

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN VIRGINIA REGIONAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 2009

The meeting of the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Virginia was convened on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at 10:03 a.m. with Moderator David Herrick welcoming everyone to the meeting. He noted that there was a great deal of work on the agenda and that it was important to be here to make decisions and do the business of the regional church, equally important is the receiving and sharing of information.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The responsive call to worship was led by Jim Perry and Geneal Wilson lit the unity candle and led the members in the opening prayer. Board Secretary Debbie Wilson called the roll which indicated the following members in attendance: Gene Akers, Elaine Austin, Josh Bell, Alisha Bennett, Clay Boyd, Nathan Brown, Ken Burger, Merinda Easley, Bob Flint, Jerry Fuqua, George Harris, Rick Harrison, David Herrick, Carl Howard, Larry Hurt, Virgil Knipp, Sue Knipp, Tom Larson, Amy Moor, Paul Parker, Lee Parker, Jim Perry, Mabel Peters, Carolyn Schwarz, Donna Webster, Ken Wilbur, Debbie Wilson and Geneal Wilson.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

A motion was made by Sue Knipp to approve the minutes of May 2nd, 2009, board meeting, which motion was seconded by Tom Larson. The minutes have been posted to the website. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was carried.

Sue Knipp read the scripture - Psalm 107:1-9.

JOYS AND REFLECTIONS OF THE REGIONAL STAFF

† G. LEE PARKER, Regional Minister

During the summer and fall, Lee held thirteen gatherings of ministers serving congregations to discuss their concerns surrounding ministry and to look at trends in the Disciples. There were over seventy ministers who attended these gatherings and a major result of these meetings is that there is not enough communication between the ministers and the Regional Minister. There are plans to work to build and maintain effective relationships throughout our Region.

Cost cutting has been the order of the day in the Regional Office with cleaning

now every other week instead of every week, recycling, price shopping for office supplies as well as reducing overnight travel as much as possible and using our conference number for some meetings to save time, energy and gas money for everyone.

Lee has not preached as many sermons as is typical since the last Board meeting, but has been able to visit congregations as a worshiper. He also attended the General Assembly and, while there, found good prospect for ministerial openings here in our Region. He was able to attend one day of the Piedmont District Convention, due to scheduling conflicts, but is planning to attend most, if not all, of the convention in 2010.

Lee was president-elect of the College of Regional Ministers, but has resigned that position because of staffing and management issues that our Region is facing. Five churches have extended calls to pastors who are now in place and doing ministry (Ephesus, Bethany, Westhampton, Parkview and Sharon).

Lee will be taking a week of vacation time December 13 and is continuing to work with the leaders of the Capital Campaign by attending numerous meetings and taking part in seven congregational cluster meetings.

Lee shared with the Board his thoughts for the future as we extend the ministry of Christ in mission, witness and service and address the overwhelming congregational need for revival. He encouraged our witness to the world to be about spirituality and encouraged the Board to discuss Jesus as our Lord and Savior at any and every opportunity.

He has prioritized our areas of need as follows:

- (1) Congregational Transformation/Revitalization wherein the Region must undergird, expand and support the local church in ways that manifest in spiritual renewal resulting in transformation of all congregations into mission stations that seek to minister to those outside the doors of the church and, by doing so, change themselves;
- (2) Direct ministry areas of focus must be supported and increased in the next four years are children's ministry, youth ministry and young adult ministry;
- (3) Church Camp/Craig Springs is where we have the opportunity to affect and change lives more in a week than in a Sunday School class for a year, camping has to be a regional staffing priority to facilitate and support church camp;
- (4) Leadership Training extending through CWF/Disciples Women, Men's Ministry where all events and programs have a leadership training component built in;
- (5) Stewardship Development where we teach that stewardship is not about dollars, but about acknowledging what God has given each one and how that should be responded to in a positive manner;
- (6) Administrative leadership should not take up large amounts of the regional minister's time and the region would benefit from some sort of administrative leadership.

Lee does not believe that we will be in a position to move forward with any search for full time ministerial staff until we see how our finances are at year-end and after the Ad/Fi committee makes an assessment of the Region's financial position.

There were no questions, but Rick Harrison commented that he liked Lee's E-newsletter and felt it was something that he was able to share with his congregation. Lee is planning on quarterly newsletter to clergy that can be passed on to congregants.

† JOSH BELL, Associate Regional Minister for Youth and Outdoor Ministry

There have been a lot of different transitions - the aspects of the way we look at youth ministry and the way we look at outdoor ministry. They are trying to focus on spirituality versus fun and entertainment. He reported that they have elected a new youth ministry committee. They have met and talked about changes and transitions that the committee would like to make. A large issue that they are faced with is the change of format and location of the Regional Youth Congress to save on church expense as well as making it where more kids are interested in participating. The Holiday Lock-in will be held at Bethany Christian Church on Dec. 18-19 and it is felt that it will be an exciting opportunity for all regional youth to enjoy.

Josh also reported that the Outdoor Ministry is in forward motion as they continue to strive with the challenge of focusing on the difference of spirituality and programming. It has become the imperative to create experiences that challenge, strengthen and ignite the campers' spirituality. They are trying to look out for the children of today as they continue to design programs that focus on this mandate and are looking forward to a new summer of fun and excitement that will change lives this summer.

There were no questions or comments.

† AMY MOORE, Editor of the Virginia Christian

Amy distributed copies of the new Virginia Christian to Board members and asked for any questions about the Virginia Christian. She reported that this issue was printed in Alabama by Pat Parvin, a former Disciples minister, saving the Region a couple thousand a year. She also reported that we had saved in postage costs this year. No one knows why, but it is good news nonetheless. Sue Knipp had a question about having problems receiving the Virginia Christian by email and Amy responded that she will look into that.

† JERRY FUQUA, Capital Campaign Director, Commission on Licensed Ministry

Jerry continues to work with the Commission on Licensed Ministry. He reported that there were approximately 30 persons in licensed ministry, 10 of those are under care, talking about their call. He reported that the most exciting aspect of the

Commission right now is the building of a continuing education program which is new to our region. They have had an overnight retreat at Eagle Eyrie where Ken Wilbur was the keynote speaker and 19 people participated. There have been two cluster meetings in Richmond and Pulaski. There was one scheduled in Strasburg, but it was not held. They're working on preaching and worship this year and next year will work on Biblical Studies. The licensed ministers of our region are doing good work.

† RAY GRYDER, Director of Men's Ministry

In Ray's absence, he had submitted a written report which was read by Moderator Herrick. Ray and Lee Parker presented District 9 the "Craig Springs Commemorative Quilt" at the annual district fish fry. The quilt was in recognition of District 9 making the biggest contribution to Special Camp in 2008. Ray was able to attend the District 6 DM/CMF dinner and then attended his first General Assembly in Indianapolis. While there, he attended meetings of the General Conference of Disciples Men and was asked to be on the Sessions 2012 Planning Team.

Ray participated in the September meeting of all regional contract staff, where they got to know each other and discussed their responsibilities. At that time, they also shared some of the excitement in our respective ministry areas. In October, Ray attended the Capital Area men's retreat. They are interested in fellowship opportunities with the Virginia region and plan to have their DM president attend our 2010 spring retreat at Smith Mtn. Lake and Ralph Wesley, the General Conference of DM representative, has also pledged to attend our spring retreat as well.

Ray attended the Sessions 2012 Planning Team meeting in Indianapolis in October and he believes the Sessions 2012 event will be a great event. It will be held (tentatively) July 12-15, 201 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Men's ministry in Virginia has been noticed and other regions are looking to us in order to share in the excitement and energy of the men's ministry. As of October 30th, Special Camp donations were at \$15,011.00, a great showing in light of the current economic times.

Moderator Herrick added that Ray done well with getting emails and information out to region and on Facebook, which he has used a lot as a tool to get more information out and facilitate better communication.

† DONNA WEBSTER, Director for Women's Ministry

Donna was introduced to the Board after having accepted the call to serve in the contract position of Director for Women's Ministry. She reported to the Board that the Region had welcomed 89 women from 28 churches to the Blackstone retreat. There is a new website, www.discipleswomen.org, which is being hosted by the Blacksburg Electronic Village. She also reported that the CWF committee had voted to add 3 more at-large members and would have a representative from the Piedmont District (Yvonne

Chafis) in February. She urged local churches to adopt CWF programming as young women struggle to balance God and family and encouraged sharing ministries. They are looking into a pictorial women's directory for the region and they are also on Facebook.

Rick Harrison offered our thanksgiving litany.

ONGOING PROJECTS AND MINISTRIES

† THE SUMMIT

Ken Burger reminded the new members of the Board that a separate body operates The Summit and that it is a member of the Disciples Care network. There are dozens of organizations like The Summit and they are all looking for partnership agreements with national benevolence committees. He reported that the Carpenter's Care Fund in January, 2007, was \$44,000.00; in November, 2007, the balance was \$48,000.00; in March, 2009, the balance had fallen to \$29,000.00, due to the economic downturn in the stock market; and now, in November, 2009, it stands at \$38,000.00. So our investments are effected by our economy in a very real way.

Ken reminded the Board that The Summit measures success on the faces of the residents and their families. Occupancy is running a shade under what's called full occupancy and they keep a tight lid on their expenses to keep them under budget if possible. The percentage of occupancy at The Summit is higher than almost everyone else they know of - most are at 85-90% and ours is 94%. They continue marketing with an insert recently in the Lynchburg paper and there is a brochure that is almost ready for mailing.

Their mission statement has recently been rewritten with spirituality, family, a solid work ethic, teamwork and fun as some of their goals.

† CRAIG SPRINGS

Alisha Bennett reported that most of the projects at Craig Springs will be done under the Property report, but many improvements were made to both the buildings and the grounds. The Bluefield cabin has a new roof and is back in service. New mattresses were purchased to replace the old pads. Work is being done in the Reception Room of Central to repair structural issues and to replace a rotting floor. Many volunteers have been working on painting the exterior of the Central/Dining Room building. A new ice machine was donated for Oak Lodge as well as a new hot water heater. The pool was painted this spring and looks great. A new sewage treatment system has lead to improvements on that land as well. She feels that they are finally finished playing catch-up and are able to do planned projects now.

† CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

After a lengthy slowdown in our campaign, Jerry Fuqua reported that we are once again moving forward with the Capital Campaign. The District Congregational Cluster meetings were held in September and early October, sharing the good news of the Campaign and how congregations and members could participate. Approximately 200 representatives from 65 congregations were in attendance. Congregations are being asked to consider conducting short in-house mini campaigns, giving members an opportunity to make 3 year pledges to the regional campaign. Each congregation was given a packet of materials to use as they consider how they might participate. Gifts received are sent to the lock box and then forwarded to Treasury Services at the General Office in Indianapolis. They are disbursed to all ministry recipients at that time based on the percentage breakdown found in the campaign goals.

Through the end of October, we have received \$182,916.65 in gifts and pledges. Actual gifts total \$105,541.65, all of which was forwarded to Treasury Services. We received 86.1% of that amount which totals \$90,871.60. Expenses have totaled \$67,367.88, of which \$4,621.75 was paid by the eight ministries beyond the region. The Region's portion of the expenses is \$62,746.13. These expenses were detailed in a spreadsheet to the Board and have been attached to the official minutes of the meeting for reference.

Questions were received asking of the \$182,000.00, how much is leadership/major gifts? That was answered that the money was from 3-4 congregations, everything else are pledges. \$150,000.00 is beyond church giving. The campaign is not depending on major gifts, but is still working on those. The economy has hurt a lot of the major gifts.

Another question concerned the expenses of our part, that they were \$62,000.00 for our region and \$4,600.00 for the eight other ministries. It was explained that it was all a matter of percentages, since we get 86.1% of the profits and bear 86.1% of the expenses.

Moderator Herrick emphasizes participation of all church. He informed the Board that it would take all of us to get word out to encourage our congregations to participate. Jerry also recognized Tom Larson for the great number of cluster meetings he was able to be in attendance.

The Regional Board Meeting was recessed at this time and the Meeting of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society was convened and called to order by Moderator David Herrick.

✚ LONG RANGE PLANNING

Moderator-elect Geneal Wilson reported that the committee continues to pursue

ways to make communications better between Regional ministries and local congregations. She reported that progress has been made in improving the compatibility between office computers and that staff has had additional training on the use of the data base. They are continuing to work through efficiency problems with equipment and trying to improve the data base usage and computer linkage. They have also discussed the feasibility of an e-mail edition of the Virginia Christian. Along these lines, they expressed concerns that both the Region and congregations are not taking full advantage of the internet, especially with regard to websites. They are looking into ways to help congregations with establishing and maintaining such sites.

Jim Perry and Geneal Wilson shared their experience at the Stewardship conference which was sponsored by the College of Regional Ministers. It was suggested that Jim lead a workshop at the Regional Assembly.

The committee commended Sue and Virgil Knipp for their committee's establishment of a resource bank of successful ministries in congregations and Jim Perry for the Lenten program he wrote with a stewardship focus and mailed to all regional pastors.

There has been a conference call with Bob Shebek at Global Ministries about the process for becoming a Global Mission Partner. This has been sent to the Stewardship and Mission Committee for leadership in determining whether or not to embrace this ministry for the Region and, if so, to lead us in the process.

A comment was made that it would be helpful to list chairs of committees for better communications among the congregations.

Moderator-elect Wilson also informed the board that the Nominating Committee had met and was in the process of securing leadership for the next biennium. The complete slate of officers will be presented at the spring Board meeting.

+BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Rick Harrison reported that the committee was in process of beginning their work, but they were not able to have their meeting 3 weeks ago, but they are working on things now.

+CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Children's Task Force Committee presented a Policy Statement on Child Protection and, on behalf of committee; Elaine Austin moved that the Regional Board accept this policy statement. A full and complete copy of the statement is attached to the official minutes.

Elaine Austin reported that the other committee members were not able to be here. As a history of this statement, she informed the Board that no other region has a complete child protection policy, one that covers all events. The Policy Statement as presented serves 2 dual purposes - to say to our young people that they are protected to the best of our abilities; that adults coming in contact with them have had criminal background checks, among other things. We are trying to protect staff and adults. The committee admits that this is not a perfect policy, but is the best we can do at the present time.

It was noted that a draft been circulated previously and this particular statement was emailed Tuesday of this week to Board members.

Some of the discussion had to do with the following subjects: (1) Pg 3, #7 - is the weeklong camp considered one occasion? Yes. (2) Child youth workers, is a camp counselor considered a volunteer? Yes. A suggestion was that it be added to P3, #7 that this shall include camp counselor - another suggestion was that they are under Child/Youth Worker and considered staff.

(3) There were recommendations from Outdoor Ministry about the fact that some keynote speakers who are not Disciples of Christ members. (4) There were questions about 6 month rule and its guidelines and the rationale behind 6 month rule. That was explained that sexual predators tend to move around and they avoid long-term relationships, so there is a greater chance to weed these people out.

(5) It was suggested that key note speakers would be more contractual, but it was also noted that the difference is that anyone who wants to be volunteer has to do background check. The policy states that every adult fills out a background form, there's an instant check that the Region subscribes to, and all felt like keynote speakers would be different than regular volunteers. It was also noted that if regular volunteers were grouped with counselors under staff, then Pg 3, #7 would not apply. It was suggested to add the words "or comes with recommendation".

(6) It was also noted that everything needs to be defined - are camp worker considered a part of the staff. That was answered by Moderator Herrick that "Camp counselors and summer staff are considered staff". Elaine Austin requested that some of these concerns be written down specifically. She sees the policy as covering one-time attendees and regular volunteers both.

(7) It was noted that the phrase under "Definitions", under a legal definition, that we need to put in "volunteer" as well for people that have 1-2 contacts. It was suggested that the definitions need a little work.

Moderator Herrick suggested that the Board table this for a little while and let some of the committee members and Board members meet with each other and maybe write something out during lunch.

(8) There were further questions concerning the fact that List #1-7 has some doubling up and there are things that need to be incorporated into the definitions. It was answered that some of this comes from individual congregation's policy and it was suggested that the definitions be updated.

(9) It was also noted that, on Pg. 5, there needs to be windows/open door regardless of parental permission or involvement - that some of that is in Boundaries training - it needs to read "regardless of parental permission".

Some members of the Board reported that they were feeling uncomfortable to be asked to adopt this policy as the motion is on floor from the committee to adopt the policy as is written and attached hereto.

(10) One of the other concerns expressed was on Pg 6, #2 - the investigative team - having the people involved make an immediate decision whether or not this needs to be reported. What is process involved in investigative team? Elaine answered that the term is vague. Accusations can be made without reason. It was suggested that there needed to be a time line, we should not let it go on. A 3-5 person approved list was suggested as to where things get reported. Would the Board have prior approval of list? Elaine answered yes and/or it could be a decision of Moderator.

The committee was commended for their hard work on a very important topic. They were questioned if it had been reviewed by our attorneys and the answer was not the entire document, just portions. The Board expressed their opinion that this document is much needed, but they do not want to rush through the adoption of it. It was felt there had not been enough time to digest the entire document and its contents.

Elaine Austin responded that part of what happens after the adoption of this document is that we need to stand up to the regular congregations and say that you need your own policy for child protection. There was an article in [Virginia Christian](#) last January and a number of congregations responded. We have now brought this document to the Board.

Moderator Herrick opined that he was not sure of the correct procedure without Parliamentary Brubaker present; that there had been a lot of topics raised, and the Board does not seem ready to approve document as is. He noted that these areas probably cannot be accomplished over lunch and asked the Board, to expedite process, what do you need to make decision? Suggestions ranged from pass some policy at this meeting and then refine it; other suggestions were that we should not pass the policy with flaws and they would like a lawyer to look at it. It was questioned whether or not we may be obligated to report sexual abuse (and answered by Lee Parker that evangelical congregations rejected ideas that clergy be required be a reporter, some compromise that only clergy with specific training is a required reporter, the Methodist church has done a 3 hour seminar, he thinks the Commission on Standing should take up this training so all our clergy are required reporters).

Moderator Herrick noted that we would be having lunch in a few moments and, from these discussions we have had, those persons with ideas and questions meet with Elaine during lunch. He is not going to adjourn the meeting of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society, but leave it open during lunch and see if they can come back with some of the changes proposed. If the Board decides not to approve the document, then he will ask the committee to continue with their work and have the policy reviewed by our attorneys and presented at our April meeting. It is noted that we do have a motion on floor, but that will be held until after lunch.

The meeting was then adjourned for lunch with Ken Burger offering our prayer for the meal at 12:10 p.m.

At 12:50 p.m., Moderator Herrick reconvened the meeting of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society and called the meeting to order. He noted that when we left for lunch, there was a motion on floor to adopt the Policy Statement on Child Protection as offered by the committee and that motion is still open. It was noted that, during lunch, there was some good discussion and good ideas arising from the discussion. It was decided by the participants and the committee that they would ask that the motion be tabled at this time and they would take the suggestions that have been made and incorporate them into the policy statement and also take the document to legal counsel for review. Once that is completed and other changes that may be made by counsel, they will send the complete document out for email review and comments by the Board and would request that the Board, on April 24, approve the revised and completed document at that time.

Moderator Herrick informed the Board that he would entertain a motion to table the present motion of the committee. That motion to table the adoption of the Policy Statement on Child Protection was made by Clay Boyd and seconded by Virgil Knipp. The motion was carried.

The meeting of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society was adjourned and the Regional Board meeting was reconvened and called to order by Moderator David Herrick.

WE OFFER THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

The responsive reading and prayer of thanksgiving was offered by George Harris.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES, DISTRICT, COLLEGE AND GENERAL BOARD

† **GENERAL BOARD:** Merinda Easley reported that in August, the General Board members received an email from the Office of the General Minister and President at the request of the General Commission of Ministry wherein it was requested that the Office of the General Minister and President conduct a mail ballot vote regarding an amendment to the Policies and Criteria for the order of ministry documents, which was approved. A copy of the Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Resolution Number 0922, change designation of licensed minister to commissioned ministers and adding an Apprentice Track of preparation leading to ordination without a Master of Divinity degree.

Moderator Herrick thanked Representative Easley for her service to General Board as she leaves her position as the Region's representative to the General Board.

Clay Boyd asked how are we going to deal with that resolution in Virginia and Jerry Fuqua answered that it was in the beginning stage of studying through Commission on Standing, He said that there are 3 task forces from General Church that are beginning to disseminate information. It was also announced that Nathan Brown will be going on the General Board as our Region's representative.

† **REGIONAL ASSEMBLY:** Amy Moore informed the Board that Regional Assembly will be held June 4-6, 2010, at Lynchburg College. The theme of the assembly is "What's church got to do with it?" and they hope to address issues of the relevance of the church in today's culture. They are planning opportunities where people can make connections with each other, between congregations and generations as well. The keynote speakers on Saturday and Sunday morning are Eddie Hammett and Randy Pierce, authors of *Keeping People Over 60 While Reaching People Under 40*. Rev. Sekinah Hamlin will preach Friday night and Lee Parker will preach Sunday morning. Youth will stay on campus and will remain on campus as a group for their activities. They are planning a Congregational Mission Fair where congregations will have the opportunity to share ideas through displays centered on various topics, such as care of creation, children's ministry, stewardship, leadership development, neighborhood outreach, etc. The registration brochure is being developed and will be mailed to congregations in January.

† **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Paul Parker reported that the Personnel Committee had met formally three times and that the primary focus of these meetings has been to discuss and discern the need for regional ministerial leadership as well as to monitor and evaluate the current performance of the regional staff. There have been good reports received about the current performance of the regional support staff, the function of the regional office and better efficiency in regards to the reporting and managing of financial matters. The committee also approved updated job descriptions for the three support staff positions.

Paul also reported that Lee Parker had been asked by the committee to conduct

contract staff training sessions to work on building better working relationships among the contract staff and to begin developing a more collaborative team approach to ministry in the region. This process was begun and the first session was conducted by Carolyn Rodenberg. The committee has reviewed the applications for the Women's Ministry position, interviewed the top candidates and recommended that Donna Webster be called to fill the position. She accepted that call. After consideration of the immediate needs of the Region and the past experience of the candidate, Amy Moore was offered and accepted the position of Regional Assembly contract staff. The contract staff positions of Youth and Outdoor Ministry, Licensed Ministry, Virginia Christian editor, and Men's Ministry were all continued for one year. The contract staff position of Craig Springs Camp Manager was cut back to one-quarter time from October to year end and in 2010 the position will not be full-time and the details and job description are still being negotiated.

Lee Parker shared with us his position on technical and adaptive leadership staff position. The Committee asked Moderator and Regional Minister to put together what might be needed specifically. That was forwarded to the AdFi Committee where they were informed there was no money available in the budget to staff a new position. So we now have to see if it will be possible to move forward with that position in the near future by looking at the need for quality ministerial leadership. The Committee believes this will continue to help with our transformation and hope the Board will participate with process of conceptualizing who and what we will eventually need.

The Committee stopped review on the personnel policy document until the constitutional revision process is complete as that will impact the language and structure of the personnel policy document.

There were questions posed by the Board if the Craig Springs Camp Manager would be paid for November and December of this year and the answer was yes, she will be paid based on the figure agreed upon last year. Another question was what is the basis of the decision to reverse the Board's decision for that position? Paul Parker deferred to Lee, who, as Regional Minister, was given authority over contract staff. Lee Parker responded that, in looking at income and expenditure, the position cannot continue full time; that the Board agreed to employ Alisha Bennett through 2009. He reported that they have met 2 ½ hours and talked about what has been accomplished and what needs to be accomplished and will negotiate new models and new ways of doing things. They will also be reconfiguring kitchen and administrative staff. Lee informed the Board that we don't know what it's going to look like - Alisha has vague ideas as did I - a vision painted with broad strokes and the two of us will play with it until we come up with something that will work for the region and all involved.

† **ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE:** Larry Hurt passed out the LEDGER TO BUDGET dated Sept 30, 2009, which is the financial report through Sept 30th of this year, and the PROPOSED BUDGET 2010, both of which are attached to the official minutes and

preserved for the record.

Larry reminded the Board that the greatest single source of revenue is from Christmas Offering and that their charge is to go back and see how to get best offering for Christmas. He went over the ledger amounts with the Board. The budget was discussed by Larry in great detail explaining items that were changed and how those changes came about. There were questions and discussions of individual budget items and a consensus of the Board was reached in some instances. Clay Boyd made a motion to accept the 2010 budget as modified during the discussion with Tom Larson's second. The motion was carried.

George Harris made a motion on behalf of the Administration/Finance Committee that they have the flexibility to go into the line of credit of the Region, if needed, during 2010. This was a procedural request from the committee. The motion comes from a committee and does not require a second. The motion was carried.

The Administration/Finance Committee made a motion that the Housing allowance for the Regional Minister be extended to \$34,412.00 for 2010. The motion comes from a committee and does not require a second. The motion was carried.

The Administration/Finance Committee made a motion that the flexible spending account for the Regional Minister be extended to \$4,000.00 for 2010. The motion comes from a committee and does not require a second. The motion was carried.

A copy of the revised budget is attached to the official minutes.

† MEN'S MINISTRY: The Board was informed that David Freeman and David Herrick were only ones to attend the men's ministry session at the General Assembly.

† CWF: New Director of Women's Ministry Donna Webster reported to the Board that Kathy Ellis had a report, but she didn't have it in her possession. She reminded the Board that Kathy Ellis' term ending on Dec 31st. She has submitted her recommendation of Kathy Hurt (Petunia CC) as the new CWF president. The SPA days are currently being planned for Petunia, Bedford, Colonial, Zion, Loudon Hopewell. They hope to get 3 more at-large members of the committee. She requested that women email Donna to get updated lists of the churches for SPA events.

† YOUTH MINISTRY: Josh Bell read the YMC report prepared by Kelsey Barnes. They reported that Nature Camp 2009 ran smoothly with approximately 25 camper/counselor pairs. The first YMC meeting of the year was September 18 at Timberlake CC and new officers were elected at that time - Kelsey Barnes, President; Maddie Williams, Vice President; Sarah Jones, Recording Secty.; Sam Curtis, Corresponding Secty. Kendall Davis is the new representative from the Piedmont District and the YMC is trying to do more with the Piedmont District throughout the year.

There were a dozen or so attendees at the Youth Convention which was held during Work Weekend and they are planning a Holiday Lock-In at Bethany CC and a Youth Congress in February. Next YMC meeting is January 16 at Trinity CC, Mechanicsville. In 2012, our Region will be hosting the National CYF Conference at Lynchburg College.

† OUTDOOR MINISTRY: The OMC report was read by Josh Bell also. Darren Anderson reported that the OMC has been helping regional staff and the camp manager complete the summer outdoor ministry at Craig Springs. There were 370 campers throughout the programs and evaluations were generally positive. There have been some name changes MADD is now AMPDD (Art, Music, Photography, Dance, Drama) and Triple Camp is now called Crossroads. After much discussion, OMC has decided to cancel plans to bring the “Created to be Me” camp to Virginia in the summer of 2011. There will be director’s training on January 23rd.

† COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Jerry Fuqua reported that the Commission on Standing is looking at a second round of Boundaries training for all licensed ministers and have conducted their yearly standing review.

The Commission on the Order of Ministry has met four times during the last year and has approved two for ordination - Ben Moore and Audrey Underwood. In September, Dr. Rick Harrison began teaching a Disciples Polity and History class which is required for all candidates seeking ordination in the Virginia Region and for anyone transferring from another denomination. Six students are enrolled and they have seven candidates under care seeking ordination.

The Commission on Licensed Ministry interviewed licensed ministers four times last year and met three times for work days to plan for an educational even they held at Eagle Eyrie Center in Lynchburg on August 21-22. They also planned cluster meetings in three areas of the region for the licensed ministers and they are to be held twice a year with the spring one planned for April 17, 2010.

† PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Bob Flint reported that the Property Committee meets by phone every month. John Moore is negotiating the current timber sale and there is another stand under negotiation. The cool spring we had killed off most of gypsy moths on the Craig Springs property and they are working with Health Dept, doing upgrades at Craig Springs. They have negotiated the purchase of a lot near the tennis courts.

† ECUMENICAL AND COMMUNITY WITNESS COMMITTEE: Rick Harrison reported that the Ecumenical and Community Witness Committee is a single committee with two related, but functionally different points of focus and responsibility.

Under Ecumenical Witness, they represent the Region with various ecumenical organizations such as the Council of Churches where they work on theological issues that divide the churches and seek ways to overcome or at least limit those divisions.

Through this committee, the Region is very active in the work of the Interfaith Center which deals with areas of poverty, children, legal justice, the environment and church and state questions.

Under Community Witness, they have been focusing on undergirding financially the efforts of SERF (SouthEastern Regional Fellowship) in its program working for anti-racism and reconciliation. They have called Rev. Sekinah Hamlin to serve as SERF minister for the six regions in the fellowship. She will be working with our reconciliation task force and staff to develop strategies for addressing issues of racism in our region. In answer to questions from the Board, Rick noted that Ken Wilbur is representing our region on the prison ministers council.

† STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION COMMITTEE: Jim Perry reported that the Stewardship and Mission Committee is developing a program of congregational members tithing a tithe of weeks. They are developing a booklet and asking people to tithe 5 hours a week for 5 weeks, this can be such things as a commitment go to Sunday School one hour every Sunday. They will be forwarding more information on this project as it becomes available.

They are also proposing that our Region to become a Global Mission Partner region which will enrich our faith experience and expression, move toward oneness of congregations in a common effort, help us see beyond our culture of prosperity and security, use good stewardship of our gifts, understand how our culture influences our understanding of the Christian faith. The committee proposes that the Region join the efforts of the Common Board of Global Ministries in becoming a Global Church Partner and establish a line-item in the 2011 budget in the amount of \$6,000.00 to provide basic funding for this effort. Since the motion/proposal comes from a committee, there is no need for a second. The motion is carried.

† RENEWAL AND NURTURE COMMITTEE: Sue and Virgil Knipp reported for the Renewal and NURTURE Committee that they were having a wonderful time. There are lots of things going on in our region that are secrets - a lot of programs going on that are fantastic. They have had two meetings and have set three goals during those: (1) working on other goals; (2) work with the Regional Office to provide link to a renewal and nurture site to list all things going on; (3) to write each congregation and find out things that going well and put in booklet and put on website. After the first of the year, they plan on having all ten members of committee to the District Assemblies to share ideas. They are also hearing that there are some churches that are increasing in membership and the committee wants those to share what's going on and how they have changed or adapted their programs to grow. By the end of 2009, they plan on having Facebook on web and post what's going on around region; they will post advantages on Facebook and share some other regional programs to make things happen in the churches.

† NEW CHURCH AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: Carolyn Schwarz, chair of the New Church and Evangelism Committee, reported to the Board that the committee has met three times in 2009. They have discovered that there were questions and issues that the current policy doesn't address and, as a result, the committee is reviewing, evaluating and updating the current policy. In this process, they are putting together a cohesive and comprehensive procedure to work with new churches and, as part of the procedure, the committee has put together an information form that has been sent to the new churches and interviews have been scheduled. The purpose is to provide informed support of our new churches financially as partners with them. The goal is to assist in establishing benchmarks to nurture new congregations to a place of independence and strength. The committee has met with Shaw CC and is working to provide a mentor for their minister. There has been approved a grant for them to get some support financially and to establish some benchmarks to nurture new congregations to a place of independence and strength. Part of their goal is to create region-wide evangelism workshop.

DISTRICT REPORT

† DISTRICT 1: There was no report filed.

† DISTRICT 2: Gene Akers read the report of the activities of District 2. A copy of their activities is attached to the official minutes.

† DISTRICT 3: There was no report filed.

† DISTRICT 4: Mabel Peters gave the report for the activities of District 4, where they have been making a special effort to plan meetings that will enhance the fellowship and attendance of the congregations in the District. A copy of her report is attached to the official minutes.

† DISTRICT 5: Joel Kramer reported on the activities of District 5. A copy of their activities is attached to the official minutes.

† DISTRICT 6: There was no report filed.

† DISTRICT 7: Clay Boyd read report of the activities of District 7. A copy of their activities is attached to the official minutes.

† DISTRICT 8: Tom Larson read report of the activities of District 8 including the marriage of two congregations - First Christian Norfolk and Diamond Springs Christian in Virginia Beach have joined together and formed Chalice CC. A copy of the remainder of their activities is attached to the official minutes.

† **DISTRICT 9:** Ken Wilbur, moderator of District 9, submitted the report of their activities and noted that they have called Lyle Predmore as their district minister. All congregations in the district contribute \$150 for his travel in an effort to improve connections of all churches. A copy of the remainder of his report is attached to the official minutes.

† **DISTRICT 10:** There was no report filed.

† **DISTRICT 11:** Jim Perry reported that their new representative is Rev. Sharon Waters from Zion CC. A copy of their activities is attached to the official minutes.

† **PIEDMONT DISTRICT:** There was no report filed.

† **LYNCHBURG COLLEGE:** Lee reported that Stephanie was at home with new baby Sophia. She sends her greetings and thanks for the prayers and support. Sophia is gaining weight and her mother and grandmother are ecstatic. Lee reported that he thought Stephanie took 400 pictures of Sophia the first day!

Moderator Herrick led the Board in reading an offering of thanksgiving.

WE DEPART FOR MINISTRY

Moderator Herrick announced the next Regional Board Meeting would be held April 24, 2010, at the Summit and adjourned the meeting. Lee Parker offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Wilson
Secretary to the Board
Region of Virginia

NOTE: A .pdf file of all attachments to the minutes can be found on the website along with these minutes. It is named [CCinVA 112109 BOARD MTG - ATTACHMENTS.pdf](#).