

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Leadership Team Meeting

August 31, 2010

Meeting Place: Second Presbyterian Church, 313 North East St., Bloomington, IL

Attendance: Rev Terry Clark, Rev Dr, John Charlton III, Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Rev. Kevin Kessler, Rev. Catiana McKay, Mr. Robert Gilligan, Rev Robert Sherman, Rev Kevin Laughery vice Robin Barrow, and Mrs. Marianne Stowers Not attending: Gary Wollersheim-his 98 yr old mother is very ill, Rev Janice West, Rev Robin Barrow Rev Fr Michael Condos, and Rev Cynthia Hallas.

Welcome and Devotions: Rev. Terry Clark, Co-chair led a Bible study from 1 Peter 4:7 after each of three translations was read he asked, "What word or phrase catches your attention?" There was wonderful sharing within the group!

Agenda: presented by Terry Clark, Co-chair. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of Previous Leadership Team Meeting: May 25, 2010 minutes were approved by consensus

Financial Report – Dr John Charlton III:

1) The Balance sheet (handout). Income: 35k; expenses 54k. Another letter was sent to judicatories about 2010 finances, but only 1 responded. The outlook is bleak. Some judicatories gave money that hadn't made a commitment-about 6k. At this rate of spending in excess of income the investments in reserves would be gone in two to two and half years. We are way off the mark on income. October to February we get the bulk of income. We will get some of this shortfall back, but not all.

2) 2010 Budget was presented and reviewed.

Administrator's Report – Pamela Tackett

1) Office Status. We are still bound by our lease. Kumler remains excited about our coming. The lease has 2 more years to run, so a new renter would be most welcome.

2) Audit information: Article IV, Leadership Team, item B.c.iv. of the By-Laws requires an annual audit. The Team agreed change is necessary. After much discussion we decided to come back to this later. We came back to this during consideration of 2011 budget. By consensus the following proposal will go before the Annual Assembly in September to change the By-laws to require an audit every 5 years, and that we have an annual review by an outside CPA or accounting firm every year except for the year of the formal audit.

3) Office equipment update. A new computer is sorely needed. A laptop with wireless capability will be procured. The money will come from what we would have paid for the bookkeeper we no longer use. We currently use Office 2003 software which is two generations back. We will upgrade to office 2010, using same source for money.

4) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Jan 18-25, 2011 (handout) Publicity will be sent to judicatories.

5) Christmas cards will be sent to judicatories. We chose from the options presented.

Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering: March 11-12, 2011 – Dinner Friday evening the 11th and presenting the Don Mason ecumenical award. Excellent special music, both vocal and instrumental, is planned. We hope there will be local teams coming from local communities. During the 2nd day of event mobile food pantry vehicles will bring a snack. The Gathering will run from 1 pm Friday thru noon Saturday (no lunch). The theme is working together in relation to racism and persons who are poor.

Other Teams:

1) Illinois Christians Encountering Racism Team – presented by Rev Kevin Laughery: ICER met recently for renewal. Rev Robin Barrow and Earl Smith are now co-chairs. There've been many changes of team members since 2006. We've not had much business, maybe 4. Chris Hopkins is the real teacher in our midst. We use a curriculum from the Episcopal Church. Racism is a vast subject. Illinois is a big state. We acknowledged our limits and are looking at the possibility of concentrating on one or two areas of Ill – perhaps Champaign Urbana to start. Those who remain on the team are very committed. We should have e more members. The ICC wants to be essentially antiracist. See new pamphlet about what ICER is and its relationship to the ICC. The pamphlet can be edited at will. The team will be meeting at the end of the annual assembly. ICER team would like to do a mini-workshop with the ICC leadership team, maybe in Feb at the Leadership Team meeting? Terry Clark commented that people in the country are not dealing with racist issues, that it has been intellectualized and bantered and reality not addressed.

2) Public Policy Team – Bob Gilligan: after Labor Day the election stuff will go into high gear. General assembly is not in session. Veto sessions are in November. There will be 2 three day sessions. “Lame duck, Katy bar the door!” It's an opportunity for many things to happen. One potential topic is abolition of the death penalty. The Public Policy Team has not met. Since Linda left we are making internal changes. Terry had an exit interview with Linda. It was helpful.

a) Gary and Terry & Bob Gilligan discussed issues, principally the financial. Can we afford to replace Linda? No. Instead we propose to eliminate the position, but shift some of the functions to the administrative coordinator. So see revised Administrative Coordinator job description (handout.) The proposed duties will take 5 to 8 hrs of Pamela's time per week on average. Because of the additional responsibility the salary would increase from 35 k to 40 k. If accepted it would start Sep 1, 2010. By consensus the following was adopted: Amend the Admin Coordinator job description to add the parts in red, and increase the annual salary 5 k; increase to start at Sept 1. In addition the Leadership Team's guideline is these new duties will use 5 to 8 hrs a week with flexibility over the year.

Guest Presenter-

Ms Liz Moran, Organizer, Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Ms Moran said there was a real possibility that the legislature might act favorably during the veto session. The moratorium has been in place for 10 years, but people are still sentenced to death in Illinois. There are 15 are death row now. 20 people have been exonerated since the moratorium. The death penalty is not a deterrent, it is very expensive compared to a life sentence without parole, and it is abundantly clear that Illinois has not found a way to be absolutely certain innocent people are not convicted and sentenced to death. She pointed out the Coalition spends

a lot of time on speaking engagements and tries to involve many people in the process. The Coalition spends much time with victims, and there are many victim family members who are in favor of abolition. One consideration for them is the death penalty process takes so many years that their pain goes on and on. Another is the death of the perpetrator does not bring back their loved one, and another is many victim families want to get past vengeance.

Ms Moran had several handouts which would enable congregation members to make their desires known to their local legislator(s). She asked that judicatories consider sharing these with their congregations.

LUNCH [why does every agenda always have this items in capital letters??]

Proposed Budget for 2011-Pamela (Handout) Payroll expenses uses Quickbooks. Administrative coordinator benefits are health and pension. Professional expense is travel, professional seminars. Reduced 18 k from last year. When we get out of the lease there will be a greater reduction. [At this point we went back to audit and reviewed that proposal, and made a by-law change.] Upon return to 2011 budget we added \$ 500 for the annual financial review. Line item to read annual financial review or audit instead of line item that now says audit in the budget. Figures will have to be adjusted accordingly. Passed by consensus –now goes to Annual Assembly.

Annual Assembly – September 23, 2010

1) Taize prayer service update, Pr Clark passed out the bulletin cover. It shows participants and choirs. There are several choral and musical instrument offerings. We will be in the atrium of the cathedral and then into the church for service.

Pamela is concerned that there are only 18 registrations on hand.

2) Forum – Catiana presented. Everything is ready to go with Rev Scot Anderson, our speaker. He will use an hour before and an hour after lunch. He will send us handouts in advance. Directed seating (consider regions), but no directed questions during lunch. There should be at least one leadership team member at each table.

3) When the need for 6 volunteers was presented LT members swiftly addressed the issue with good results.

4) The Team developed 5-7 intercessory prayers for use during Taize Prayer Service. Some areas of concern: for our churches, our world, the human family, for those in service, people in Darfur, & let's not forget Pakistan. It could be these areas, or others - the prayers were composed.

Nominations for Leadership and Mission Teams; election at Annual Assembly

Both our treasurer (Dr John) and our secretary (Bob P) complete their terms and are not eligible for re-election to the Leadership Team, nor is Cynthia Hallis. Bishop Wollersheim will stand for re-election. Rev Terry Clark would commit to one more year but would like to be replaced ASAP. Secretary and treasurer are needed. Bob Sherman volunteered to take the Secretary position. No volunteers from the team for treasurer. Nominations were sought. Gary McCants? Are there any Presbyterians who would be available? Terry welcomes all suggestions. Not just for Leadership Team, but for all the Team vacancies.

The By-laws need to be changed so new terms are effective at close of the annual assembly instead of the calendar year.

Additional items:

National Workshop on Christian Unity May 9-12, 2011 is in Pittsburgh.

Any initial suggestions for the Don Mason award at the Bi-annual gathering-person or agency? The Leadership Team will make the decision ref the Don Mason award at the Feb Leadership team meeting

Next Leadership Team meeting date: Nov 30 , 2010, 9 am Plainfield, at the United Methodist Church.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm. After closing prayer by Fr Bob Flannery.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Pearson, Secretary