

**Illinois Conference of Churches
Leadership Team Meeting
February 17, 2009**

Attendance: Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Rev. Dr. John Charlton III, Rev. Bob Pearson, Mrs. Marianne Stowers, Rev. Terry Clark, Mrs. Andrea Wilson; Rev Linda Harrod., Bishop George Lucas, Rev. Catiana McKay

The ICC Leadership Team met at First Christian Church, 700 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Called to order at 10:10 am by Bishop Wollersheim.

Devotions were done earlier at the beginning of the Joint Meeting.

Agenda was approved.

Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the 8-13-08 Leadership Team will not be available.

The December 2, 2008 LT minutes were accepted with these corrections: the Rev Linda Harrod was added to the attendee list, as well as the meeting date, and Bob Flannery's title was corrected.

Today's agenda:

Financial Reports included status of 2008 pledges: pledged \$81,210; received \$75,443. Results are not final because the books stay open till end of February. This is par for the course this time of year. We have 10 pledges for 2009.

Statements went out this week. They include explanations of what we've done with the money given. It is a gentle reminder for continuation of commitment. When we don't have the name or office we've asked again who is the best person for us to contact. Improved list. Shows pledges for 2009. We asked for updates for units. If no change we used last year's number for the formula. It is not too late to send new unit numbers. Bishop Lucas feels the numbers look pretty accurate. 2nd chart shows pledges changed from 2006 to 2009.

Report on tasks assigned at Dec 08 Leadership Team meeting

Very Rev. Bob Flannery will do his three. Rev. Cynthia Hallas is not here today-no report. Bob Flannery will check with her. Perhaps we could suggest a date today. Rev. Catiana McKay reports that Rev. Chris Pierson will stay on Public policy team. Rev. Bob Sherman did newsletter article as promised. Rev. Dr. John Charlton talked to his region office, no prospects yet. He will put something in their region wide mailing, and will do a presentation at local ministerial association. Bishop Wollersheim did his task as well.

Planning for the next Assembly:

The date is September 25, 2009, the 4th Friday which seems acceptable to most judicatories. The suggested location is Faith Lutheran Church in Joliet. Rev. Catiana McKay will contact the pastor. They have an organist available.

Rev. Catiana McKay will chair the worship committee for the Assembly.

Possible topic –Poverty

Possible Preachers List

General Secretary, National Council of Churches

Miroslav Volf, Yale Divinity School.

Two women from CTS Indianapolis: Holly Hearon, Marti Steussey

Rev. Grace Imathieu

Bishop Demetrios

Rev. Peter Marty

Bishop Mark Hanson

The team agreed the speaker should not be a Lutheran since a Lutheran spoke last year,

Day of the week for the assembly was discussed again. We could change it. Do we want to? Let the assembly make the decision. The North American Academy of Ecumenists have a conflict with the Friday, since their event always starts the last Friday evening in September.

2010 Bi-annual Statewide Assembly Gathering

Rev. Cynthia Hallas is coordinator. A potential site for 2010 is Our Lady of the Snows near St Louis. No dates established yet. Possible relating it to the theme of the forum: poverty. Suggestions for speakers welcome. National Workshop for Christian Unity Tampa Fla -April 19-22, 2010 March 12, 13, 2010 have no rooms left. March 19-20, 2010 or April 9, 10, 2010 are possible dates. As of today they are available at Our Lady of the Snows.

ICER may be able to help with the Gathering also. It could include worship, discussion groups. In the past awards have been given out for ministry happenings. Started Friday afternoon, ended after lunch on Saturday so people can travel. Give an award to a well known person to entice them to come? Is there some special ministry we want to have lifted up –ecumenical in nature? Some possibilities: the “green” dorm at SIU in Carbondale? Churches United’s Ministries in the Quad Cities Area., Rev Ron Quay, Director. Nancy Tegtmeier may be a helpful resource as well.

We noted these ideas and suggestions are not directions to the planning team.

We paused the meeting in order to hear the speaker, Mr. Jim Duffet, Executive Director, Campaign for Better Health Care. (Today’s Joint Team Meeting minutes have a summary)

LUNCH

Team Reports (these reports are also in the Joint Team Meeting minutes)

Public Policy Team

Rev Gary McCants The Team had a conference call last Wednesday with respect to items for legislative leaders. Dates for meetings? As of today have 4 meetings with legislators or top staff and that is tomorrow, February 18th. They continue to work with ICER impacting race and racism. Looking for a date to meet with Gov Quinn or Chief of Staff (Jerry Stermer). Focus tomorrow is on three issues: give handout explaining who we are and our mission and then the 3 issues – work of campaign for better healthcare-ask them to please remain focused on this issue. Expand health care options including backlog to Medicaid providers. 2nd Abolition of the death penalty. House bill 262 to abolish the death penalty in Illinois. 3rd issue ICC support strengthening food, nutrition, housing education social services, health care and we encourage the state to invest in funding level in the state budget that reflects investment in human care programs. Team this morning helped wordsmith this for tomorrow’s meetings.

The above 3 are what we agreed on. There are other issues. This is the focus now. Participation in

lobby days on other issues is encouraged. We will meet with State Representative Barbara FlynnCurrie, then Christine Richardson, chief policy staff for Senator John Cullerton, (Senate President,) then Representative Tom Cross, minority leaders of the house. Then Senator Christina Rodogno. There is the possibility of a press conference. The governor introduces budget March 18th. Does ICC or individual leaders want a press conference in early March emphasizing the human care structures in the state nutrition, housing, healthcare, human services and education shouldn't be cut. We try as a moral issue to get in front by saying the budget for 2010 has to include at least the level of funding that we have in the current budget. (Could bring "brand attention" to the ICC to reclaim a voice that hasn't been real strong in recent years. It would held in the press office, blue room of the capital. Does the team have the ok to go ahead with this? (For leadership team.) Working on a rally in May around human care safety net. The March meeting is to get in front of the budget and not react to it.

- o We want to reinforce the fact that there are needs and they won't be going away. Members encouraged Andrea Wilson to participate in the meetings tomorrow. Dr. John Charlton suggests we do a quick check with our judicatories about the press conference so they aren't blind sided.

- Forum Team

Sister Joan & I (Terry Clark) met. We seek to promote and share theological convictions. This year we're looking at poverty. We feel the worship service preacher should set the tone for the day in relation to Christ's church. Bishop Palmer, Methodist, has experience in poverty area. President of council of bishops for the United Methodist Church. Silvester Weatherall, Springfield. Homeless ministry. Address our biblical grounding and Christ's church is called to continue. The forum to take the same time as last time 0930 (bio sheets) 3 presenters. Poverty, present ministries with the poor, homeless single mothers others. Have presentations examples of ministry especially cooperative ministries. Put on paper so people can see who is doing what and where and they could take it home with them... table discussions about presentation with focus on the communities that we relate to in Illinois. From small to large Urban. Cooperative, secondly the needs we see in those communities. 3rd step: what communities can they think of that have healthy ecumenical ministries that if they had some help could do a helpful ministry with the poor in their community... After lunch, questions and more dialogue than last time. Assigned seating with scribe each table works well. As follow up talk about 10 communities to make a connection and be a resource for them as their churches work together. Then follow up 6 months later to see how they're doing. Leads into March 2010 with the Biannual gathering to continue the theme. Who are suggested resource persons? Sister Joan: can we look at direct help for the poor. Systemic issues for the poor. Attitude today-how do we change things from current feelings to biblical orientation. Middle managers will find selves poor. This is time for people to understand they can and need to help each other. Address greed. Bishop Palmer to be speaker if he is available.

- Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Team

A list of soup kitchens, food pantries, various resources available around the state would be helpful.

- Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER)

Difficulty getting training events scheduled. We provided two last year. Have one this Saturday. How to get the word out that we are here and available? Suggestions from the group: Talk to YMCA, YWCA, Campus Ministry at various schools both state and church affiliated campuses. Seminaries. Discuss racism bigotry, discrimination. Update brochure and get updates out to judicatories. Have workshops for all clergy, but especially for newly ordained clergy. Fee schedule includes mileage &

lodging for trainers and some supply and enough to allow us to provide training to groups that otherwise might not be able to afford it.

Other Business

An audit for 2007-2008 is scheduled with report in time for annual assembly

Request for information re: membership from Jacksonville Conference of Churches

William Cross, president, wonders if they could be members. We will start the process for Ecumenical Partner status with them.

We plan an addition to our website home page –an ecumenical partners link. Churches United has already added a link to ours on their website.

Elder Carlene Hyrams, PCUSA, rep from Chicago can no longer serve since her position was eliminated.

Respectfully submitted by,
Robert L Pearson, Secretary