

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Leadership Team Meeting

September 1, 2009

Meeting Place: Laurel United Methodist Church, 631 South Grand Ave W, Springfield, IL

Attendance: Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Rev Dr, John Charlton III, Rev Terry Clark, Rev. Linda Harrod, Rev. Catiana McKay, Rev. Robert Pearson, Rev. Robert Sherman, Mrs. Marianne Stowers, Mrs. Andrea Wilson. Not attending: Very Rev. George Lucas, Rev Cynthia Hallas, Rev Dr. Curt Keller, Rev Don Jones, Teamous Newberne

Worship: led by Gary McCants in the meeting room at Laurel Church

Called to order at 9: 30 a.m. by Bishop Wollersheim

Introductions made by all attending with sharing what we are thankful for

Agenda: approved as presented, no changes; we dedicate this meeting to Pastor Don Mason, who held several major leadership positions within the ICC, including President of the Board (back when we had a board.) We noted that Bishop George Lucas, formerly bishop of Springfield, has been appointed archbishop of Omaha, NE. He will be missed within the ICC.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The May 27, 2009 minutes were accepted as printed

Meeting with the governor: Linda reports continued attempts to schedule a meeting, but there are many requests ahead of us. His office assures us they are taking them in order. It may be 6 months. It is not us; it is just the way they do business. We have to keep asking

Catholic Diocese of Peoria – Msgr Hallin’s letter on behalf of diocese requesting his judicatory be dropped from membership, and removed from our mailing list. Fr Bob will contact him this week for clarification of the intent of his letter. We’ve seen the letter, but will wait for Bob’s contact report. We want to keep the door open. Al’s contributions personally are very valuable. The communication interchange is very important.

Financial Information:

Accountant’s Report & Questions

Ms Storm Wolff, CPA, CVA, our accountant from Cowan, Epperson & Associates attended. She presented several financial information sheets:

- 1) Notes regarding the General Fund. Net income as of 15 August shows a \$40,304 shortfall. Currently we are not going into reserves to cover operating costs, however if there’s no increase in the giving rate we could go into reserve funds in 2010.

- 2) Balance Sheet as of 15 August. Total assets \$138,824.29. Total liabilities and equity also \$138,824.29. Ms Storm noted line 3005, equity, should be reduced to \$34,640.80 to match line 1100 in assets. The amount deducted from line 3005 should be added to line 3001. General Fund, Equity. This reduction reflects investment loss in the Office Property-Restricted account. The changes mean the Liabilities and Equity total will remain \$138,824.29. In light of other reports available the Leadership Team asked her to do the Balance Sheet quarterly and at the end of the year adjustment time.
- 3) Profit and Loss, Budget vs Actual, Jan 1 – Aug 15, 2009. This is a short form summarizing major categories of income and expenses. It is similar to the ICC Schedule 2 report (which was in the handouts from the ICC office, but not reviewed because similar data to this report from the accountant.)
- 4) Profit and Loss, Budget vs Actual, Jan 1 – Aug 15, 2009. This is a long form which gives detail line by line of each major item. Examples: it lists each Judicatory's giving on a separate line and then totals them; for staff salary, professional development, benefits, & travel are separate line items, and then totaled.

After reviewing the short and long forms of the Profit and Loss, Budget vs Actual, the Team decided to have only the short form prepared each Team meeting and the long form only once a year. (It is unclear if our intent was for the end of the calendar year, or if it was for presentation at the Annual Assembly.)

Discussion centered on the short form, especially the \$40,304.48 shortfall. We noted 2009 pledges are lower than 2008, and there is less income than in 2008. We hope remaining 2009 donations will help, but, noting there will be additional expenses for the last third of 2009, the end of year shortfall could be around \$7,000. In contrast 2008's shortfall was \$870.

Before leaving Ms Storm said she would be willing to review our 2010 budget proposal when it has been prepared.

Budget for 2010

Worst case, possible, and ideal budgets were presented. All three were carefully studied. Both the worst case and the possible require significant salary and benefit reductions for staff, loss of a telephone line and loss of fax capability, plus moving all financial accounting in house.

After thorough discussion the Team decided to go with the Ideal Budget but changed the Administrative Coordinator benefits line from \$4,000 to \$9,700. The Budget then totals \$99,060 (the secretary notes this proposal still does not provide any professional development for staff, and it cuts travel expenses to 44% of 2008's actual travel cost.)

In light of expected income shortfall the Team decided to subtract office expenses from line 1110, Property-restricted. This would result in slow depletion of line 1110; our

hope is a recovering economy may rebuild some of the lost value, but if not, ministry is ministry. This decision will be referred to the Annual Assembly for their approval.

Bob Sherman agreed to present the budget at the Assembly. John Charlton, Catiana McKay, and Bob Sherman volunteered as a task force to address fund raising. We will ask for more members to join at the Assembly.

The Team decided not to distribute to the Assembly the ICC 2010 Budget Judicatory Financial Support Profile Request which, using a formula, showed fair share giving by each judicatory to support the budget. (the multi-colored form)

ICC Pamphlets

We want to have two information brochures - one with no changes, and one with current data. Nothing is ready yet. What do we want included? The static one is easy, mission teams, what we've done and what want to do. It could include background on Judicatories that are involved in the ICC. What goes in the one that changes? Public policy is probably one item, others could report on visits to the capitol; pursuing an appointment to visit with the Governor; the Bi-state gathering, emphasizing its open to anyone, and announcing this year's emphasis on poverty; listings of Forum topics in the past; pictures of ecumenical connection events. Mission statement should be on both brochures. Maybe Andrea could send drafts to us to help .

Purpose: a means of education about the ICC for the judicatory leader. When we consider ICC's work and that of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Catholic Conference, etc. - groups that we work with, the brochure should help us unify the work instead of working against each other.

2009 Annual Assembly

Invitations have all gone out, both postal and e-mail to judicatories. We are trying to get publicity in the Joliet newspaper(s). The Team suggests sending invitations to congregations as well. The location is Faith Lutheran Church, 353 N. Midland Avenue, Joliet, IL 60435 (815) 725-4213.

Catiana reported the worship plan is well underway. There will be resources from several traditions. It will be 40 min at start and 15 min at end, and addresses the theme of the poor and inclusivity. She is in touch with Bishop Palmer. There'll be a processional -invite judicatory reps - as many different judicatories as possible. The bulletin should show the service is dedicated in memory of Rev. Don Mason. Catiana is doing the bulletin in a form that can be taken home. There should be information about Don in it, as well as any other information important to share. We want Don's widow, Donna, to be aware of this. Bob Sherman will contact her. The offering will be for some ministry for the poor in Joliet. Coordination with the pastor of host church will find that ministry.

The forum will have similar structure to last year. There will be "table captains" to help guide discussion of the topic as presented; volunteers were sought from within the Team, and many responded.

Leadership Team Nominations

9 of 14 member's terms expire: Bob Flannery, George Lucas (Judicatory Exec), Marianne Stowers, Gary McCants, Cynthia Hallas, Curt Keller, Don Jones, Teamous Newberne, and Bob Sherman. 5 member's terms remain until next year: Gary Wollersheim (Judicatory Exec), Bob Pearson, John Charlton, Terry Clark, Catiana McKay.

The Team noted we need Church of the Brethren, Episcopalian, Orthodox, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic members. The following persons have been nominated for the election vote at the Assembly:

Very Rev Robert Flannery (Catholic), but not as a Co-Chair
Ms Marianne Stowers (CC DOC, Rep at Large)
Rev Cynthia Hallas (TEC), if she can participate, so "maybe"
Teamous Newberne (UCC), if he can participate, so "maybe"
Rev Bob Sherman, UCC, Rep from b/n I-70 & I-80
Needed:

Rep from the ICER team
Rep from South of I-70

The Leadership Team nominates Rev Terry Clark (UMC) as Co-chair.

2010 Bi-State Annual Gathering:

March 19-20, 2010, starts at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of the Snows (Location??) The Team was asked to review the minutes of our May 27 meeting which are inclusive. Bates House may be a place to visit, if Bates leaders feel it's ok. The award of a "Local Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission" is part of the Bi-State. Given our financial status there will no monetary award. Bob Sherman volunteered to work on the form. The Team suggests the ICC mission statement be on each form.

Attendees at the Assembly will be asked if they want to participate in the Bi-Annual Gathering planning.

Team Reports:

ICER – no rep, no report. They wanted to be included and yet do not show. They have not had action lately. Scheduled training got cancelled because there wasn't enough interest. Perhaps they could offer the Springfield mayor some help; in terms of some issues recently occurring there. This resource not in competition with judicatory programs, but is complementary to them. It is an area of ministry that perhaps some judicatories do not have available. Invite ICER to make a presentation either at an upcoming assembly (2010) or perhaps at a leadership team meeting

Public Policy Team Gary McCants presented. Praised Linda for her work. She takes the lead and assures that team is working doing what you want it to do. She is the person to call. She ensures ICC is visible in legislature. Gary cannot stand for re-election to the Leadership Team, but is willing to continue with Public Policy. Profuse thanks were offered to Gary for all his work by the Leadership Team.

Forum team – included in Annual Assembly report

Newsletter reminders: articles are due

Other reminders:

Oct 1, 2009 Old St Patrick's church in Chicago, 6:30 pm 10th anniversary of Joint Declaration Documentation on Justification between Catholics and Lutherans. Cardinal George will be there, also Presiding Bishop Hansen, and Bishop Wollersheim of the ELCA. . See handout from Bob Flannery.

Augustana College, Rock Island presents a seminar on Islam, 9:30 am. If interested, call Bishop Wollersheim's admin assistant, Julie for specifics. (815) 964-9934

The next meeting of the Leadership Team after the Annual Assembly will be Dec 1, 2009, 9 am -3:30 pm, in Champaign, location to be determined .

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm, and we closed by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Pearson, Secretary