

**ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES**  
Leadership Team Meeting  
December 1, 2009

**Meeting Place:** Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, 2010 Three Hierarchs Court, Champaign, IL 61820

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

**Worship:** led by Pr. Terry Clark in the church sanctuary

**Meeting Called to order** after worship by Pastor Clark

Introductions made by all attending Leadership team listing was reviewed. By consensus the word “Roman” will be deleted in all ICC references to the Catholic Church.

**Agenda:** presented by Bishop Wollersheim. The agenda was approved. “Old” business items will be covered in team reports, or at the end of our meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The September 1, 2009 minutes were accepted as printed

**Financial Report – Dr John Charlton:**

The Balance sheet, Current cash flow, 2010 Budget, and Judicatory response handouts were all reviewed and approved. Reminders will be sent to the judicatories including a letter reference 2009 giving to date, and the budget for 2010 with a request for pledges to meet it. A draft will be sent to the leadership team soonest. We want to encourage the judicatories to be aware of the ICC’s existence.

If the brochure is ready it could be included in the mailing. Hopefully inserts for the week of Christian Unity could be included for judicatory use.

The audit results are in and we are ok! Does an annual audit have to be done? If not, we could move to an annual financial review and then a formal audit every 5 years. - Unless constitutionally required. (NOTE: By-Laws, Article IV, Leadership Team, paragraph B. 3. c. The Treasurer shall: -- i.v. Implement an annual audit. Info: By-laws can be amended if the Annual Assembly approves by a 2/3rds majority the recommendation brought by the Leadership Team.)

Pam has grant writing experience, so we will look for opportunities to apply for grants in the future. Since many applications require audits, let’s continue the audits unless grants are not possible.

## **Administrator's Report**

The Administrator's responsibilities list was presented for information.

Rev Sherman recused himself from phone service conversation because of conflict of interest. His wife works for a phone company.

ICC office rent increases 25\$ to \$625. The lease is up in 2011.

We have new software: Adobe suites. Pam's student status allowed a \$1500 price break.

Letterhead reviewed. Design great, but put the mission statement before the leadership team listing and have same font size for both. Names can get lost in the dark ink.

Brochure: The title may be confusing. The phrase "Church of Jesus Christ" could be considered a denomination. Possible change: "To make visible and effective the unity and mission of Christians in Illinois." The back side defines the word ecumenical. Roman references will be taken out with reference to the Catholic Church. Public policy team will work on a statement of ICC concerns to replace the specific groups mentioned.

Newsletter: once a month, but briefer Release or include regional stuff too.

Website: to provide as much info as someone may wish about our denominations. There are links to members and they are linked back to us.

Phone Service: land line needs to be kept, but we can eliminate the fax line. We don't get business related fax-lots of ads though. Savings: more than \$400.

Effective 1 Jan with Quickbooks software we will do our own accounting and payroll. We will have the same reports as now. Savings will be \$3600 annually.

Clarification of Judicatory Executives and representatives of judicatory (only when judicatory exec can't be there, thus there will be a delegate plus judicatory leader for the fall assembly. (2 votes per judicatory) This will help clarity as to whom should get communications. [NOTE: By-Laws, Article II, Membership, Paragraph D.1. says each member agrees to appoint a delegate, in addition to the Judicatory Executive, to the Annual Assembly, but then Article III, The Annual Assembly, paragraph A says the Assembly shall be composed of "Two delegates from each member body – one Judicatory Executive and one representative..." this wording makes the word representative and the word delegate the same person, whereas our discussion defines representative as a replacement for the Executive when he/she can't be present.]

Clarification of Membership in the ICC. Pr Terry Clark is concerned. Members agreed to affirm the ICC mission and support it financially. We have a number not supporting us at all. We have work to do. We know finances are tough for all. We need to get better communication and by physical contact. Terry is willing to spend time with judicatory leaders to hope they will get excited about participating. Bishop Wollersheim: – a strategy would be to visit that leader when he or she is first elected in their judicatory. The transportation and meal expenses would be worth it. This is a terrific offer for Terry to do this. Terry will keep is up to date. Terry will offer to come and speak as time permits. The letter proposed a visit should be from both Terry and Gary.

## **Annual Assembly:**

Gary led this: topic well appreciated. Table conversations were good. Worship was excellent. Assigned tables works. Maybe alternate faith and works topics in years

ahead. Terry has a concern about attendance. What can we do to get more folks there? Maybe we can get press release. We provide it and send it out. Hopefully editors will use it. Release one before the Assembly, and another after it.

Assembly 2010 date change from last Friday to last Thursday. Team changed assembly to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday instead of 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. So the next one will be Sept 23, 2010. Discussion of location and topics followed: Bloomington; St Patrick's of Myrna ?? backup 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbytererian Topic: rotate between theology and action. Reconciling Divisiveness in society and within the church. Can the church be a model of reconciliation. The confrontational atmosphere. It goes across denominational lines. Standing apart is what is happening. Standing together is what Christ calls us to do. Lift up churches that have accomplished this. Speakers who are well known in this area.. How make decisions in a healthy way without voting-calling the previous question. Seek consensus, because when you vote you always have a loser. These ideas need to be passed on to the Forum team. Catiana is chair. Polarization with society and how the church tries to address it. The Cathedral in Springfield if we change to the capitol for this topic. Any speakers in mind? What about a legislator? Senatgor Meeks? What happens when don't stand together and remain apart? Legislator, clergy layperson. Meeks as preacher? Rep Naomi Jacobson suggested by Robin. David Kohler, representative, clerlgyman in his first term. Meeks has done exchanges with the Willow Creek Church. Also possible to use ethicists since they are often involved in difficult decision making. They have skills in how to keep people at the table who disagree with one another.

Maybe go with three speakers/presenters instead of four to allow more time for table discussion and for the sharing session. Maybe ask a seminary professor who is also a pastor in a congregation.

### **Team Reports:**

#### 2010 Bi-State Annual Gathering:

Have had 2 meetings, 1 conference call. March 19-20, 2010, starts at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of the Snows. Refer to last page of the newsletter for info too. Bates House in its 100<sup>th</sup> year 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. People who are poor will help with the presentation –they will sit at the tables with us. Metro East Interfaith Partnership will help.

Public Policy Team Bob Gilligan. The Team wants judicatories to know ICC priority for issues. There is a written report in our folders. The legislature reconvenes for 3 days in January. The Primary election is Feb 2. Session begins in earnest that day. May 7 they adjourn, or more realistically May 31<sup>st</sup>. State budget and how assembly will balance it is the issue of issues. Real hurdle is if legislators raise tax from 3 to 5% it only brings in 2 to 3 billion dollars, but the amount owed is 5 or 6 to 12 billion shortfall. So its raise taxes, cut service, and borrow more. Bob expects more cuts and more borrowing. We

are still trying for a meeting with Gov Quinn. We are not the only group waiting in line. Gov is candidate oriented now. Linda has made a second request. Eventually will get to see him, the when is the issue. Want to get as many judicatories represented as possible on the team. Good progress. Have had a conference call. ICC should look at these issues for coming sessions. Higher priority for abolition of the death penalty. It's a tough issue, but as a basic moral issue we want to increase our prioritization. Not neglect payments for health providers, but ratchet it down a little because of federal legislation issues, a perennial issue is safety for state programs and services that serve the most vulnerable. Bob thinks it will be a really tough year for them. Faith community has a strong voice in this. Fourth issue is incarceration of youth. We will monitor it closely this year. Re-entry into society is a problem. Another concern is operational management issues, that just come up.. Like the cemetery regulations and its impact

ICER – Robin says she has no report. She just got on that team. Perhaps she can contact previous team leader(s); have a conference call. Pamela can help set it up.

Joint Teams Meeting:

Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Structure: team meetings after worship until lunch, then report back after lunch. Team members are invited to stay for leadership team if they wish. Goal is to have a rep from each judicatory on at least one committee so all judicatories are involved in the team process. It will be in Springfield church may change.

Other Items:

Proposed meeting dates: Tuesdays were confirmed as workable days.

ICC will send Christmas cards to judicatory leaders, representatives and delegates

Church and Synagogue Library Association has publications and mentors and an education course for anyone who works in a church library. Source of how they have a website and newsletter. Contact info will be given to Pamela, but spread the word yourself.

Catholic Diocese of Peoria – Bob Flannery: funds are difficult for them. They felt they weren't getting their money's worth. Bob plans to call the Vicar General and ask if they can make some contribution even if small just to be on board because other dioceses in state are on board and we would like them to be on board too.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Pearson, Secretary