

**Southeast Gateway Area
Board Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2010
Hamilton Christian Church**

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America met at Hamilton Christian Church on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

Present were Clela Anderson, Jimmie Chambers, Jr., George Christman, Doug Cripe, Michael Dixon, Norma Ellington-Twitty, Joy Faires, Lura Flowers, Jacque Foster, Janet Fowler, Howard Goodrich, Sharon Keith, Janet Kingston, Steve Knuckles, William Lyon, Altha Marsh, Kay Marshall, Don Miller, Judy Ridlen, Susan Robson, Penny Ross-Corona, Richard Stis, Larry Thomas, Shannon Walton, Katie Wodell, Tom Wood, David Woodard, and Susan Moore.

Penny Ross-Corona welcomed everyone and Moderator Jacque Foster called the meeting to order at 10:04.

Kay Marshall led the opening devotion and prayer, recounting the story "A Fork in Her Right Hand," and reminding us that if we know God, we know that at our death something better is coming.

Jacque invited those present to introduce themselves and to share what congregation they are from as well as one role they play in the church.

Minutes from the August 8, 2009 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 2-5). David Woodard moved to approve the minutes. Janet Fowler seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Penny Ross-Corona noted that there would not be a Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism moment as there is not currently a representative from that task force on the Board. She said that she hopes to be able to arrange for such a moment in future meetings and gave thanks for the many ways that SEGA congregations work toward pro-reconciliation and anti-racism, making a more complete congregation with all God's people.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Wood presented the treasurer's report (Board packet pages 6-9). He also presented the 2010 Area Minister's compensation outline (Board packet page 10) and moved that the Board approve the housing allowance of \$33,000. Larry Thomas seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Moderator's Report

Jacque reported that she attended the most recent Orchard Crest Task Force meeting but that Doug Cripe would be covering that information at a later point in the meeting. There was no written report but she let everyone know that she is delighted to be working with the Board. She was then presented with a gift by Immediate Past Moderator Doug Cripe.

Executive Committee

There was no Executive Committee report as there had been no activity since the last meeting.

Administrative Report

Joy Faires presented the Administrative Division report (Board packet page 11) and then turned the floor over to Doug Cripe for his Orchard Crest Task Force report (Board packet page 12). Doug outlined the recent work of the task force and then distributed the final report of Jody Oates, a consultant with Kaleidoscope inc., who

has toured and evaluated Orchard Crest. Each Board member received a copy of this report which was then read aloud in its entirety. His recommendation to the Task Force is that the Area divest of the Orchard Crest property. Doug went on to say that the Task Force recommends to the Board that they accept Jody's recommendation and divest of Orchard Crest. Given the complex nature of this decision and the emotional component involved, the Task Force recommended that the Board talk about it, pray about it, and vote on the issue at the April meeting.

There was much discussion including input from Task Force member and guest to the meeting, Don Miller. The discussion had the following outcomes:

- The Moderator and Area Minister will write a letter to the Area outlining the task force's recommendation to the Board and will include the Kaleidoscope report. This letter will be sent out by email to our entire distribution list and will be published on our website.
- The task force will schedule four informational meetings to be held before the April Board meeting, two to be held in the northern part of the Area and two in the southern. The purpose of these meetings will be to provide an opportunity for any interested parties to have their questions answered and their reflections heard. There will be no voting or polling component to these meetings.
- At its April meeting the Board will vote on whether or not to divest of Orchard Crest Camp.

Ministry Division Report

Michael Dixon presented the Ministry Division report (Board packet page 13). He noted that the Division is charged with the responsibility of approving ministerial licenses. In a recent meeting, the Division renewed the licenses of 5 ministers. He is interested in expanding the Division to include in its membership more geographic and ethnic diversity, as well as a combination of clergy and lay leaders.

There will be 2 ordinations in the Area before the next meeting. Lura Flowers' daughter, Fay Barnes Blevins, will be ordained at Dover Place Christian Church on June 5th. Dawn Ingram will be ordained at Webster Groves Christian Church on June 27th.

Mission Division Report

Larry Thomas presented the Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Task Force report (Board packet page 14) and the report from Christian Church under the Broom Tree (Board packet pages 15-17), which began meeting in December 2009. There will be more information about Pastor Lee and the new church in future editions of the Connection. There was some discussion about a possible revitalization evangelism-event. This issue will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Nurture Division Report

Nurture Division chair Brian Kirk had submitted a report (Board packet page 18) but was not present.

Area Minister's Report

Penny Ross-Corona presented the Area Minister's report (Board packet page 20), noting that it continues to be a privilege to serve the Area. She lifted up the Bentratts and encouraged everyone to continue to support the earthquake victims in whatever ways we can, remembering our identity as a Global Mission Area.

Old Business

The Orchard Crest Task Forces recommended that the Board utilize funds obtained through the sale of Orchard Crest timber to pay the expenses of the Kaleidoscope consultation (\$1,406.65). This passed unanimously. This will be reflected on a Projected Income and Expenses Summary for Orchard Crest for the next meeting.

New Business

Larry Thomas moved that we require 2 signatures on SEGA checks written for over \$5,000. The motion further stipulated that the signers for the checking account should be the Area Minister, the Financial Coordinator, the Moderator, and the First Vice-Moderator. The motion was seconded by Richard Stis and carried unanimously.

The Area Minister asked everyone to encourage their congregations to submit a 2010 Estimate of Giving if they haven't already done so.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th at Fredericktown Christian Church and will include a tour of Orchard Crest. Lura Flowers will provide the devotion and opening prayer.

The August 7th meeting will be tentatively held at Hawk Point Christian Church.

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

Janet Fowler ended the meeting with prayer at 1:42.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Moore
SEGA Administrative Assistant