

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING #5**

March 16-17, 2009

Christian Ministry Center – Findlay, OH

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

ROLL CALL

D. Hamsher, D. Nolt, D. Green, E. Rosenberry, R. Eatherton, L. Kline, J. Burns, E. Guerrier, M. Lehman, T. Lucas, L. Metzler, K. Raderstorf, P. Scott, P. Wilson. Advisory: D. Dennison, L. Finley, R. Foreman, R. Stephenson. ABSENT: J. Everett, J. Monticue, T. Rosenberry, K. Richardson, S. Stillman

CALL TO ORDER

President Dennis Hamsher called the meeting to order.

DEVOTIONS

Phil Scott presented the opening devotions using John 17 to talk about irritability in the church, stating that our hope is in the wrong places. He emphasized the need for being family and encouraged the Council to begin it here. His prayer was that we be one.

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Ed Rosenberry, Executive Director, began Development Session 1 by using the analogy of a "ship," representing the denomination, our life together aboard the "ship," and how we relate to one another.

He presented a statement of mission, vision and purpose, pointing out that it is the responsibility of the Council to care for the vision of the Church. He presented strategic initiatives for the CGGC as: World Evangelization, Church Development and Discipleship Ministries.

He announced that at the September meeting the Council will be discussing the book, The Forgotten Ways, by Alan Hirsch.

He discussed that the CGGC is basically not advancing as a whole, citing a static attendance figure for the last ten years. What is our passion? Barnacles form on a ship when it is docked and not moving.

Disciples make disciples, churches make churches. What is our concept of "More and Better Disciples?" How do we create a passion to reproduce? Isn't it more systemic than structural? Are we asking the right questions? We need leaders who have vision and are not afraid to take the risk. What are the expectations of members of local churches?

Following a break, Ed Rosenberry continued the discussion concerning the state of the Church in Development Session 2.

He reviewed the 1844, 1925 and 1975 Statements of Faith. He reminded the Council that We Believe is an outgrowth of these Statements. Also, he commented on the current re-look at We Believe and some possible refining statements that may be forthcoming.

He presented the Core Values of the CGGC for discussion. "What does this say?" Considerable time was given to clarifying the statements. These statements will be refined for discussion at the September meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director, Ed Rosenberry, continued with his Director's report. He spoke of the quality of the staff and their effectiveness in carrying out their duties. He commented on the new field director concept and his excitement of the possibilities.

The Gathering was a good meeting fulfilling most of the expectations. The Leadership Summit ended well although it started with a painful beginning. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May.

The We Believe/Credentials Symposium went well. Writing assignments have been given for the We Believe revisions. The Credential discussion continues to be in process.

The new Advocate has prompted favorable comments.

He reported the withdrawal of the Living Waters Church in the Eastern region from the Churches of God, General Conference.

LUNCH

Following lunch, discussion ensued concerning the location and timing of future General Conference sessions. The idea of moving the tri-annual conference to differing areas of the country was discussed. General consensus was that moving it around would be satisfactory.

COMMUNICATIONS

Rachel Foreman presented the report of Denominational Communications. She referred to her printed report. She reported on the new look of The Church Advocate. Work on updating the CGGC logo is underway and this year's Gem writing contest will begin soon.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of Denominational Communications and the video conference minutes of Denominational Communications, dated March 3, 2009.

CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRIES

Don Dennison presented the report of Cross Cultural Ministries. He reported being on the road 38% of his time. He and Ed Rosenberry will be going to Brazil next week. Kara Shifler continues to help with the work at Sweden which is doing very well. There are about 50 persons involved in the church. Cell groups are important to the ministry there. The response to the plea for funds to help with food for the people in Kenya was good. There are presently nine churches there. In Venezuela, the work is moving forward with legal documents having been filed. Evenson Guerrier reported a telephone conference call ministry among former Elim church members involving 13-15 persons every Sunday evening. William Prime has been designated unofficial representative of the Commission to Haitian Americans. He announced the international church leaders fellowship to meet at Borel, Haiti. Betty and Ken McIntyre are new Mission Advancement Volunteers. He announced that Owen Hall, Ben Tobias and Pastor William Prime have reached their term limit on the Commission.

IT WAS VOTED to approve Todd Hakes, Ken Thomas, Stacy Dix and Michael Wheeler as members to the Cross Cultural Commission.

Benson Thermidor has relocated to Canada. His duties as treasurer of the Haiti Conference have been divided among two persons.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the Cross Cultural Commission and their minutes of Meeting #6, Dated September 29-30, 2008 and #7, Dated January 8-12, 2009.

DISCIPLESHIP: YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Lance Finley updated the Council concerning the final IMPACT scheduled for 2009 and the ideas for continued POST IMPACT events. He spoke of plans for ACTS groups for this year. He talked of short term mission trips that are in process. He mentioned working with Planet Wisdom Tour about doing mini-events in regional areas. Youth worker training will partner with Matt Wilks and YouthFront for future training events. Six Real World Parents seminars have been scheduled throughout the CGGC in the spring.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the Youth and Family Ministries Commission and their minutes of Meeting #3, Dated October 2-3, 2008, Impact meeting #4, Dated January 9, 2009 and of the Leadership Commission #3, Dated January 26, 2009.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the minutes of Church Development meeting #4, and Church Wellness Meeting #3, dated October 21, 2008.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Bob Stephenson presented his report of Business Affairs. He reported that 2008 produced the highest level of income in the history of the denomination. He reported that in recent months income has been affected by the economy. He spoke of the loss of investment income due to the current market situation. He reported a 5% decline in the Workman. The Gem reported a slight decline in orders. He reported a lack in funding available for several international ministries that may affect employees there. He mentioned the change in retirement laws affecting local churches and the consequences of not being in compliance.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the Treasurer.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the Executive Director.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was read from Evenson Guerrier announcing his change of location from Haiti to Boston.

A letter was read from Trevor Rosenberry resigning from the Administrative Council.

IT WAS VOTED to accept the resignation of Trevor Rosenberry from the Administrative Council.

The decision as to the replacement for Trevor was referred to the Eastern Region which is to provide a possible candidate for the September meeting.

A letter from Paul Raghunandan was considered which contained a request for benevolence assisted for individuals.

A letter from Century Health requested funding to help with furnishing their new facility located near the Center for Christian Ministries.

IT WAS VOTED to provide \$500 to Century Health for the purchase of furnishings for their new residential facility.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORTS

Allegheny: Lee Kline, Director, reported work with a new Filipino Church. Their Pastoral Training Institute has begun. He spoke of a church conflict issue and a possible law suit. They have hired a new camp director. Conference is scheduled for May. New Life Fellowship Church has dissolved. They are preparing to send a grant proposal for a field director in planting. Two churches are planning to begin "satellite" ministries.

Great Lakes: Dave Green, Director, spoke of church planting efforts, continuing education plans, conference plans and financial issues. Reggie McNeal will be the speaker for the Conference.

Eastern: Tom Lucas presented Kevin Richardson's report in his absence. The former Green Street Church has seen successful ministry.

MidWest: Bob Eatherton, Director, presented the report. He mentioned the National Pastor's Conference and the quality experience it provides for pastors. Columbia City is searching for a pastor. Urban Light has purchased a nightclub building to destroy. The Region is applying for a field director. Their conference sessions will be around the theme "Devoted to 242." Their newsletters will now be sent by e-mail. They will be forming cluster churches.

IT WAS VOTED to approve the minutes of Meeting #4 of the Administrative Council, dated September 15-16, 2008.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Council spent the remainder of the afternoon in committee assignments as follows:

Church Development – Ed Rosenberry, John Burns, Lawrence Metzler, Keith Raderstorf

Communications – Rachel Foreman, David Green, Tom Lucas, Phil Wilson

Cross Cultural Ministries – Don Dennison, Evenson Guerrier, Doug Nolt,

Discipleship – Lance Finley, Dennis Hamsher, Lee Kline, Phil Scott

Business Affairs – Bob Stephenson, Kris Cupp, Bob Eatherton, Mary Lehman

EVENING WORSHIP AND PRAYER TIME

Following dinner at Vino's, the CGGC staff led in a Koinonia service followed by dessert. Ed Rosenberry, Don Dennison and Lance Finley were in charge of the service.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 2009

ROLL CALL

D. Hamsher, D. Nolt, D. Green, E. Rosenberry, R. Eatherton, L. Kline, J. Burns, E. Guerrier, M. Lehman, T. Lucas, L. Metzler, K. Raderstorf, P. Scott, P. Wilson. Advisory: D. Dennison, L. Finley, R. Foreman, R. Stephenson. ABSENT: J. Everett, J. Monticue, K. Richardson, T. Rosenberry, S. Stillman.

DEVOTIONS

John Burns led in devotions using Luke 5 as the text and asking how many times we fail to ask God to help us in the ministry. He also referred to Revelation 3:7. God knows our works. He knows everything about us. God has given us an opportunity for evangelism. God is in the boat with us to provide for the endless possibilities. Too often we are on the banks washing our nets. He led in prayer.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT CONTINUED

Western Region: There was no report from the Western Region.

California: John Burns reported a new Hispanic church in San Diego. Victor Montalvo is the pastor. Vacaville is again meeting in a church after the state forced them to move from their traditional site. Manteca has a lot of young men with possibilities for ministry. Fallbrook, also Hispanic, is doing well with multiple services. Santee has mostly dissolved since eminent domain has allowed the state to purchase their building. Thermal, a Hispanic church, is doing ok. Wheatland is packed out every week, experiencing parking problems.

Haiti: Evenson Guerrier reported that the churches are growing. There is a need for more human resources, leaders and pastors. Evenson will no longer represent Haiti since his move to Boston. A prayer of dedication was offered over Evenson. Pastor Max Pierre Normil has been chosen to complete the term as representative from Haiti.

IT WAS VOTED to name Max Pierre Normil as replacement for Evenson Guerrier on the Administrative Council.

ACTION ITEMS

Ed Rosenberry commented on the applications for field director positions, stating that he expects five grant requests.

Don Dennison announced November 13-18, 2009 as the date for the International Leaders Conference.

Bob Stephenson presented items for action:

IT WAS VOTED to transfer \$27,500 from the Christian Ministries Growth Fund's operations fund to the Christian Ministries Growth Fund's Board Declared L/T Investments.

IT WAS VOTED to authorize Edward L. Rosenberry and Robert E. Stephenson to have access and maintain the contents of the General Conference lockbox at Fifth Third Bank in Findlay, and that any and all previous persons are to be removed from having access authority.

Bob Stephenson asked for feedback concerning the legal fees accrued during the Hebrew Roots lawsuit. Increased insurance coverage has been obtained, however a higher deductible exists.

Church Loans: Ed Rosenberry led a discussion on creating guidelines for granting church loans. A statement of guidelines was presented for consideration.

IT WAS VOTED to approve the guidelines for granting church loans.

Office Policies: A discussion about cell phones and IRS requirements. It was decided that employees will split the cost of their cell phones on a 50/50 basis. The Staff Committee will look into the issue for further recommendations. General consensus of the Council was to cover the cost of employees having telephones paid by the Conference; however Bob was concerned with the need to keep a telephone log.

Educational Policy for Office and Staff: A policy for providing for continued education/sabbaticals for office employees was presented by Ed Rosenberry.

IT WAS VOTED to approve the Office Policy for Staff Educational Development.

Bob Stephenson led in a discussion concerning the lawsuit brought against the Foundation of the Great Lakes Conference/CGGC over the Hebrew Roots situation. The person filing the suit desires to collect legal fees she paid to defend her position. Her claim has been filed with the small claims court in Oregon. Minutes of a teleconference meeting with attorneys and officers of the CGGC were presented.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Bob Stephenson reviewed the written report of the Investment Committee, calling attention to a volatile year, although the portfolio was in the top 5%.

IT WAS VOTED to change the investment policy as follows:

1. Investment Criteria

Permissible investments

All investments in securities are to be administered via an investment advisor/custodian that is covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), and the Registered Investment Advisor Act of 1940. Similarly, investments in hedge funds, private equity funds, and other assets not covered by the Registered Investment Advisor Act of 1940 are prohibited.

Permissible investments will also include Exchange traded funds.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the minutes of the Investment Committee dated February 26, 2009.

PENSIONS REPORT

Bob Stephenson presented the report of the Board of Pensions in place of Jim Thomas.

IT WAS VOTED to amend the Pension Plan as follows:

1. Article 1 is amended as follows:

(a) Delete 1.19 in its entirety

Minor child	A natural or legally adopted child of a deceased Member who has not attained the legal age as stipulated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
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(b) Amend 1.30 from current wording to proposed wording:

Current	
Surviving Spouse	The person of the opposite sex who is legally married to a Member on the date of the Member's death and the death of the Member.

Proposed
Surviving Spouse The person of the opposite sex who is legally married to a Member on the date that the Member's benefit payments under the plan commence and who survives the death of the Member.

2. Article V is amended as follows:

(a) Add upper case letter S (spouse) of Section 5.4

5.4 Distribution must be made to the Member and Spouse (if applicable) by means of a joint member and spousal account or a joint member and spousal annuity unless the Spouse consents otherwise with a written waiver.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Archives/Museum Committee dated January 20, 2009 were presented.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the Archives/Museum Committee.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

No report. The question was raised about affiliate membership of churches with Regions. Should it be included in the CGGC Constitution? This item was referred to the Constitution Committee.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning committee will be meeting to make plans for the 2010 Conference with the understanding that the Administrative Council is in favor of taking the conference to other locations than Findlay. The suggestion of having the 2010 Conference in Decatur was supported.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dennis Hamsher stated that it would be ideal if the regions could select delegates for 2010 in 2009, in order to have an official list of delegates from which to put together a Nominating Committee.

STAFF COMMITTEE

No report

REPORT OF WINEBRENNER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. John Nissley and Jim Smarkel presented the report of Winebrenner Theological Seminary in the absence of Dr. David Draper.

- Director of Leadership Formation – Joel Cocklin to be hired this summer
- Pathway to Ministry, March 28, 2009
- Mentoring makes a huge difference in theological education
- Decentralized theological education becoming prevalent
- MACD and PTI programs are off campus, PTI is non-graduate
- Allegheny Region currently offering PTI, Toledo will soon begin PTI (Pastoral Training Institute)
- PLI program with Missionary Church is on line with mentoring
- Endowment reduced by 30% due to economy
- Fourth year of campaign, raised 2M in last 2 yrs, goal 5.5M, in last year
- Currently a little under 1M in debt
- 2009 - 133 students, typical of last 4-5 years (Total head count)
- More non-graduates, PTI now second behind MDIV
- Dr. Resseguie to retire this year
- Scott Long now working with local church, his position open
- Dennis Koonz now full time
- Budget expenses reduced by 20% over last 3 years
- Thanks to CGGC for support

IT WAS VOTED to accept the report of Winebrenner Seminary.

REPORT OF CGWM

Linda Rosenberry presented the written report of the CGGC Women's Ministry. The CGWM has changed to a calendar fiscal year. They are planning a tea for IMPACT to introduce their yearly theme, etc.

IT WAS VOTED to accept the report of the CGGC Women's Ministry

REPORT OF UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

Will Miller, Director of Campus Ministries of The University of Findlay, presented the report of the University of Findlay in Dr. Freed's absence. He began by showing a video of highlights from the last year of University events.

- There is now a Campus Ministry House, a collaborative effort between the College First Church and the University.
- Several Campus Ministries exist with occasional events that bring them together
- CM 1500

IT WAS VOTED to accept the report of the University of Findlay.

IMPACT BUDGET

Lance Finley presented the report of the budget for IMPACT, 09. The proposed budget shows a needed subsidy of \$17,000 from the CGGC budget. A break even head count of 401 would cover the costs of IMPACT. Bob Stephenson reported on the funds expended from the Nancy Yates Scholarship Fund, stating that grants had exceeded the income, therefore the fund will be absorbed in IMPACT expenses in this last year.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report of the IMPACT budget.

REPORT OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2009 PROJECT

Lance Finley presented the report for the Habitat for Humanity 2009 Project. The Church of God build will take place in June.

IT WAS VOTED to receive the report for the Habitat for Humanity Project.

IT WAS VOTED to adjourn.

Prayer was offered by Ed Rosenberry.

Discussion following adjournment decided that subsequent meetings of the Administrative Council will be on Tuesday-Wednesday rather than Monday/Tuesday, beginning with September 15-16, 2009.