

**Regional Board Meeting
Country Club Christian Church
March 31, 2025 – 6 pm**

Peggy Chandler called the meeting to order and welcome everyone at 6:06 pm

Rev. Amy Shoemaker led the group in a body/breath prayer.

Financial Report: Kathy Harris

Year End Financial Statements for 2024:

- Prepared by Treasury Services, will be available on the Regional website.
- Assets: (a snapshot in time – Dec 31, 2024) – healthy assets (\$4.2 million)
 - Assets without donor restrictions:
 - Most fixed assets (\$800k+) are at Tall Oaks
 - The rest is at the Regional office, etc.
 - Assets with donor restrictions: \$2,660,000+
 - most held by Ministry Innovation (\$2 million +)
 - just under \$600k left that represent scholarship funds, Women's ministry, men's ministry, etc.
- Trend for giving was slightly down (5%), investment income was higher than budgeted.
- Deficit was just under \$112k (nearly identical to 2023).
- Came in better than budget but still a significant deficit.

Discussion: Rick Hughey asked if we are concerned about such big deficits. Kathy indicated that we should be discussing it. We have limitations, especially when it comes to funding ministry we want to fund. Some donor restricted accounts have flexibility and others do not. Not trying to sound an alarm just yet – but want people to be aware. Concern was shared (by Elizabeth Hicks) on behalf of some ministers in the Region that we are spending more than we take in from the churches, and that there is a desire for transparency. Ultimately, this is an issue of education – the information has been there each month, but people don't know where to look for it. Kathy wants us to be able to understand the reports so that we can help educate people. Also, there is obviously a growing need for additional fundraising on behalf of the Region. Rev. James Vertreese pointed out that all the financial info that was on the old website hasn't been moved over to the new website – but it is still available for people who want/need it. Rick Hughey asked if we work with Kirby Gould (Christian Church Foundation) – we do.

(Note: Amy Shoemaker and Kylie Graham expressed that as Regional Staff they are committed to getting people what they need quickly and efficiently. People just need to ask.)

Regional Minister Search Committee Update (Rev. Mark Willis):

Seven on the committee: Mark Willis, Mary Lou Kegler, Keith Asaeli, Izzy Richardson, Fred Herron, Beverly Dickison, Merida Acosta

Listening Sessions have begun and will take place throughout April. Hope to compile all the info they gather by the end of May. Will put together our paperwork with the help of Rev. Sandy Messick. Candidates start off through a blind evaluation process. Those are then given to the committee. Worst case scenario date is Regional Assembly in 2026, but the hope is to discuss candidates this fall.

Board members need to share the information with their churches ASAP.

Did You Know? Clips: recorded at the Regional Board retreat. They have been hitting the Regional email list (Constant Contact) and social media channels each week. How can we get them to people more widely? How do we get Regional news out to people more widely and effectively?

Ideas: get more people signed up for Constant Contact. We need to be engaged evangelists who tell the story about Regional ministry and what folks have missed when they didn't attend. Our communication needs to be more about what people can get out of these ministries – right now it focuses on what the ministry is instead of what it does/what its value is. We also need to focus on rebuilding relationships and our investment in one another if we want people to care about what is happening. A lot of our congregations' communications people are the pastors. We need our pastors to talk about it from the pulpit in an engaging, excited way.

Regional Assembly Ministry Experiments & Next Steps (Rev. Amy Shoemaker):

If board members are not currently clear on where they connect to one or more of our ministry experiments, please talk to Amy ASAP.

Faith Day at the K: May 31 (a Saturday) at 3:10 pm. Concert follows the game and is included in the ticket price. We ought to coordinate a Disciples presence at this event. Peggy would like someone to step up and organize this: Louise Jones will do this!

Ministerio Evangelistico Renacer Congregation (Rev. Amy Shoemaker): Pastor Trini Gutierrez (pastoring for 30 years in different congregations) and his wife, Yvonne, were introduced to Amy via the leaders at the Hispanic congregation meeting at FCCNKC. 35-50 people worshipping on the historic northeast side of KCMO (out of Gospel Lighthouse, but they are looking for a different space). They want to become Disciples.

They want to be involved in a denomination to help them with standards, accountability, resources, etc. Amy would like us to tell her what info we want about them to help us with our discernment RE: bringing them into the Disciples via our Region.

We want to know: basics, leaders, history, why do you want to be DOC, what support do you need, do you practice an open communion table, alignment with denominational stances, do you have congregational bylaws, do you embrace women in leadership, theology, what training do you pastors have, how would pastors fit into our tracks for the committee on the ministry, Disciples History & Polity, how do we build relationship/partnership with this congregation (and others) with our language barrier.

Amy is working with several Hispanic congregations in similar situations. She asks us to be patient and flexible with her as she navigates these relationships (and our relationships with New Church Ministry & Obra Hispana).

Tri Regional Partnership Initiative Update (Peggy Chandler):

Youth Ministry Cohort: are meeting to strengthen connection and build relationship. There will be a youth convention hosted

Upcoming Tri-Regional Service Event, Saturday, August 16, 2025: no longer a joint board retreat. Building Relationship through Service event at Hillcrest Christian Church. Will start with welcome/devotional. Service/Lunch/Service. Ends with worship service in the afternoon. Rev. Terri Hord Owens may be there as well!

Save the Date: Installation for Rev. Amy Shoemaker: June 26, 2025 at Shawnee Community Christian Church – 7 pm

Interim Regional Minister Report – Rev. Ron Routledge (See attached written report)

Wants to start work on a Regional Foundation

Ashley Chun's ordination will happen at Country Club Christian Church

Get your congregation's ALEX reporting done!

Will keynote at Adult Camp! –

Discovering that GKC has a very high caliber of capable ministers and lay leaders. This is very encouraging. Wants to create a forum for congregations in decline to help them.

Closing Prayer (Rev. Ron Routledge)

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm