Pastor	September 15

Presently 17 people are in the care of COM Team 1 preparing for ordained ministry.

Ethical Boundaries and Anti-Racism Training opportunities for clergy are now being planned for 2020. Dates and locations will soon be announced on the regional website. Rev. Margot Connor and Dr. Cynthia Tyson will facilitate the boundaries trainings, while the Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism team will conduct the anti-racism trainings. A variety of times and locations will be offered to accommodate the great diversity among clergy employment responsibilities. There is still an anti-racism training available in 2019 on Wednesday, October 30, at Heights Christian Church in Cleveland. We are very grateful to all our volunteer trainers that make these workshops possible for clergy standing requirements.

The 2020 request for ministerial standing forms have been emailed by the Regional Church Office to all commissioned and ordained ministers both active and retired. These forms are to be completed and returned by December 1 so that Team 3 may read and respond to all requests for standing renewal. Those whose standing is approved appear in the Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

***Commission on Ministry Report continued on the next page***

### ***Commission on Ministry Report Continued***

Registration is going on now for preaching workshops sponsored by the COM and led by Ron Allen, retired CTS professor, in October, 2019. An overnight lectionary workshop for clergy serving in pastoral positions will be offered at Camp Christian on Thursday, October 24, and Friday, October 25. Commissioned ministers wanting generally to improve their preaching skills will be led by Dr. Allen at Northwest Christian Church on Saturday, October 26. Details and registration for these workshops are found on the Regional website.

The Ohio Council of Churches is considering sponsoring an overnight clergy event at a central location in Ohio in the spring of 2020 (post-Easter). If this does take place, we will consider joining a Disciples clergy gathering to this event in a similar way that used to occur with the January Pastors' Convocation sponsored by the OCC.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Wheeler, COM Chair      revjeff@northwestchristian.org

### **Disciples Fellowship Retreat**

### **Grandparents Camp**

### **Ohio Women's Ministries**

#### ***Letter from the Ohio Women's Ministries Co-Chairs submitted in place of report:***

Dear Christian Women,

We regret to inform you that the Ohio Women's Ministry (OWM) annual retreat has been canceled for this year. The retreat is the only organized activity that we as a region currently sponsor. We feel that there is a need for an OWM "Re-mix". Let us re-create the organization into one that is in tune with today's society and sponsors organized activities for women throughout the state of Ohio.

We have contacted the national office of the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) Department of Women's Ministries, to obtain information about models of women's ministries used in other states that we may use as we re-make our ministry here in Ohio. We are excited about the prospect of getting together to begin the makeover.

#### **Please join us at a gathering to begin this change process.**

- The gathering is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Bethany Christian Church, 1130 East Livingston Avenue, Columbus Ohio 43205.
- The meeting will be from 10:00am – 1:00pm.
- There will be light breakfast snacks provided in the morning and a working lunch provided during the meeting.
- Please RSVP to Pat Brown at [nitrogirls75@yahoo.com](mailto:nitrogirls75@yahoo.com) ASAP so that the church can prepare adequate refreshments.

Be Blessed until we meet again!

Pat and Gena

Dr. Patricia Brown [nitrogirls75@yahoo.com](mailto:nitrogirls75@yahoo.com)

Gena Phillips [gstonephillips@aol.com](mailto:gstonephillips@aol.com)

Co-Chairs, Ohio Women's Ministries

## Ohio Disciples Men

### Otter Camp

Otter Camp 2019 was HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY! During the week of June 16-22 Camp Christian was filled with 104 campers (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades), 6 administrative personnel, 3 medical personnel, 7 activity leaders, 14 cabin counselors, 7 counselor assistants, and 13 counselors in training. That's 154 people on the Holy Ground we know as Camp Christian. I am always in awe of the adult volunteers (50 in total) giving their lives to disciple the young people entrusted to our care. They are remarkable individuals. Thanks to: *Chad Delaney, Debbie Stephan, Cathy Farkas, Bonnie Furr, Dave Stephan, Jim Embree, Judy Embree, Carolyn Gano, DaNell Harvey, Carol Earhart, Rex Overstreet, Cheryl Delaney, Aaron Phillips, Richie Gregory, Chelsea Kao, Dee Snyder, Klair Hoover, Christin Delaney, Kari Ward, Katie Hale, Susan Lammon Yoshida, Olivia Yeagar, Terry Roe, Brad Allen, Troy Haren, John Davis, Tomas Hernandez, Joe Morton, Daun Seitz, Emma Yeager, Sarah O'Brien, Kerry Hamilton, Olivia Taylor, Nathan Eckhart, Minch Huang, Jeff Wheeler, Barbara Wheeler, and Beverly Koenig.* Thanks also to our CITs who pay to come serve and gain leadership skills: *Lily Collins, Anna Latona, Corinne Femia, Samantha Mason, Danielle Mason, Allie Owen, Lauren Johnson, Isabella Curet, Joe Trent, Robby Trent, CJ Delaney, Hunter Smith, Sam Proper, Josh Delaney.* Otter Camp is a successful program, because of these who selflessly serve God and God's children.

We celebrated the events of the church calendar with our curriculum *Happy Holy-Days – Let's Celebrate!* Each day the campers awoke to a new season in the church year: Advent/Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Highlights included making nativity sets, learning the Lenten Legend of the pretzel, collecting Easter Eggs, making a matchstick cross, being detectives exploring Jesus' resurrection, and celebrating the birthday of the church.

Activities included fishing, boating, games, crafts, missions, and water time. The campers caught an abundance of fish, enjoyed human foosball, watched butterflies hatch and fly away, wrote cards to refugees who had recently arrived in Columbus, painted rocks, and planted flowers. The lack of pool was a concern. But, Chad Delaney worked with our Counselor Assistants to create water games and activities for the week. They did an outstanding job. The campers, counselors, and even the Otter Director got in on the fun. For many of us, the enormous water extractor battle on Friday afternoon was the best. I don't know when I've ever had the chance to be in the midst of a water battle with 150+ people.

2019 was Otter Camp's twelfth year at Camp Christian. It was my twenty-third year with Otter Camp. I started with Otter Camp at Pilgrim Hills. In 2007, Larry Pigg welcomed Otters to share the camp alongside Chi Rho Camp. It has been an incredible journey ever since. Hundreds of children's lives have been impacted. It's fun to watch them grow through Chi Rho, CYF, and Advance. Many of them now serving as Otter CITs, counselors, and activity leaders. Others continue to grow as leaders within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided that 2020 will be my last year as Otter Camp Director. Noelle Esway and I will be working closely together this year as Co-Directors. For 2021, Noelle will serve as the new Otter Camp Director.

with Otter love,  
Rev. Lauren A. Roe  
*Director*

## **Ribbit Camp**

### Ribbit Camp Report to RCC 2019

Summer of 2019 was a summer of transition and reflection for Ribbit Camp. We began our week with a time for Youth Counselors and Counselors to participate in training together. Four high school students and eight adult volunteers arrived on Tuesday morning and spent the next

24 hours together growing as a team and of course learning camp songs, crafts and games in preparation for our 2nd- 5th graders. This was a change from the previous training that started Sunday. Decreasing this time freed up the camp schedule to accommodate our Ministry Associates, decreased our financial footprint, and was better received by volunteers- youth and adult alike.

Our young campers arrived on Wednesday morning and were once again welcomed by a loving team of both youth and adults. Our theme this year was the Holy-Days. The three days we had with our campers, was spent exploring our lectionary calendar and its Holidays with special focus on Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. After reflecting on the camper evaluations from the year prior we brought back creative, intentional daily crafts. We were thrilled to welcome a Craft Volunteer to our Ribbit team. This volunteer came to camp daily with enthusiasm, a love of camp, and multiple creative crafts.

Our goal with Ribbit has been to provide an introductory church camp experience that ensures a safe and welcoming environment for all. We have a desire to see our first time campers level up the next year to a full week experience. With that being said, the Ribbit Team would like to see Ribbit camp thriving each year- filled with campers and volunteers. We have reflected and are excited to move Ribbit back to its original design, rotating to the part of the week that does not include the fourth of July. We believe that this change will result in a boost not only in our camper numbers but also our volunteer numbers.

Ribbit had an amazing 2019 and we are looking forward to the continuation of this ministry in 2020.

## **Spiritual Life**

### **Spiritual Life Committee Report - October 2019**

History and Purpose: The Spiritual Life Committee plans events to provide spiritual growth opportunities for Ohio Disciples. As the Rev. Dr. Herald Monroe originally formed and convened the Spiritual Life Committee to care for and nurture the well-being and spiritual life of Ohio's ministers, the main event to be planned was the 3-day Clergy Spiritual Life Retreat (which is also open to clergy spouses who wish to attend). This retreat offers a time to relax with clergy colleagues, center down, and reconnect with the Source of Life. As we prayerfully hope for the transformation of our congregations, we believe it is crucial to offer clergy colleagues these opportunities for spiritual growth.

Ministers' Spiritual Life Retreat: Earlier this year, the Ministers' Spiritual Life Retreat took place February 26-28, 2019 with 15 retreatants. The theme was "Reclaiming the Gift of Ministry" with Retreat Leader Rev. Dr. Ron Allen, recently retired professor at Christian Theological Seminary and well-known author and teacher. The early bird registration fee was \$110. As a bonus, Ron also taught a Workshop on Preaching in Lent during one free time session.

*Spiritual Life report continued on the next page*

### ***Spiritual Life Report Continued***

The next annual Ministers' Spiritual Life Retreat is scheduled for February 18-20, 2020 at Camp Christian, with the Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Transitional Conference Minister for the UCC in Ohio, West Virginia, and Northern Kentucky. The theme he has discerned for us is "Spirit Sense: Engaging the Gift of our Senses in the Discovery of God." More details will be forthcoming.

Fall Silent Retreat: Once again, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering the unstructured, no-frills 5-day Silent Retreat from Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2019 open to both clergy and laity at Camp Christian's Herald B. Monroe Lodge. We kept the daily price down to \$27 by having no food service or programming, or \$125 for full registration. Last year we had 7 in attendance for one or more days. We continue to have persons give feedback that this silent time is much needed for their spiritual well-being.

Resources: In the past, the Spiritual Life Committee put together resource lists of Ohio Retreat Centers, Accredited Spiritual Directors in Ohio, and Accredited Spiritual Direction Programs that are available for ministers, congregation members, and clergy groups. We continue to work on putting together resource lists for those who wish to explore Spiritual Gifts, Spiritual Formation, and Spiritual Practices, with contact information of those who offer these resources.

Social media presence on Facebook: "Spiritual Life Ministries of the Christian Church in Ohio"

Conclusion: We continue to seek new ways to offer spiritual growth opportunities to our clergy colleagues as well as to all Ohio Disciples as we journey in faith together, following the loving Way of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted, Spiritual Life Committee,  
Revs. Deborah Bolen, Chair, Harry Bolen, Paul Bomeli, Nik Donges, Philip Hunt,  
Priscilla Jackson, Bev Jenkins, Tom Johnson, Kerry Reed

## Highlights from the Regional Calendar as of 10-4-19

### October 2019

- 12 Ohio Women's Ministries Gathering: 10am – 1pm at Bethany Christian Church, Columbus
- 24 – 25 Lectionary Preaching Camp for Ordained Ministers and Seminarians at Camp Christian
- 26 Workshop for Commissioned Ministers: 9am – 4pm at Northwest Christian Church, Columbus
- 28 – Nov 1 Silent Retreat at Camp Christian – Open to ALL
- 30 Anti-Racism Training for Ministers: 9am – 5pm at Heights Christian Church, Shaker Heights

### November

- 2 Chi Rho Rally: 10am – 3:30pm at Camp Christian
- 8 – 9 Generosity Plus Program at Camp Christian
- 11 – 13 3 Day Interim Ministers Training at Camp Christian
- 15 – 16 Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat at Camp Christian

### December

- 14 Advent Retreat for Women at Camp Christian

### January 2020

- 3 – 5 Advance Ministries Winter Retreat at Camp Christian

### February

- 18 – 20 Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers at Camp Christian

### May

- 22 – 24 Disciples Fellowship Retreat at Camp Christian

### June

- 5 – 6 Grandparents Camp at Camp Christian
- 7 – 13 Chi Rho Camp Emmaus at Camp Christian
- 14 – 20 Otter Camp at Camp Christian
- 21 – 27 CYF Conference Week #1 at Camp Christian
- 28 – Jul 1 Ribbit Camp at Camp Christian

### July

- 5 – 11 CYF Conference Week #2 at Camp Christian
- 12 – 18 Chi Rho Camp Corinth at Camp Christian
- 19 – 25 Chi Rho Camp Damascus & CYF Conference Week #3 at Camp Christian
- 26 – Aug 2 Advance Ministries Summer Conference at Camp Christian

### September

- 4 – 6 Disciples Fellowship Retreat at Camp Christian

### July 2021

- 31 – Aug 4 General Assembly, Louisville KY