

Congregational Development Ministry Area Meeting January 17, 2006

Present: Leon VanWie, Everett Bassett, Bob Stoppert, Aaron Bouwens, Jeff Long,
Lauren Swanson

Healthy Church Academy

Aaron Bouwens, newly elected dean of the Healthy Church Academy, reported on the state of the project and requested \$500 be designated in 2006 mailings. \$1000 is being requested as seed money for 2007.

Equitable Compensation Team

The Equitable Compensation Team reports the addition of Norma Fellows and Mario Gazilli as members.

The grants for first half of 2006 were reviewed.

Confusion over the availability of medical grants to those on Equitable Salary Support that had not been previously applied has been resolved, and the five churches involved will be paid.

The Equitable Comp. Team reports that there are persons on every district that will shepherd the follow up process with churches receiving equitable comp. The funding for the second six months requires continued work on the recommendations proposed by the team in the letter of grant notification.

It was reported that salary levels in NCNY Conference are at a stage with 16 conferences below us and 44 above us. Five conferences are above us in the Northeast Jurisdiction putting us near the median in the jurisdiction.

Discussion concerning the statement of salary and benefits for clergy to be reported at annual conference:

EC revised the statement concerning the \$300 increment per year of service to include a clarification that indicates that it applies only to pastor's at minimum salary.

The statement as amended now reads: "The minimum salary for every full time pastor is set at the above amount plus \$300 for every year of full time pastoral service within the UMC up to 16 years. This is being increased by 1 year each year until 20 years is reached."

There was discussion around how study leave and spiritual growth time for pastors is to be designated, and where accountability for spiritual growth and continuing education is to be located. Language in the statement was changed to clarify that such is directed by the DS in consultation with the SPRC. The word "vacation" was changed to "absence."

Finalization of Budget Requests for 2007

Urban Academy:	1,500
New Church	51,000
Equitable Comp	116,000

Mission Priority	30,000
Revitalization	30,000
Healthy Church Academy	1,000
Small church	5,000
Boundaries Task Force	3,100
Area mileage and demographics	?