

**Southeast Gateway Area
Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2010
Fredericktown Christian Church**

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America met at Fredericktown Christian Church on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Present were Clela Anderson, Larry Brewington, Doug Cripe, Jon Daniel, Michael Dixon, Norma Ellington-Twitty, Joy Faires, Jacque Foster, Howard Goodrich, Andy Handy, Greg Heinsman, Sharon Keith, Steve Knuckles, William Lyon, Kay Marshall, Lois Ann Meyer, Mary McCord, Judy Ridlen, Penny Ross-Corona, Richard Stis, Larry Thomas, Shannon Walton, Katie Wodell, Tom Wood, and Susan Moore.

Also present were Dale Berck, Helen Berck, Jason Boyer, Frances Clark, Larry Colvin, Marcy Dotson, Nancy Dotson, Darrell Faires, Dottie Fritsche, Mary Ellen Halbbrook, Nancy Halbbrook, John Harwell, Lois Johnson, Bob Pauls, Janet Pauls, Alana Pulliam, Emily Pulliam, Mike Pulliam, Sarah Pulliam, Marlene Ragland, Beth Slusser, Helen Stacy, Teri Stis, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Thompson, Mary Jo Voertmann, James Wade, Bill White, Gene Williams, Leanna Williams, Steven Williams, Allie Wilson, Anthony Wilson, Jean Wilson, Koreanna Wilson, and Toni Wilson.

Moderator Jacque Foster called the meeting to order at 10:00 and thanked those who were present for being on time.

As Lura Flowers could not be present, Mary McCord led the devotion. She read from Ecclesiastes chapter three (noting also The Birds' rendition) about everything having its time. She noted that the decisions made today will set change into motion, and prayed for the unity of God's people to proceed forward.

There was no Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism moment but we plan to have these at our board meetings in the future.

Jacque invited those present to introduce themselves and to share what congregation they are from.

At this point in the meeting, everyone went to Orchard Crest for a tour led by Jon Daniel. We were able to see the storm damage to both the valley and hill cabins and conference centers, as well as the clean up that has taken place so far.

Minutes from the January 30, 2010 Meeting

The minutes from the Board's last meeting were not read as they had been emailed to the group both immediately following that meeting and just prior to this meeting (Board packet pages 2-4). Larry Thomas moved to approve the minutes. Tom Wood seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Wood presented the treasurer's report (Board packet pages 5-8). Page five contained his motion to approve using up to \$25,000 of logging money to fund 2010 Orchard Crest expenses. Larry Brewington seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Moderator's Report

Jacque Foster made no additions or corrections to the Moderator's Report as it appeared on page nine of the Board packet.

Executive Committee

Norma Ellington-Twitty made no additions or corrections to the Executive Committee meeting minutes as they appeared on pages 10 and 11 of the Board packet.

Nominating Committee Report

Doug Cripe presented the Nominating Committee Report (separate page of Board packet) and the three members, Doug Cripe, Howard Goodrich, and Sharon Keith were approved unanimously.

Administrative Report

Joy Faires made no additions or corrections to the Administrative Division Report as it appeared on page 12 of the Board packet.

Ministry Division Report

Michael Dixon made no additions or corrections to the Ministry Division Report as it appeared on page 12 of the Board packet.

Mission Division Report

Larry Thomas presented the Mission Division Report noting that the date of April 24 in the first paragraph should read March 24.

Nurture Division Report

Brian Kirk was not present but had submitted a report from the Nurture Division (Board packet page 16).

Area Minister's Report

Penny Ross-Corona made no additions or corrections to the Area Minister's Report as it appeared on page 22 of the Board packet.

Old Business

To open the discussion of the divestiture of Orchard Crest, Jacque Foster distributed the 'Gathering Prayers' that were utilized in last month's Orchard Crest information meetings and everyone read the Statement of Covenant.

Doug Cripe made a presentation which was an abbreviated version of the one made at the Orchard Crest information meetings. It included the Orchard Crest task force and Kaleidoscope recommendation that SEGA divest itself of the camp property.

There was much discussion surrounding this issue. Some of the notable comments and questions follow:

- George McKinney from Fredericktown asked why there was no money donated by the Raney Farm Board this year. Jon Daniel (one of four Raney Farm Board members present) suggested that it was because the Raney Farm Board is dedicated to youth ministry, and that because of the storm, Orchard Crest may not continue to be used.
- Norma Ellington-Twitty identified the two separate issues of (1) whether or not to divest of the property and (2) how exactly to do that.
- Jacque Foster added that, as was requested at the most recent Executive Committee/Orchard Crest Task Force meeting, the possibility of creating a separate board for Orchard Crest was investigated. Attorney Donna Wood of Webster Groves Christian Church was consulted. Jacque reported that a separate board would not be feasible for the current situation.
- Richard Stis raised the possibility of incorporating Orchard Crest.
- Andy Handy suggested that we would just need to raise the money somehow.

- Larry Thomas noted that Orchard Crest has been losing money for some time and that if any of our congregations were run the same way, they would be closed.
- Norma Ellington-Twitty commented that even Camp MoVal is having financial difficulty and that facility is in much better shape than Orchard Crest.
- Penny Ross-Corona reiterated the Area's commitment to Outdoor Ministries regardless of what becomes of Orchard Crest noting that last summer she had to scramble to find and create 'top drawer' Outdoor Ministries opportunities after the storm. She also posed the question of stewardship asking if it is more responsible to direct funds into a Region-wide program or continue to direct funds to Orchard Crest.

Nancy Dotson, with additions by Marlene Ragland and Marcy Dotson, presented the proposal submitted by Farmington Christian Church with the support of Hematite First Christian Church, First Christian Church of Bonne Terre, First Christian Community Church of Centreville, IL, and (since the printed copy was submitted) Flat River Christian Church (Board packet pages 24-31). The group requested more time to expand their vision, recruit more congregations, meet again, and possibly consult an attorney.

Discussion after this proposal focused primarily on the financial implications of such a plan, concerns being raised about the Area underwriting the requested five year time period, and whether there will be enough campers to make the endeavor financially viable after that time.

Steven Williams presented his proposal (Board packet pages 32-33), noting that he feels that 2 things should happen at the same time:

1. A capital campaign raising \$750,000 in cash, not pledges.
2. An investigation into how to best sell the property should #1 fail.

There was concern about the Area financing the one to two years these processes would take.

Jacque Foster thanked everyone for their passion, hard work, and contributions to the discussion.

Larry Thomas brought up a third option: Sell the property.

At the end of the considerable discussion, Norma Ellington-Twitty moved that the Board delay its vote on the divestiture of Orchard Crest until its August 7th meeting, and that the Executive Committee provide very specific requirements for any proposals submitted for the Orchard Crest property prior to that meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Wood and passed unanimously.

There was no New Business.

The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday, August 7th at Hawk Point Christian Church.

The January 29th, 2011 meeting will be held at Crossroads Christian Church.

Howard Goodrich ended the meeting with prayer at 3:09.

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan Moore
 SEGA Administrative Assistant