

# **Southeast Gateway Area Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 18, 2009  
Orchard Crest Camp**

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America met at Orchard Crest Camp on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Present were Jimmie Chambers, Jr., Doug Cripe, Jim Davis, Mike Dixon, Troy Dooley, Joy Faires, Melissa Feldhaus, Andy Handy, Margaret Handy, Barbara Jarman, Tom Melton, Joe Mooney, John Morton, Margie Pride, Penny Ross-Corona, Dave Sager, Doyle Taylor, Larry Thomas, Steven Williams, Dietra Wise, and Susan Moore.

Moderator Doug Cripe called the meeting to order at 10:00.

John Morton led the opening devotion, reading John 20:19-31 and reminding us that without hope, peace means nothing and that the gift of the Holy Spirit comes with the responsibility of living as God intends.

Margie Pride presented a story that she heard from Frank Proctor describing how white robes once belonging to the Ku Klux Klan were found in the 'secret room' of a building scheduled for demolition. These garments, once symbols of separation, hatred, and violence, were reborn into a life of community, joy, and sacred celebration as baptismal robes. She reminded us to be vehicles of unity, not division.

Doug Cripe welcomed the group and asked that everyone introduce him/herself. Jim Davis was introduced by Joe Mooney as the new pastor of First Christian Church in Matthews.

## **Minutes from the January 17, 2009 Meeting**

The minutes from the Board's last meeting were not read as they had been emailed to the group prior to the meeting (Board packet pages 1-4). Steven Williams moved to approve the minutes. Larry Thomas seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Melissa Feldhaus presented the financial report as it distributed prior to the meeting. Penny Ross-Corona highlighted the fact that, due to the fact that market fluctuation has rendered a 36% loss in the Bridgeton Fund, there will be no Bridgeton grants this year.

Larry Thomas moved to receive the report as presented. Dave Sager seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **Moderator's Report**

Doug Cripe presented the report of the Orchard Crest Task Force which had been distributed prior to the meeting (Board packet page 5). He noted that the deadline for completing the Orchard Crest survey had been extended to accommodate anyone wishing to complete one at a Listening Conference, and urged all present to complete one.

## **Executive Committee**

Doug Cripe presented the Executive Committee report in the absence of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Moderator Jacque Foster (Board packet page 6).

### **Administrative Report**

Joy Faires presented the Administrative Division Report (page 7 of the Board packet). She presented a revised SEGA personnel policy (Board packet page 8) and revised job descriptions for the Area Minister, Administrative Assistant, Camp Manager, Camp Dining Facility Manager/Head Cook, and Camp Pool Manager/Lifeguard (Board packet pages 9-13). She explained that no major changes had been made but the job descriptions are more uniform now and should be reviewed and updated regularly. Penny Ross-Corona expressed her gratitude to Joy and the committee for their hard work on this project.

Mike Dixon moved to approve the new job descriptions. Steven Williams seconded the motion which passed.

### **Property Committee Report**

There was no Property Committee Report. It was noted that there is a work day scheduled for Orchard Crest on Saturday, May 16 (unfortunately, the same day as the Women's Enrichment Conference in Dexter). There is also a youth work retreat scheduled for the weekend of May 16-17. Flyers with details for both of these events were available.

### **Ministry Division Report**

Mike Dixon presented the Ministry Division Report (Board packet page 14) highlighting the renewal of license for 6 ministers. Penny Ross-Corona added an explanation of this process and how it differs from the process of credentialing a minister from another denomination, as was the case for Matthews' Jim Davis.

### **Mission Division Report**

Larry Thomas presented the Mission Division Report (Board packet page 15) noting the closing of the LifeWind Christian Church start. There was some discussion centering around the very good efforts of Rev. Larry Hill which, unfortunately did not meet with success in that particular area at this time.

Dietra Wise of Liberation Christian Church outlined her written report (Board packet page 19) highlighting the recent launch to weekly services. The launch service was a great success, as was the following Sunday's Easter service, which was even covered by the Riverfront Times newspaper.

There was no Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism report in the Board packet but there is a training session on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Union Avenue Christian Church and First Christian Church in Sikeston. This training is designed to be a primer for the Crossroads training scheduled for June 18-20 at Rickman Center. (Steven Williams mentioned that the session in Sikeston may be canceled, but that was not yet confirmed at the time of the meeting. It has since been canceled.) More advanced training will be offered in October.

### **Nurture Division Report**

The Nurture Division Report was distributed at the meeting as an amendment to the emailed packet. The Christian Education event held on March 28<sup>th</sup> was a success. It was led by Karen Tye, Brian Kirk, and Charlsi Lewis. Special thanks to the First Christian Church in Festus for hosting the event. We are hopeful about camp registrations coming in soon.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Margie Pride presented the Nominating Committee Report and distributed hard copies. The nominating committee met on March 4<sup>th</sup> to begin the work of compiling a list of new members to be reviewed at the August Board meeting and presented at the Area Assembly in September. Based on the number of current members completing their second term, and the number of members who declined serving a second term, the committee must fill 20 posts. Please contact Margie with any recommendations you may have from your congregation.

### **Area Minister's Report**

Penny Ross-Corona presented the Area Minister's report (Board packet page 20) noting that a large portion of her day-to-day activities are of a confidential nature and cannot be represented in more detail. She highlighted her February trip to Hispaniola and reported that she will be making presentations about her trip at a Regional clergy retreat, the SEGA Women's Spring Assembly, and the Prime Timers Spring Rendezvous.

### **Old Business**

Penny outlined our current Global Ministries relationships, namely that Mid-America is a Global Mission Region and SEGA is currently in an official missionary relationship with Patrick and Kimberly Bentrott currently serving in Haiti. She described the implications of being a Global Mission Area and assured everyone that there is no financial commitment involved. Steven Williams moved that SEGA become a Global Mission Area. Dietra Wise second the motion which carried.

A letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Moderator Ashley Gordon (Board packet page 21) was presented and reviewed. A planning committee is in place and the date, theme, and speaker have been set (September 19, Radical Hospitality, and Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson respectively). The committee is asking for input from congregations for workshops centering around the radical hospitality theme.

### **New Business**

Memorial Boulevard Christian Church is holding its annual Hike Against Hunger on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to participate by walking, sponsoring a walker, and/or praying for the success and safety of the event.

The August 8, 2009 meeting will be held at Abbey Road Christian Church in Cape Girardeau. Troy Dooley will give the devotion.

The Area Assembly will be on September 19, 2009 at Union Avenue Christian Church.

The January Board meeting will be held on January 30, 2010 at a location to be announced. This date was approved based on a motion by Steven Williams, seconded by Dave Sager.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan Moore  
SEGA Administrative Assistant