

September 29, 2025 Regional Board Meeting

Welcome - Peggy Chandler

Introductions

Present - Peggy Chandler, Chris Wilson, LeAundra Boyce, Louise Jones, James Vertreese, Susie Arnold, Ron Lewis Vickie Kumorowski, Kathy Harris, Phil Willoughby, Mark Willis, Fred Herron, Tammy Eaton, Amy Shoemaker, Lara Blackwood Pickrel, Anna Godsey, Tristan Jordan, Claire Lammers, Josie Smotrilla, Raymond, McLanahan, Rick Hughey and Kelly Schneikhart by zoom, Kylie Graham, Ron Routledge and Jill DeFord

Prayer - Rick Hughey read by Peggy Chandler

Discussion of regional profile and regional minister position description: Mark Willis

Process - once the profile and position descriptions are approved, profile is posted for 60 days. Submissions of papers will go to Sandy Messick, she will send it to an independent evaluator - they'll receive all the profiles, and will evaluate if candidates meet those criteria listed in the position, etc. Evaluators send it back to them, then decide who to discuss further. Set up interviews, etc. Zoom calls. Narrow down. Then bring people into the region to interview in person, etc.

Search Committee moves, Vickie seconded, that the board approve the regional profile with the modifications of adding attendance at Kansas Leadership Center classes as an asset and the staff collaboration - passed unanimously.....

In discussion of the position description it was noted that the regional profile does not list that we have several open and affirming congregations as an asset. Search moved to add it, LeAundra seconded, amendment passed to be added to the regional profile.

Search Committee moves, Vickie seconded, with the addition of the terms "visionary leadership" in the first sentence and adding LGBTQ+ inclusivity to the bullet point under 5.Commitment to social justice, including anti-racism/pro-reconciliation efforts to approve the position description for regional minister. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mark also asked if the board would like for the committee to include in the packet the over/under regional budget to be transparent for candidates. Information provided by Kathy Harris will be included, as well as asterisked information that Tall Oaks and Commission on Ministry Innovation have separate budgets.

Regional Ministry Experiments and Next Steps Update - Amy Shoemaker

- Kylie and personnel - director of engagement position, so that more information is brought in and sent out.
- Group of DOC how to support immigrants in our community
- More convos how to share resources, etc. - requests for documentation, etc. Like how is everyone doing things on an operational level.

TriRegional Partnership update - Peggy

- Kylie is doing great putting in the newsletter - don't forget Elder training, 3-4:30pm, on Sundays October 12 - November 9, 2025, zoom, no charge, registration link in newsletter
- TRPI day of service well attended, just under 100 attended from Greater KC, KS, & Nebraska
- Working on rep from GKC to be on the TRPI steering committee

Personnel - Chris Wilson

- Realignment of roles, etc.
- Salary adjustments
- Rationale, salary ranges, revised job descriptions
- Close to sending to exec team for approval, etc.
- Claudia in an interim role until the new regional minister is on board
- Once exec approves, will come back to regional board for approval
- Annual evaluation of staff this week - Ron, Amy, Kylie, Claudia
- Budget to be submitted when done with that
- Compensation piece for regional minister under personnel, etc. so will be working on that

Immigrant Support Initiative - Chris Wilson

- Week of Compassion - churches to apply for immigrant support grants, up to \$2000, so St Andrew's Hand of Welcome, immigrant ministry, started to brainstorm other congregations that might be interested and other organizations that are doing immigrant justice work. Three meetings in three weeks and nine congregations involved and 8 organizations, interdenominational churches involved - larger collaborative efforts - if your congregation is interested, especially as help for immigrants is being taken - three things surface:
 - Item support (food kits and hygiene kits)
 - Education - what resources are in the community for them and for ourselves as to what the needs are and how we can be hospitable and welcoming, etc
 - Collaboration and Communication - find safe digital platforms for immigrants to use, etc. a resource platform and messaging purposes
- Hoping to put an immigrant safe signs for churches for fundraising
- October 7 at 3pm, WOC liaison zoom meeting, will coach as to how to apply for the week of compassion grants

Other Ministry Updates/Reports

Standing renewal process - streamline it
NKC - bilingual and multicultural congregation
Keep Swope Parkway United, and other congregations that are in the trenches in prayers
Spirit of Hope - DOC and MCC accepted as a church in the region

Tall Oaks - Nov 14; Tall Oaks Gala, Silent auction donations, cut off is Nov. 1; retreat season - catch up, deferred maintenance, winterizing; volunteer weekend is Oct 11-12; prayers requested to move into intensive fundraising

Becoming Beloved Community - Racial Justice Summit, Nov. 1
Fundraiser - Sunday October 19, 5pm

Financial Update - Kathy Harris

- Good news recovered the unrealized loss, and ended up with an unrealized gain of \$137,000
- Experimental harvesting of gains to recognize them on financial statement
- \$20,000 moved to realized gains
- Allocation income from DMF is down by a lot - one of our churches has not done its normal donation, etc
- Reiterated it is Time to do budgets, etc

There was a proposal to approve next term board meeting dates as published in the regional board agenda

Moved by Raymond, seconded by Lara - approved

Regional Minister Update - Ron Routledge

- Written report

Closing Prayer by Rev. Jill DeFord