

**2015 Area Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2015**

Moderator KJ Reynolds called the meeting to order at 12:47.

John Harwell offered an opening prayer, lifting up board member Ken Holmes as he is currently in the hospital.

The agenda was approved based on a motion by Jacque Foster, seconded by David Woodard.

The certification committee announced that there was a quorum present (45 voters required, 56 present).

David Woodard moved to approve the minutes from the 2013 Area Assembly. Cheryl Poynter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Area Minister's report was approved unanimously based on a motion by Cheryl Poynter, seconded by Lois Ann Meyer.

Financial Coordinator Steve Staicoff presented the financial report noting that the balance sheet is a 'snapshot' of the financial situation on March 31st. He also pointed out that the \$120,901 cash asset reported on the Statement of Financial Position (page 13 of the booklet) includes the recent \$159,750 donation by Hamilton Christian Church after the sale of their building. He expressed that the Area is very grateful for this generous donation, and that due to significantly lagging contributions from congregations, we would otherwise be well into an overdrawn situation. He encouraged congregations to make whatever contributions they are able and noted that, since the Hamilton gift was designated for use 'as the Area sees fit,' the future of the funds would be discussed and determined at the next SEGA board meeting in August. The report was accepted unanimously based on a motion by John Harwell, seconded by Howard Goodrich.

The moderator asked if there was any new business besides the restructure item noted on the agenda. There was none.

Rick Carver made a motion concerning the proposed regional restructure as it appeared on page 9 of the booklet:

Be it resolved that the April 18, 2015 Southeast Gateway Area Assembly approves the assignment of authority to govern the administrative aspects of the Southeast Gateway Area and the supervision of the Mission and Ministry of the Southeast Gateway Area to The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc. effective January 1, 2016, and authorizes the governing board of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc. to prepare a plan of dissolution, merger, or other necessary or appropriate transformation of The Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid America, Inc. to then be submitted to the governing board and Area Assembly for The Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid America, Inc. for final approval.

David Woodard seconded the motion.

There was some discussion including the following points being articulated:

- When considering the relationship between the Area and the Region, please remember that our SEGA Area Minister is currently, and will continue to be, the President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America.
- The Raney Farm is owned by First Christian Church in Dexter. Since it is not owned by SEGA, the restructure would have no affect on it.
- The restructure would result in a small governance board of representatives from all across the region, and a much larger mission and ministry board of representatives from all across the region.
- Bylaws are being drafted by the current Council of Areas.
- Bookkeeping functions would continue to be done through the Office of the General Minister and President's Treasury Services.
- The region will stay connected via cluster groups.
- Current Area Ministers will continue to serve in much the same way as they do now and will continue to remain available to both clergy and laity within their designated geographical areas, though these may shift or be reduced in number (and the remaining ones increased in size) over time.
- Historical records will continue to be kept wherever they are currently.
- The intention is that the Regional Ministry Team members will have both the accountability and the authority to manage the responsibilities designated in their portfolios.
- It is important that congregations continue their DMF contributions, as well as their Area contributions (which will go to 'CCMA Ministries' upon restructure).
- The Disciples Care Team will be important to our success as we move forward, especially if the number of Regional Ministry Team members is reduced.
- The SEGA office will remain in the same location, though other Area offices may not.
- We do not anticipate a change in the responsibilities associated with the Ministry of Administration and Wider Church Representation.
- Someone asked why SEGA should enter into this since it is the Area in the best financial situation currently. The fact of the matter is that, though the best off, not even SEGA is financially viable on its own anymore. In addition, it is important to assist those two areas that are in the most dire straits so that all congregations get the care and support they deserve. Under the proposed structure, the region will realize a 5:1 savings in terms of governance expense.
- If approved, the restructure would take effect January 1, 2016.
- Maps of the 19 clusters will be made available as soon as possible.
- The proposed 2016 CCMA budget will be made available as soon as possible.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Moderator thanked the discussion groups, board, and Assembly and asked that all keep the Executive Committee in prayer as we move forward.

The Area Minister thanked our hosts, musicians, leaders, planners, facilitators, and workshop leaders for their contributions to the Assembly.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 based on a motion by David Woodard, seconded by Steve Staicoff, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Moore

SEGA Administrative Assistant