
GOVERNANCE

STRUCTURAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CRMR

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The work of the Governance Review Task Force revealed some opportunities for improving the structures that guide the work of the Central Rocky Mountain Region. The Task Force also looked for ways to better align the governance of the Region with the Future Story.

In that work, two key shortcomings were identified.

- The current structure as defined in the Design for the Central Rocky Mountain Region does not provide for continuity. Although this may or may not happen in practice, in theory the Regional Board could completely change every two years.
- The current structure does not reflect the understanding of the Region's work as described in the Future Story as congregational life, ministerial life, and regional life.

The Governance Review Task Force found motivation in two guiding questions. First, if mission and ministry are expressed in the local congregation, how do we modify current structure so that the Region can best fulfill its role of strengthening and equipping congregations for ministry that is unique and appropriate to their call and context?

Second, the Task Force considered the vast geography of the Central Rocky Mountain Region. How do we govern ourselves in such a way that builds and maintains connection over such a large area? How might governance demonstrate that a congregation more than 500 miles from the regional office has equal importance with a congregation that is 5 miles from the office?

The Task Force recognized that the Future Story was intended as a hopeful vision for regional ministry, not a governing document. The concern of the Task Force centered around how governance in the Region could breathe life into the Future Story, helping it to live, grow, and change.

What follows is an initial outline of a structure that begins to address these ideas. It is offered as a starting point for conversation and not as a proposal.

OFFICERS

- **Moderator.** Presides at all meetings of the Regional Board, the business sessions of Spring Feast, and any called assembly of the Region.
- **Vice Moderator.** Presides in the absence of the Moderator. Chairs the Personnel Committee. May serve two terms.
- **Moderator Elect.** Presides in the absence of both the Moderator and the Vice Moderator. Succeeds the Moderator at the end of their term. Chairs the Nominating Committee.
- **Secretary.** Maintains all records of actions taken by the Regional Board and the Region gathered for business at Spring Feast. May serve two terms.
- **Treasurer.** Responsible for overseeing financial activity of the Region and providing financial reports to the Regional Board. Chairs the Finance Committee. May serve two terms.

DISTRICT (AT-LARGE) REPRESENTATIVES

The question remains whether district representation or the existing district structure is still appropriate in guiding the work of the Region. However, the tendency to default to the Region as Colorado persists, both within the Region and beyond. Take, for example, the population of the board for the CRMR Foundation.

For the time being, it would be good to retain the district structure for purposes of representation, even though the districts no longer function in the way they once did. However, to provide for continuity on the Board, district representation should serve rotating four-year terms with each district having two at-large members on the Board. District representatives would be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected during the business session of Spring Feast.

COMMITTEES

The Personnel and Finance Committees become subcommittees of the board. That is, they each consist of members selected from Board membership. A committee for governance and structural review may improve the Board's ability to remain adaptive.

COMMISSIONS

Commission chairs would be voting members of the board, and the Region might look at a couple of ways of structuring commissions. One is to structure commissions around the key ministry areas, creating a Commission on Congregational Life and a Commission on Ministerial Life. One might consider that the Regional Board would function as a Commission on Regional Life, but this needs further exploration.

The Commission on Congregational Life would organize itself as needed to develop innovative programs for new church establishment, congregational transformation, and congregational leadership development.

The Commission on Ministerial Life would replace the existing Commission on the Order of Ministry, taking on much of that responsibility. It would organize itself as needed to provide innovative programs for developing ministerial leadership, certifying ministerial credentials, and intervening in matters of ethical conduct.

A Commission on Regional Life would organize itself as needed to continue the Region's work in anti-racism and reconciliation. It would also work proactively in regional communication. Whether these are functions appropriate to the Regional Board remains to be determined. However, if the Regional Board were to function in this regard, the work of anti-racism and pro-reconciliation should be actively and visibly represented on the board.

GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Per the DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) the Central Rocky Mountain Region has one voting member of the General Board. This position serves as a valuable link between the Region and the work of the Office of the General Minister and President. The person serving the Region in this role should also be a voting member of the Regional Board.