

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Leadership Team Meeting

May 25, 2010

Meeting Place: Church of the Brethren, 4714 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL

Attendance: Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Rev Terry Clark, Rev Dr. John Charlton III, Rev. Bob Pearson, Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Rev. Linda Harrod, Rev. Kevin Kessler, Rev. Catiana McKay, Mr. Robert Gilligan, Rev. Cynthia Hallas, Mrs. Marianne Stowers, Pamela Tackett. Not attending: Rev Robin Barrow, Rev. Janice West, Rev. Fr. Michael Condos, and Rev Robert Sherman

Welcome and Devotions: Rev. Terry Clark, Co-chair

Agenda: presented by Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Co-chair. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of Previous Meeting & Joint Teams Meeting: March 2, 2010 minutes of both were accepted as corrected-spelling of archdiocese

Financial Report – Dr John Charlton III:

- 1) The Balance sheet (handout). The difference between the first quarter income and outflow was \$3,733 (to the negative).
- 2) 2010 Budget was presented and reviewed.
- 3) 2010 Commitments. We have pledges of \$51k vs budget of \$89k which is the actual spending budget. The difference from 106k would be a cash reserve. Fr Bob Flannery suggests review of 2009 giving to see if there are any resources still coming in from 2009. Perhaps reminders can be made. Belleville Diocese may be willing to give again since the 2.5 k given in 2010 could be considered 2009 catch-up. Fr. Bob will continue to seek funds through personal contacts at his diocese. Increased participation from judicatories would help the financial cause as well. We want to encourage as close to 100% participation as possible. We probably will not get anything from the Catholic Peoria diocese. The Episcopal diocese of Springfield may have difficulty too because of the issues within their church.

Administrator's Report – Pamela Tackett

1) Office Status. Two items: the file cabinets are down to 5 which provide lots more space. The second relates to our planned move to the Kumler Outreach Ministries site. Our landlord initially said he would forgive the lease, but now is making us stay within the lease terms until someone else leases the space. Kumler is ready for us at any time. They are getting our planned space ready for us despite this setback. When we do move there besides more space, Pamela will be safer because she will be in a place with others. In our current location she is sometimes there over an hour before someone else comes into the building. The lease has 2 more years to run, so we can hope someone wants to rent that space soon.

2) Updated Administrator Ministry Description (copy attached)
It was received by consensus with appreciation for Pamela's work in the process.

Annual Assembly – September 23, 2010

1) Publicity and worship – Pamela Tackett Worship will be in Taize prayer service format, lasting about an hour, with no preacher. Currently 4 directors of music from Springfield are involved in planning. The team has met once. Pamela and Madonna Jones are working out the details. It won't be in the sanctuary but in the atrium. (Sanctuary is "spoken for" –not available then, but we can view it later in the day.) Choirs will be involved. Publicity resources were discussed-websites, Judicatory newsletters. Church Women united in Springfield would be a good resource.

2) Forum – Rev Scott Anderson will be forum speaker. We will coordinate a time for people so see the sanctuary. There will be only one speaker, not 4, so it will be more focused. Catiana & Sister Joan are working it. Priming questions for tables are helpful. Focus is polarization in church and society. See flyer. Lodging is available at Springfield Hilton, at group rate. An Abe Lincoln museum visit will be set up also.

Catiana came later and presented. She and Sister Joan propose also using a nonviolence service as presented by Pace Bene. They envision this before lunch. It will be coordinated with the speaker. Lunch to be short, 30 min. but will not include directed questions. Then the pace bene experience after lunch. Ask Taize service be shortened to 45 min from an hour. Presented a possible schedule. They are coordinating with Anderson and Pace Bene.

They plan for seating at tables by regions (common territory) in the state. Still preserve ecumenical mix at the tables. We need to be sure participants know what to expect, within the theme standing apart, stranding together. This will be coordinated with Scott. Is he aware of some other model than Pace? Remember the audience is not at step 0. It needs to connect well with this audience.

Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering: March 19-20, 2011 – Rev. Terry Clark/Pamela Tackett All related to poverty and how it relates to people who are poor. Sojourners material will be used and be sent out as pre-meeting reading. Two resource people Joe Hubbard, Catholic Urban Programs East St Louis, Diocese of Belleville, plus similar needs in rural areas. Growing issues of low income people even in rural areas as they seek less expensive housing. Very few churches are working together to address these issues. In ministry with low income people, Joe has been doing this 50 plus years. Bill Kreeb, executive director of Leslie Bates Neighborhood House. We will have the president of the National Council of Churches as speaker, the Rev Peg Chamberlin. She will be there for the first day. Doug Cripe, Johnston City, is a resource person as well, Emphasis on rural. Hope the Catholic and Lutheran Social Services get involved. It can be a way for each to learn what others are doing. How do we make sure the right people know about this? Heartland Alliance will also be presenting statistics on poverty in Illinois. All info is on our website. Should we specifically invite judicatory leaders to bring welcome –the Catholic bishop, and the AME bishop?

Other Teams:

1) Illinois Christians Encountering Racism Team – Rev Robin Barrow. She is overcommitted. It is a work in progress to reform the ICER team. A leader with time to lead is needed. We wondered whether members of judicatory anti-racism teams/ministries might be able/willing to serve on ICER.

2) Public Policy Team – Bob Gilligan at our last meeting we voted on letter to Gov. Quinn – sent to judicatories only 4 responded and said send it. It has not been sent because Bob has

concerns: the Catholic conference board urges non-involvement with the tax enhancement question. It is up to the lawmakers to find the money; our job is to lay out the needs. Catholic board says any conversation about revenue enhancement should not be discussed now. Do not want to be too closely associated with tax increases. Bob's feeling about the letter is some of the wording. Timeliness of the letter is a factor. Gov Quinn will likely to get lump sum and legislators exit. There will probably be no tax increase. Will the General Assembly take into consideration the needs of the poorer people? Some people think pensions etc. need to be reformed before budgeting for it. It is not too late to send the letter, but to urge meeting needs, but not address money. The governor will be the one who decides what gets funded and what does not get funded. Public Policy Team will draft letter and let us take a quick look and send it off after informing the Judicatories there is no consensus on funding, but total agreement on the statement of needs. Current letter 1st para. 2nd sentence be changed by deleting everything in that paragraph after the word households. The sentence would read, "We urge you to prevent any potential devastating budget cuts from being imposed upon vital human care services, thus protecting our low and moderate income households." The letter will go only to the governor because the legislators are likely to give lump sum to the governor and he makes the decisions. Bob will get wording of a possible letter. When letter is done send it out to judicatories right away. Ask for reply by a certain day. Silence means assent. Tell why judicatories why it's different: input brought the change. The letter will suggest the governor considered reports and concerns from the human services community to include the Illinois Conference of Churches, Catholic Social Services, and Lutheran Social Services.

Bob feels there is some momentum to abolish the death penalty. Lots of ground work has been done. Action is possible during the veto session. Can act on legislation governor has vetoed. It will be after elections, so some will be lame ducks. It's a wild time. They may try to abolish the death penalty in that timeframe-in part because it's very expensive.

-Public Policy Coordinator

Linda is resigning affecting June 15. Church is increasing her responsibilities. The team expressed full understanding of her decision, and deeply appreciates the work she has done. She was asked to stay on the PPT team as a member and she will consider same.

Terry will do an exit interview. Then Bob G and team look at interview and bring to next meeting, August 31. Job Description of coordinator was distributed

Additional items:

Nominations to fill our teams. Each judicatory represented on each team is ideal. Terry wants a 3 persons team to look at nominations, including leadership team-who comes off, who would we replace. [see Leadership team data at the end of the minutes] Terry asks Fr Bob to be on the committee, but Bob doesn't want to be chair. For all teams, we want the best, not just those who are able to show up. They need to do what they agreed to do.

Bishop Gary –get names at annual assembly. Our task for August is persons for the slate for election at the annual assembly.

Any initial thoughts for the Don Mason award at the Bi-annual gathering-person or agency?

Next meeting date: Aug 31, 2010, Bloomington

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm. After closing prayer by Linda

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Pearson, Secretary

Leadership Team Members:

Terms expiring in 2010: Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Rev. Robert Pearson, Rev. Dr. John Charlton III, and Rev. Cynthia Hallas.

Terms expiring in 2011: Rev. Terry Clark, Mr. Bob Gilligan, Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Mrs. Marianne Stowers, Rev. Kevin Kessler, Rev. Fr. Michael Condos, Rev Robin Barrow, Rev. Janice West, Rev Catiana McKay, and Rev. Robert Sherman.

This listing is from the December 8, 2009 update.