

## ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Leadership Team Meeting

March 2, 2010

**Meeting Place:** Grace United Methodist Church, Springfield, IL

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

**Agenda:** presented by Bishop Wollersheim. The agenda was approved.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** December 1, 2009 minutes were accepted as corrected: page 3, as reads Bi-State Annual Meeting, should read Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering.

### **Financial Report – Dr John Charlton III:**

The Balance sheet  
2010 Pledge Sheet  
2009 Pledge Sheet

Pamela has everything in Quickbooks now. This saves \$350 a month since not paying for an accounting service. It shows income, expenses, balance. All ICC assets will disappear in 2.5 years if we don't cut expenses and don't get expected income. We are keeping within the budget. Income is not meeting the need. 2009 pledges are still waiting on payment from diocese of Chicago. We still expect the \$10,000 balance, so income from judicatories will rise to \$55,730 for 2009. In addition, Bob F will check on Belleville diocese.

2010 pledges are \$39,000; last year it was \$52,000. Co-leaders sent a letter to all judicatories asking they fulfill 2009 commitment and asking for a response for their commitment for 2010. Their letter talked about what we've done and what the response would be. We haven't heard from many. We need to get requests to judicatory leaders very early in the year because much planning is done early in a given year for the next year. Bishop Wollersheim suggested maybe we can get the fund raisers from the various judicatories to advise us. They could tell us a process that may or may not work; ask them to come to one of our leadership team meetings.

We discussed what do to follow up December letter, and then Gary's suggestions—discuss when everyone is back at our table today, so these reports were shared with all the joint team members as well. Sister Joan reports that the Chicago Arch-diocese will send the \$10,000 for 2009 within a week.

2010 results show our concerns. Letter was written to judicatory execs reviewing programs, 2009 progress and please commit for 2010. If your judicatory shows no response for 2010, we really need to hear from them, so please contact them and ask for help. If we continue this pattern all resources will be depleted in 2.5 years, we will be broke. Copies of what is sent to judicatories will be sent to the leadership team: snail mail for judicatories, email for us.

2011 request letter should go out in April. Ask if there are any changes to units also. Sister Joan pointed out that the Chicago Archdiocese gives 4 times as much to ICC as to any other ecumenical agency with which they participate. Sister appreciates the planning of the leadership team to reduce spending.

### **Administrator's Report – Pamela Tackett**

Registration with Illinois Attorney General is current; we don't have to pay the \$5 fee and don't have to file reports, but have to give them annual updated leadership lists.

PayPal account – want to establish can get a button on our web site that allows people to donate allows us to receive credit card donations. Fees, minimal come out of the donations; account just to accept donations, not to pay anything

Responses to the new website and newsletter have been positive. We are keeping it seasonal and updated.

Office phone system- changed to AT&T no longer have fax line will save \$50 a month. 250 minutes long distance minutes included.

Office rental space- cost goes up to \$625 in May. We have space for \$300 a month in Kumler Outreach Ministries, Springfield on 303 North Grant Avenue East. Good parking. They have chapel that is open and we could have our meetings there. Kumler does food and clothing and food and pharmacy ministry for low income people. It will be a Christian environment instead of business environment. Different approach. Is there a place for signage? We discussed this move with the joint team attendees as well. Motion made and seconded to move to Kumler. Motion carried unanimously. The current lease has a couple of years to run, but the landlord has agreed to waive the lease. He does have someone who would move in April 1<sup>st</sup>, so we will do our best to move by then in gratitude for the landlord's forgiving the lease.

Automatic Deposit of Payroll - \$50 fee a year to do it. By consensus OK We will go shopping for the required annual audit that won't cost so much.

Purge office miscellaneous have 30 years worth of files in 14 file cabinets. We agreed to save yearend financial, minutes, annual reports, any real estate or other legal documents. What we don't retain perhaps send to Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library for the ICC files that are already there. So we will keep 7 YEARS OF everything on the financials during the transition period.

We have tables, stained glass with broken panel. WE agreed to show the stained glass on the website ask for input. If there is no response we will give it away. We will get rid of the excess file cabinets, but retain the folding tables.

### **Reports:**

For Team reports see, Minutes of Joint Teams Meeting, also March 2, 2010

Visits to IGRC, ELCA –Southern Illinois Synod, Johnston City –Rev Terry Clark

Visits to Northern Illinois/Chicago –Rev Terry Clark

Locations for Leadership Team Meetings-pending for Bloomington (Rev. Robert Sherman) and Plainfield (Rev. Catiana McKay)

Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering for 2011 planning reviewed. Flyer included in packet with team material. Poverty is everywhere present. Many of our congregations don't really know how to relate to those who are poor; so much of the constituency is middle

class. What if churches work together ecumenically? There are models in Illinois. Anybody can come, but sponsored by ICC. We are putting together a good team for planning. Will have people affected present and sharing. Bible study will be the core of it. Market it so towns could come together and work on issue affecting them as a group. Suggestions to improve the flyer will be welcome. It was postponed because it really wasn't together for 2010.

**Public Policy Team Resolution:**

“The Illinois Conference of Churches urges Governor Quinn and members of the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a state budget for fiscal year 2011 that:

1. Maintains at least the current level of state funding for human care services (nutrition, housing, healthcare, social services and education);
2. Raises sufficient new revenue to fund vital state services;
3. Protects low and moderate income households from the impact of any increase.”

The motion was unanimously adopted. It will be sent to judicatories for comment; silence means assent. Then it will be sent to the Governor and all legislators.

**Other Items:**

Administrative Coordinator Retirement Benefits-Rev. Terry Clark Full time lay staff eligible for enrollment in ICC approved pension plan. Most judicatories start with day one. Motion:”personnel policy 3.3 pension, b. eliminate the words ‘and employed for a minimum of six months’ and add ‘retirement plan on date of employment’ so as to read: ‘for a full time lay staff who are at least 18 years of age they shall be eligible to be enrolled in an ICC approved retirement plan on date of employment.’”

Motion moved by bob Sherman second by Kevin Kessler. Unanimously approved.

Related question: we will pay 612\$ for 2009 to make this effective. Marianne moved, Bob Flannery seconded. Oct-Dec 2009 for 612\$ unanimously approved

Restricted use of disaster funds –Pamela Tackett Dr John’s email –we have \$12,000 from flood of 1993. What can it be used for? Intended for Illinois projects, but the treasurer felt they could be reallocated to general disaster needs as long as it goes to a disaster.

Motion made to remove the flood restriction and expand their use to other disasters in Illinois as the leadership team of the ICC may devise. Carried unanimously

Program development and grant opportunities – Pamela Tackett having trouble getting responses from teams in a timely way to send in grants. Pam can write grants, but not make programs.

Team development (need volunteers for Annual Assembly Forum and Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Teams) Rev. Terry Clark (handout)

Additional:

Next Leadership Team meeting date: May 25, 2010 Peoria, First Church of the Brethren, 4714 North Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm after closing prayer by Sister Joan

Respectfully submitted, Bob Pearson, Secretary