

2020 Regional Assembly Business Documents



Minutes of the 2018 Regional Assembly

The Christian Church in Indiana gathered on October 5 – 6, 2018 at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana for a time of fellowship, worship, learning, and business. Diane Zehr opened the Regional Assembly by welcoming those in attendance. Following a meal, Michael Erickson, John Ray, and Paula Pettis-Garrett provided music. Rev. David Hampton and Chad Abbott brought greetings to those gathered for the Assembly.

Rick Spleth introduced the keynote speaker, Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows. Bishop Baskerville-Burrow addressed the Assembly regarding how we speak with and are with one another with respect to difficult topics. Her keynote address included conversations with those at tables. The first evening of the Assembly ended with music and prayer.

The Saturday, October 6, 2108 session opened with music provided by Rick Vale, Linda McRae, and Julia Bratton. Moderator, Matt Rosine, welcomed those gathered for the Assembly. He introduced the Indiana Regional Staff and thanked them for their service to the Region.

Rick Spleth addressed the Assembly with a message of “Can We Listen”. The real question is “Can we listen”? The ability to have healthy conversations has diminished and the casualty is face to face conversations. The hope is to bolster confidence and the capacity to have conversations within the family, the community, and the congregation. The church has a hearing problem. Hearing can be fixed. Listening takes time and intentionality. Hearing the testimony of one whose race, gender, and pain are different from yours. Let’s listen and then we can talk.

Barbee Sale and Recognition of Larry Bray *by Andrew Bell and Carolyn Reed*

- A decision was made to part ways with the Barbee Christian Camp.
- On July 25, 2108, Barbee was put up for auction. The Regional Board decided to take an offer of over \$500,000.00. The final bid was \$1,575,000.00.
- A decision regarding what is to be done with the funds is being made. The funds may be invested in a manner similar to the funds from the sale of the Indian Lake Camp.
- Over 200 camp scholarships will be funded each year.
- Carolyn Reed recognized all who ever oversaw, were camp directors, were camp counselors, attended, or went to Camp Barbee.
- Larry Brey was honored for his service as the Barbee caretaker for the past five years and presented with a tray with the lakes of Kosciusko County inscribed on it.

Celebration of 10-year Partnership with Congo *by Julia Brown Karimu*

- Julia Brown Karimu thanked the Disciples of Christ in Indiana for God’s witness in the world. A sense of community was developed between the Disciples of Christ in Indiana and Disciples in the Mbandaka District during the 10-year partnership. Ms. Brown Karimu gave thanks for the leadership of Rick Spleth.
- Global Ministry celebrates the new mission commitment to Mexico.
- Sue Cardwell gave blessings to Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles from Bloomington, IN as they prepare for service in Lesotho, South Africa.

Launch of Mexico Initiative *by Laura Arico*

- We have been sharing partnerships around the world for 40 years.

- The theme of the Assembly is conversations.
- This will be an initial 2-year initiative. Indiana Disciples of Christ will have four opportunities to make trips to the Mexico region. The trips will be about listening, speaking, and acting in love. The hope is that organic relationships will grow out of the pilgrimages.
- In 2020 a delegation from Mexico will be invited to attend the 2020 Indiana Regional Assembly.

Youth Conversations on Race *by Bere Gil Soto*

- Since April 2018, the youth of the Region have been meeting every other month and have delved into the intersection of race and other issues.
- Several of the youth spoke about the intersection and the most impactful aspects of the conversation.
 - Each person has a biases of which we are unaware. There are stereotypes which we grow up with and do not realize that they offend.
 - The conversation zone is a conflict-free zone.
 - How poverty is related to race. Racism is prevalent in the prison system and more money is placed in the prison system rather than in the education system.
 - Mental health and race. There are several barriers to mental health due to race. The church needs to discuss how mental health is affected by race.
- The conversations were able to be held because of a grant that was received. If there is an interest, they will be applying for the next grant.

FLOURISH! Project *by Cynthia Newman*

- FLOURISH is a clergy economic program.
- The mission is to alleviate part of the challenges that clergy face.
- There are two programs: (1) Financial Relief Grant and (2) Compensation Relief Grant
- Clergy receive training via the Financial Literacy Academy.
- 24 Financial Relief Grants have been conferred, offering direct financial assistance of up to \$15,000.00 with an additional 20% funding to off-set taxes.
- 12 Compensation Support Grants have been conferred to congregations providing \$21,000.00 over three years to bolster the compensation of clergy staff.
- The first group of grantees have graduated and \$220,000.00 in checks were issued to the program participants.
- Five Financial Literacy Academy academies have been conducted, equipping 200 leaders from 32 congregations in personal and congregational finance.
- 29 clergy and lay leaders have been trained in the Lake Institute Executive Certification in Religious Fundraising.
- Nine Launch and Progress events have been hosted around the State of Indiana to raise over \$160,000.00 in matching funds.
- In December 2017, 12 clergy graduated and received the Financial Relief Grant. The clergy reported a decrease in debt and an increase in income.
- A video was shown with testimonials from clergy regarding the impact of the FLOURISH Program.
- The Region is in the process of applying for a sustainability grant.

Regional Elders Recognition *by Bill Bass and John Hinant*

- Bill Bass recognized the Regional Elders. The Regional Elders are a group of experienced persons within the Region who provide contact and care to the congregations in the Region.
- Bill Bass recognized the past Regional Elders.
- John Hinant issued a charge and a blessing to the new Regional Elders.

Minutes of the 2016 Assembly *by Michelle Hall*

- A motion to approve the minutes was made, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report *by Belinda King*

- Disciples Mission Fund is ahead by 3% for the first time in 17 years.
- Christmas giving is trending up.
- The Region is in the black. Extra funds have been placed in undesignated funds.
- The Region is helping three new congregations.
- There was a recognition of the top 20 congregations.
- The Financial Report was received and accepted by the Assembly.

Nomination Committee *by Julia Johnson*

- The slate of nominees was presented.
- The Nominating Committee's report was received and accepted.

Video – An Awkward Dinner Discussion *by Matt Rosine*

- A Saturday Night Live skit of an awkward conversation was shown.

Explanation of the Afternoon Process *by Diane Zehr*

- The process for the afternoon was explained.
- Those leading the group discussions were acknowledged.
- Two questions were posed for consideration as conversations were being held.
 - What is it in my own view that troubles me?
 - What is it in the other viewpoint that is not mine that I can embrace?

Announcements by Moderator *by Matt Rosine*

- Those who made the weekend possible were recognized.
- A special recognition was made to Lynn Martin as the 2018 Regional Assembly Chairperson.
- Rev. David Hampton and the hosts from Light of the World Christian Church were thanked.
- Matt Rosine closed the Business Meeting.

Bill Kincaid offered a prayer for the meal.

Submitted by Michelle Hall, Regional Board Secretary

Christian Church in Indiana
Statements of Financial Position
As of 12/31/2019 and 2018

	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$158,381	\$13,818
Accounts Receivable	38,281	34,903
Prepaid Expenses	6,070	6,024
Investments held at CCF	4,196,801	3,949,853
Investments held at Church Extension	1,230,024	1,005,820
Warrant Capital (Interchurch Center)	260,349	260,349
Notes Receivable	1,010,949	1,108,807
Property & Equipment-Net of Accumulated Depreciation	34,664	30,765
Total Assets	<u>\$6,935,519</u>	<u>\$6,410,338</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$8,608	\$18,366
Deferred Revenue	0	350,000
Loans Payable	1,010,949	1,108,807
Total Liabilities	<u>\$1,019,557</u>	<u>\$1,477,173</u>
Net Assets		
Net Assets Without Donor Restictions	\$5,220,931	\$4,654,220
Net Assets With Donor Restictions	695,031	278,945
Total Net Assets	<u>\$5,915,962</u>	<u>\$4,933,165</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$6,935,519</u>	<u>\$6,410,338</u>

**Christian Church in Indiana
Statements in Activity - Unrestricted**

Support & Revenue	2019	2018
Disciples Mission Fund	\$269,830	\$261,959
Annual Appeal	30,968	31,346
Annual Appeal-Indiana Christian	3,886	3,050
Designated Operating Income	6,785	8,866
Distributed CCF Income	31,390	31,776
Christmas Offering	40,969	36,295
Investment Income	107,137	102,201
Program & Event Income (Incl. Reg Assembly 2018)	24,123	41,944
Camp Income	34,142	31,043
Honoraria & Miscellaneous	89,518	49,235
Total Support & Revenue	\$638,748	\$597,715
	2019	2018
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	\$398,690	\$355,124
Travel	19,788	22,486
Facilities	39,646	33,160
Office Expenses	48,985	41,274
Professional Services	21,460	21,460
Board & Committee Expenses	652	2,020
Indiana Christian	9,167	9,692
Community & Global Concerns	5,213	4,200
Stewardship and Development	5,269	3,654
Congregational Equip Min & Transform	3,000	3,000
Women's Ministry	9,386	1,256
Other Programs & Events	1,274	2,085
Commission on Ministry	3,799	1,298
Youth Commission	9,159	7,373
Camp Expenses	36,157	40,285
Regional Assembly Expense	0	30,225
Total Expenses	\$611,645	\$578,592
Change in Net Assets	\$27,104	\$19,123
Operating Net Assets at beginning of year	\$152,700	\$133,577
Operating Net Assets at end of year	\$179,804	\$152,700

Constitution Committee report to the 2020 Regional Assembly

In response to counsel from the Regional Board that the Commission on Resources and Structure as described in the Constitution which was adopted in 2014 has not functioned as designed for the benefit of the Region and our congregations, the Constitution Committee proposes the change described below. This change has been affirmed by the Regional Board in their meeting on August 15, 2020.

ARTICLE VIII - REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Prior Version

- I. Commission on Resources and Structure
 1. The Commission on Resources and Structure will work with those who are engaged in providing resources for ministry and mission for the work of the church in congregations and the Region, assist members of financial teams in congregations and the Region, plan for the assembled life of the church, and create and update the governing policies and documents throughout the Region.
 2. Education, support and counsel are among the duties that this Commission shall provide along with assisting the Region in using well its people, material, and financial resources.
 3. The Chair of the Commission on Resources and Structure shall serve on the Regional Board and shall be elected to the position by the Regional Assembly.
 4. Commission members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Regional Board.

Revised/Proposed Version

- I. Commission on Resources and Structure **Stewardship**
 1. The Commission on ~~Resources and Structure~~ **Stewardship** will ~~work with those who are engaged in providing resources for ministry and mission for the work of the church in congregations and the Region, assist members of financial teams in congregations and the Region, plan for the assembled life of the church, and create and update the governing policies and documents throughout the Region.~~ **assist congregations and the Region in identifying and securing stewardship resources, financial resources, and operational/technical resources for ministry.**
 2. Education, support, and counsel are among the duties that this Commission shall ~~provide along with assisting the Region in using well its people, material, and financial resources.~~ **for congregations.**
 3. The Chair of the Commission on ~~Resources and Structure~~ **Stewardship** shall serve on the Regional Board and shall be elected to the position by the Regional Assembly.
 4. Commission members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Regional Board.

Constitution Committee

Melinda Mains, Chair, Nathan Day Wilson, Bruce Ervin, Matt Rosine, Mary Schilling, Luis Gierbolini



Report of the Nominating Committee to the 2020 Regional Assembly

The Constitution of the Christian Church in Indiana outlines the following makeup for the 15 members of the Regional Board (Article VI, Sect. A):

- *Seven members at-large; and the*
- *Chair of each of four Commissions; and*
- *Four officers of the Region*
- *At least 1/3 of Board shall be drawn from African-American, Latino/Latinas and Asian-American constituencies of the members of the congregations of our church, with at least one representative from each of those groups; and*
- *At least 1/2 of the voting board members shall be lay persons, and there shall be a responsible balance of representation from various age groups and geographic areas of the Region.*

Moderator	Julia Johnson* (Madison, Female, Anglo, Lay)
Vice Moderator	Lorna Hernandez-Ramos (Indianapolis, Female, Latina, Lay)
Secretary	Rick Abbott (Rochester, Male, Anglo, Clergy)
Treasurer	Jared Trullinger* (Indianapolis, Male, Anglo, Clergy)
Commission on Faith Formation	Maggie Archibald (Avon, Female, Anglo, Clergy)
Commission on Ministry	Bere Gil Soto (Indianapolis, Female, Latina, Clergy)
Commission on Unity and Witness	Brooks Barrick (Noblesville, Male, Anglo, Clergy)
Commission on Stewardship	Amanda Meade (Jeffersonville, Female, Anglo, Clergy)
Member At-Large	Tim Smith* (Vincennes, Male, Anglo, Lay) Holly Black* (Indianapolis, Female, Anglo, Lay) Randy Brown* (Winchester, Male, Anglo, Lay) Joan Figueroa-Rivera* (Indianapolis, Female, Latina, Lay) Stella Lee** (Indianapolis, Female, Asian, Lay) Elaine Scaife (Indianapolis, Female, African-American, Lay) Steve Garrett (Indianapolis, Male, African-American, Clergy)

*Being elected to a second term **Finishing an incomplete term

2020 Nominating Committee: Rex Henthorn, Chair, Tim Smith, Andrew Bell, Cedric Wilson, Paula Neibert