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Regional Board Meeting at Belton Christian Church

6:00 pm Monday, September 23, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM Belton CC, Person Hall

Participants:

- Moderator, John Steinmetz (online)
- Moderator-elect, Peggy Chandler
- Treasurer – Kathy Harris (online)
- Past Moderator – Rev. Mary Lou Kegler (online)
- Becoming Beloved Community – Rev. Dr. Vickie Kumerowski
- General Board Representative – Rev. Laura Phillips
- Chair, Tall Oaks Conference Center, Inc. Board Chair – Rev. Dr. Lara Blackwood Pickrel
- Chair, Personnel Committee – Rev. Dr. Chris Wilson
- Chair, Commission on Ministry Innovation – Rev. Kelly Schneikart
- President, Disciples Women’s Ministry – Louise Jones
- Chair, Regional Commission on the Order of the Ministry – Rev. James Vertreese
- Lay Representatives
 - Marla Wills (online)
 - Ron Lewis
 - Keith Asaeli
- Guests
 - Tall Oaks Board – Anna Godsey
 - Disciples Women Evening Program – Susie Arnold
- Hosts
 - Senior Minister, Belton Christian Church - Rev. Louie Lowe
 - Associate Minister, Belton Christian Church – Rev. Steve Crandall
- Regional Staff
 - Camp and Conference Coordinator - Kylie Graham
 - Director of Ministry Innovation - Rev. Amy Shoemaker

- Regional Minister and President - Rev. Bill Rose Heim

- **Welcome/Agenda Review** – no changes were recommended

- **Opening** – Moderator-Elect Peggy Chandler

- **Financial Update** – Kathy Harris

- Kathy referred to her summary report included (along with the most recent financial reports from Disciples Treasury Services on the Regional Board page: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/regional-board>)
 - Total income for the year is \$104,700 compared to a budget of \$91,600 and prior year of \$97,300. Giving and allocated donations are up more than 3.3% from a year ago. Total expenses were in line with, but slightly lower than budget and prior year.
 - Treasury Services Vice President, John Goebel, traveled to Kansas City last month to meet with staff members, the Treasurers of GKC DOC and Tall Oaks, the Financial Secretary and via Zoom with the Budget and Finance Committee. These were very productive meetings with a focus on processes and responsibilities
 - Reviewed Designated Funds to clarify purpose and restrictions for the funds. We anticipate a summary spreadsheet, along with the organized documents, to be the final outcome.

- **UCCR Update** – Peggy Chandler in collaboration with Kathy Harris

- A final invoice was received from UCCR for Tall Oaks management through March 31, 2024 in the amount of \$65,430. This has been disputed due to the condition of the property and assets at Tall Oaks at the end of the contract with UCCR. We are awaiting a response from UCCR.

- **Regional Assembly Update** – Peggy Chandler

- Sixty-six registrations, (ten are families) as of 9/23/2024
- Encouraged board members to personally invite ten others to register at: <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/gkcregionalassembly2024> or via [kcdisciples.org](https://www.kcdisciples.org)
- Reviewed the focus and flow of the event
- Expressed appreciation for the regional assembly planning team

- **Regional Search Committee Approval** – John Steinmetz

- **Mary Lou Kegler -Past Regional Moderator (clergy)**
- **Beverly Dickason -Regional Personnel Committee**
- **Keith Asaeli -Regional Board Member**
- **Merida Acosta -Alfa y Omega Member**
- **Fred Herron -Living Water (clergy)**
- **Izzy Richardson -Regional Youth Council**

- Mark Willis - North Oak Christian Church (clergy)

The motion coming from the regional executive committee, a second was not required. The motion passed with two abstentions.

- Regional Nominating Committee Update – Peggy Chandler

- Reporting for co-chairs, Rev. Tammy Eaton and Rev Tabatha Johnson, the following nominees agreed to serve beginning October 12, 2024 – Regional Assembly, 2026 if elected at the regional assembly:
 - Moderator – Peggy Chandler
 - Moderator-Elect – (awaiting acceptance of nomination)
 - Treasurer – Kathy Harris
 - Secretary – Jill Standley
 - Past Moderator – Rev. Mary Lou Kegler
 - Lay Representatives
 - Anna Godsey
 - Elizabeth Hicks
 - Ron Lewis
 - Raymond McLanahan
 - (Three additional lay representatives still to accept nominations)
 - Given the need to secure additional nominees, the Executive Committee will work with the Nominating Committee co-chairs and those nominees will be on the ballot for consideration at our regional assembly.

The motion coming from the regional executive committee, a second was not required. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

- Personnel Committee Motions – Peggy Chandler and Rev. Dr. Chris Wilson

Chris reviewed the following motions for approval from the Personnel Committee

- A renewed Participation Agreement with the Pension Fund for employees, negotiated with the help of Pension Fund representative Rev. Sarah Renfro, updates option for employee participation in the many Pension Fund products as well as the current pension plan. A copy is posted here: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/regional-board>
- This agreement replaces the one last updated in 2008

The motion coming from the regional personnel committee, a second was not required. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

- New job description/title for Rev. Amy Shoemaker as she transitions to a permanent call in January 2025 was designed by the Commission on Ministry Innovation and reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Personnel Committee.

- Beginning January 1, 2025, Rev. Amy Shoemaker will be the Associate Regional Minister for New Church with expanded duties outlined in the agreement posted here: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/regional-board>
- The title was chosen to reflect the importance of this role in the life of the whole church and to recognize the necessity and authority of Rev. Shoemaker to provide critical leadership for planting new churches in new ways and supporting courageous innovation in existing congregations.

The motion coming from the regional personnel committee, a second was not required. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

- **2024/2025 Board Meeting Dates** – Peggy Chandler introduced a motion to clarify regional board meeting dates through December 2025.

Whereas it is helpful to Greater Kansas City Disciples of Christ and the wider Christian Church to know when regular quarterly meetings are scheduled, and,

Whereas it is always possible to move the date of the regional board quarterly meeting as needed with thirty days published notice at the discretion of the regional moderator, and,

Whereas it has become the preference to meet in-person whenever it is safe to do while accommodating some by including Zoom access. and,

Whereas advance planning for meeting location and accommodations can better be done if dates are set for at least a year in advance

Whereas December board meetings are usually scheduled well before Christmas to allow adequate time for end of year reporting and assuring that budget adjustments are shared with Disciples Treasury services before the holiday week.

Therefore, be it resolved that meetings of the regional board for the next five quarters shall be set and published on the regional calendar as follows with locations and other details to be publicized at least thirty days in advance except in extraordinary circumstances or emergencies:

Monday, December 16, 2024 6 :00 pm

Monday, March 31, 2025 6:00 pm

Monday, June 30, 2025 6:00 pm

Monday, September 29, 2025 6:00 pm

Monday, December 15, 2025 6:00 pm

- **Regional Minister Report** – Bill Rose-Heim invited Kylie Graham and Rev. Amy Shoemaker to share with the board about the work each is doing.

- **Kylie** –
 - Summer church camp numbers are up

- Budget is prepared for 2025
- CYF Mid-Winter registration is open and online at <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/2025-gkc-cyf-midwinter>
- Applications for 2025 Summer Church Camp Counselor/Director are available here: <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/2025-gkc-directorcounselor-application->
- A meeting of the Youth and Children’s Ministers was held in September and there is a desire to continue meeting and collaborating
- Summer Church Camp registrations are set up and will go live in October
- **Amy**
 - Kylie is helping with regional assembly planning and organizing and posting the social media content for this and other regional events
 - Introduced Rev. Kelly Schneikart as the new chair of the Commission on Ministry Innovation
 - A new Hispanic DOC congregation may be in formation in North Kansas City
 - Consulting with Rev. Mindy Fugarino, pastor for the Independence Boulevard Christian Church. This congregation is exploring the creation of a non-profit corporation to manage the campus as the number of community feeding, social service, arts and health care programs expands bringing together an intersection of neighbors and organizations in the northeast part of Kansas City
 - The Commission on Ministry Innovation offered a workshop for congregations in June which revealed that congregations need community with one another and ongoing support that will take the form of exploring the need and opportunity, training, coaching, and seed funds for new programs. Enrolling congregations in the year-long congregational vitality program with Rev. Shoemaker and Terrell McTyre -former director of the New Church Ministry serving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada. (Contact Rev. Shoemaker or any of the staff using the contact form on the bottom of <https://www.kcdisciples.org/>)
 - Amy and Terrell will facilitate the Saturday morning session of the regional assembly
- **Bill**
 - Elaborated on the elements of a PowerPoint of his report found here: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/regional-board>
 - During that report he asked Rev. Dr. Lara Blackwood Pickrel to share what is happening at the Tall Oaks Conference Center, Inc.: <https://www.talloaks.org/>
 - The board has been meeting every other week for months and its members and staff have volunteered hundreds of hours
 - There are many noticeable improvements in the quality of the user experience and the look and feel of the campus
 - She shared the positive feedback received from user groups
 - They are “selling hope”
 - A Volunteer Weekend featuring work, worship, fellowship and great food will be held October 19 and 20

- *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt is recommended for anyone working with children and adults born after 1997. The research conducted on the effects of unsupervised, unregulated access to the internet on children and youth since 2010 while their brains are still developing. Results show a statistically significant rise in rates of depression, anxiety, addiction, and suicide. How is the Church supporting parents, children, and youth? How are we holding responsible unscrupulous practices organizations utilizing sophisticated algorithms and AI generated content to manipulate and profit from the vulnerable?
- Scholarships from the Kansas Leadership Center are still available for 2024 and 2025. In 2025 registration will be coordinated by the Tri-Regional Partnership Initiative. The 2025 schedule is posted here: <https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/the-klc-path/> Registrations will be open this October!
- Peggy Chandler, Jessica Lopez, and Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice will lead the Greater Kansas City core team for recruiting and organizing KLC participants. Every congregation deserves to have a team of three apply for scholarships for the online or in-person events (some which will be hosted in Kansas City)
- The Tri-Regional Partnership is growing stronger! In addition to a tri-regional boards retreat in Topeka in August, a team of twenty from the Kansas, Nebraska, and Greater Kansas City regions will continue planning experiments in creative cross-regional collaboration for 2025 during a Lead for Change workshop October 15-17, 2024
- We expressed appreciation for the outstanding leadership of Moderator John Steinmetz during one of the most pivotal times in the history of our region
- We gave thanks to our hosts at the Belton Christian Church for warm hospitality and delicious food!

- Closing

- Rev, Amy Shoemaker led us in a closing prayer