

Minutes
Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Team
April 12, 2010

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Doug Cripe, Rev. Ted Hartley, Mr. Joseph Hubbard, Mr. William Kreeb, Rev. Don Jones (UCC) – permanent replacement for Rev. Stacy Tate, Rev. Terry Clark, Pamela Tackett

Information discussed focused around the flyer, housing, meals, breaks, and registration form. Existing arrangements are acceptable – we have the entire hotel at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine reserved for the event (event dates March 11-12, 2011). Attendees will pay \$90 for registration which includes the event, meals, and lodging; commuters will pay \$55 if they wish to share dinner with us; commuters will pay \$35 if they do not wish to share a meal.

The Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award recommendation form was discussed. This was created prior to our team existence and will continue as is.

It was agreed that we would purchase 10 copies of the Sojourners Discussion Guide “Christians and Poverty.” These will be emailed to team members for review. **(FULL PDF ATTACHED)** Please review the document prior to our June meeting so we can set a formal agenda!

The Rev. Peg Chamberlin, National Council of Churches President and Executive Director of MN Council of Churches will perform the worship service to start the event. She is also available to provide information and insight as we progress as MN has done ground-breaking research on poverty in their state. There are several documents available on their website we can look at going forward. The link is <http://www.mnchurches.org/programs/education/poverty/AMWOP.html>

Amy Terpstra, Associate Director, Social IMPACT Research Center, a program of Heartland Alliance, to provide a presentation. They have much research on poverty in Illinois. Their website is <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/>

Rev. Don Jones (UCC) offered to donate 5 copies of Jim Wallis’ book to give out as attendance/door prizes.

Rev. Don Jones (UCC) also offered to donate \$300 from the Illinois South Conference, United Church of Christ to offset conference fees (afternoon break or other).

Joe Hubbard offered to donate \$300 from the Diocese of Belleville to offset fees. In addition, Joe offered the use of their two soup buses for the break on Day 2 (Saturday, March 12) of the event. We will use the soup buses in lieu of break refreshments – attendees can visit the buses, receive a refreshment, and leave a voluntary donation if they so desire.

We are seeking additional sponsorships to offset travel expenses for our two guest speakers, Rev. Peg Chamberlin and Amy Terpstra. In addition, sponsors could offset the room rental fee of \$400 (for Saturday) or the dinner fee (approximately \$20 per guest) on Friday night.

We need to come up with a plan to offer an incentive for ecumenical groups from small towns to participate together.

Contact with the East St. Louis Ministerial Alliance would be good for this team/partner for this event.

Rev. Ted Hartley is looking into partnering with the St. Louis Food bank (Frank Finnigan) as a partner for this event.

Bill Kreeb will provide an additional contact name for another team member from the East St. Louis Ministerial Alliance.

The flyer has been changed to accommodate the new scope of our meeting: Seeing With New Eyes: The Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry. The flyer has been updated to include Who Will Benefit and What Will I Take From this Event information (see flyer, attached).