

Southeast Gateway Area (SEGA)

Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2008
Orchard Crest Camp

The Board of Directors of SEGA met at Orchard Crest Camp on April 19, 2008.

Present were Patricia Clark, Penny Ross-Corona, Doug Cripe, Sara Crump, Jon Daniel, Norma Ellington-Twitty, Joy Faires, Melissa Feldhouse, Jacque Foster, Ashley Gordon, Andrew Handy, Dennis Henson, Barbara Jarmin, Sharon Keith, Kay Marshall, Shannon McGuire, Tom Melton, Troy Dooley, Margie Pride, Doyle Taylor, Steven Williams, and Dietra Wise.

Jacque Foster called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and offered the opening prayer. Penny Ross-Corona provided the devotional, in the absence of Charlsi Lewis who was unable to attend. The focus of the devotional was the body of Christ and the scripture cited was 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31, Penny's favorite.

Doug Cripe welcomed the group and moderated the meeting.

Educational Moment: Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Task Force

At the Board Meeting of January 12, 2008, it was recommended that there be an "Educational Moment" related to racism at each board meeting. Margie Pride led the Board through an exercise that illustrated the difference in life experiences and perceptions of different racial groups. The debriefing focused on member's reactions to the exercise and the effects of institutional racism, some of which are covert, in contrast to more blatant instances of individual racism. Sometime persons are not aware of the racist implications of their statements or actions. We need to develop the trust across races that will enable us to communicate in an open, honest, and non-judgmental manner.

Sharing of the News from Our Congregations

Members shared the following news from their congregations: formed a Membership Committee that sends birthday cards and provides name tags at Worship; "Bring A Friend to Church Day; hired an Associate Minister to conduct a contemporary service; Hike Against Hunger to benefit Darfur; mission trips to New Orleans; gospel singer from Australia; and congregational exchange services to celebrate Easter and Maundy Thursday.

Minutes: (See Report, pp 5-9)

The minutes of the January 12, 2008 Board Meeting and the February 28, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting were presented. Steven Williams moved that the minutes be accepted, Troy Dooley seconded. Motion passed.

Jacque Foster highlighted the section of the Executive Committee Minutes that indicated a 2008 SEGA Board award of \$25,000 from the Raney Farm Board.

Treasurer's Report: (See Report, pp 10-13)

Penny Ross-Corona explained circumstances that contributed to confer with Melissa Feldhaus, Financial Coordinator, to present new budget reports to replace the ones in the packet.

Out of the discussion came a motion from Steven Williams that the Administrative Assistant not be a check signer. Kay Marshall seconded. Motion passed.

Moderator's Report: (No report, No action)

Doug Cripe confirmed the working relationship he has had with Penny to handle personnel issues.

Administrative Report: (No report, No action)

Penny Ross-Corona indicated that Joy Faires has agreed to serve as the Administrative Division chair.

Property Report: (See Report, No action)

Jon Daniel distributed the Property Report. He indicated that the team is preparing for an exciting year at Orchard Crest. Needed repairs will be made prior to camp. Utility and food costs are up. He reminded the Board that this is truly one of our greatest ministries.

Ministry Report: (See Report, p 15)

Penny Ross-Corona indicated that Mike Dixon was sick and unable to attend the meeting. She referred members to the Ministry Report on page 15, which indicated that the Division held its annual meeting on January 15, 2008. Orientation and review of the Division's function were provided for new members. The Committee also interviewed and recommended the renewal of licenses for four applicants.

Discussion:

There was a discussion of how Committee Reports are distributed. Board members requested that all Reports be forwarded by e-mail at least one week prior to the Board Meeting. Penny Ross-Corona requested that chairs of committees submit their reports in time for her to keep that deadline.

Mission Report: (See Report, pp 16-22)

Penny Ross-Corona indicated that Larry Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. She mentioned the following highlights from this Report: closure of the Wentzville church start as of January 31, 2008; officially launching of Lake Saint Louis new church start LifeWind Christian Church on April 1, 2008, under the direction of Reverend Larry Hill; continuing support of Reverend Dietra Wise and the members of Liberation Christian Church; and sponsorship of a workshop by Alan Roxburgh in September 2008 at Community Christian Church in Manchester.

Dietra Wise reported that evangelism and building a new church is "hard". She has taken steps to actively market the church and participate in community activities to reach more people.

PR/AR Task Force applied for and received a grant of \$5300. The next training is on June 19-21, 2008 at the Regional Office in Jefferson City. Scholarships are available.

Nurture Report: (See Report, p 24)

Brian Kirk indicated they are recruiting camp counselors and preparing for a successful camping season at Orchard Crest. The Report included the full Summer Camp Schedule. A number of members indicated their involvement as camp counselors and highly recommended the camping experience for youth and adults.

Nominations Report: (See Resignation Letter, p 25)

Margie Pride reminded the Board that at the Area Assembly a partial slate of SEGA Board nominees was presented and approved. The Assembly authorized the SEGA Board to elect the remaining members.

She indicated that David Woodward forwarded a resignation letter to Penny Ross-Corona on April 9, 2008.

The Nomination Committee moved approval of the following individuals for a two-year term on the SEGA Board: Patricia Clark and Jimmie Chambers, Jr. of Centennial Christian Church and Joy Faires of Hamilton Christian Church. Kay Marshall seconded and the motion passed.

Area Minister Report: (See Report, pp 26-27)

Penny Ross-Corona presented her report. She indicated that new Administrative Assistant, Susan Moore has been hired and will likely start the end of May. She has a rich background that more than qualifies her for the position. She is married to the new Pastor of Webster Groves Christian Church.

Old Business:

Penny Ross-Corona provided an update regarding the ECHO program. The trend is to care for children in homes, so there is less need for residential programs. There have also been fewer referrals for the Olive Branch program for pregnant and parenting teens. As of June 2008 it is expected that there will be no children on the ECHO campus. A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from Disciple congregations, continues to meet and shape a new vision for ministry on the ECHO campus. Their next step is to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to guide program development. There will be an ECHO Fundraiser at Webster Groves Christian Church in April. Some of the funds raised will be used to help children who are moving off the ECHO campus.

In terms of the missionary update, Penny indicated that the missionary we will be supporting with our St. Louis New Missionary Initiative has been named to a four-year term in Haiti beginning September 1, 2008. He is Patrick Bentrott, who is 30 years old and is completing his Master of Divinity degree. He is married to Kimberly Bentrott, who is a physician and has been appointed to serve with Patrick as a means to improve the quality of health care for Haitians. Penny will have a two-week immersion trip opportunity to Haiti in February 2009. Steven Williams moved that the Board authorize Penny to go on the trip. Kay Marshall seconded and the motion passed.

New Business: (See Report, pp 28-30)

The Board approved housing allowances of \$12,000 for Reverend Larry D. Hill and \$12,782 for Dietra Wise.

Melissa Feldhaus presented a summary of the awards made from the Bridgeton Fund: (1) Total funds requested from 10 churches (\$50,517); (2) Amount granted to seven churches (\$22,300); and (3) Funds available for disbursement in the next cycle (\$22,343.32)

Jacque Foster agreed to conduct the opening devotional at the next meeting. Doug Cripe gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Norma Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D., Secretary/Parliamentarian