

**NCNY Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2005**

Attendees:	Chuck Forbes	Carl Johnson	Brian Ethington
	Betty Youmans	Leon VanWie	Wendy Rhodehamel
	Gina Moore	Shirley Verity	John Pierce
	Jeff Childs	Jeff Losey	Amanda Lewandowski
	Sharon Fulmer	David Underwood	Tammie Nipper
	Lee Mount	Bob Sherburne	Mark Flandreau
	Thom Fassett	Pat Curtin	Beth Benham
	Louise Matthews	Steve Deckard	Bishop Fisher
	Diane Deline	Deborah O'Connor-Slater	

Absent: Sharon Bassett Ed Enstine Christine Eastwood

Devotion / Prayer concerns led by Brian Ethington

Election of Council Secretary: no volunteers/no nominations. Beth Benham secretary for the September 17th meeting.

Ministry Area Reports:

1. Lay Ministry Area: (Chuck Forbes)

- A **LMT retreat** is being planned for this winter. We will be working on AC 2006 where we are going to be organizing mission opportunities on the Thursday before AC. We will also be working on the 2007 budget and will be getting training on Combating Racism. Linda Hughes from Mohawk District went to the workshop in Eastern PA Conference on Dismantling Racism and is willing to help in any way.
- **AACLL Meeting** to begin legislative issues for GC 2008: Oklahoma City, February 9-12, 2006.
- **CCYM update:** (Amanda Lewandowski) This summer they had their Summer Rally at Casowasco with about 100 youth – a really big turnout for them. Their first regular meeting is 23-24 at Dolgeville UMC. They have about 13 new members coming on, and they are really excited about that. They are also planning for their winter retreat in February and their 4Word06 4 conference event which is April 28-30 this year at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool.
- **CYAM update:** (Gina Moore) Working to raise awareness and include more young adults. Connecting with former CCYM members who are now attending college.
- **White House Conference on Aging WHCoA- December 11-14, 2005:** Carol Jubenville has been nominated by Congressman Sherwood Boehlert to be the representative for the Congressman's area in New Hartford, NY. Carol will be visiting Senior Citizen Center's and AARP groups to find out what is the pressing needs of our senior communities. She will be at the Governor's Mansion on Sept. 28th to meet with other delegates.
- **Conference on Aging- October 7 & 8 in Canandaigua:** Carol has been working with Winona Stonebreaker. Her committee will be hosting a luncheon on October 7th with the guest speaker Rick Genzler, Jr. and Bishop Fisher. Five members from the committee will be attending.
- **Medicare Part D-** Jeff Childs emailed Carol to ask if the committee should take a look at this new enrollment for seniors. Carol spent many hours researching the

pros and cons as well as speaking with conference representatives as to their view on this issue. It was decided by the committee that they should refer folks to their local Office for the Aging within their own locations so that each individuals needs can be addressed properly.

- **Goals for 2005-2006 and budgetary needs:** The committee looked at the mission and how they can help each church address this special ministry. It was suggested that they offer churches the book “Designing An Older Adult Ministry” by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. and upon request have a trained committee person meet with the church(s) to help set up a program.

2. **Global Ministry Area: (Jeff Losey)**

- Jeff Losey will take the area coordinator position and Jeff Childs will assist.
- Use of new technology – recommend every church have access to broadband video conferencing; or, have a center within each area with access. Intent is to reduce travel costs and facilitate sharing of information.
- VIM Awareness Sunday – late February 2006.
- Recommendation on paying 100% of Global Ministries payment by 2008.
- Looking for success stories: Katrina response, etc. GMA will publish in the secular press.

3. **Spiritual Leadership Ministry Area: (Tammie Nipper)**

- Focus on Christian education – building an inclusive team.
- September 25th is Christian Education Sunday. Half of the money stays in the LC; and, half goes to the Conference. Conference money will be used to fund training in March 2006.
- Have met with Daryl (Director of Spiritual Leadership) to discuss his role.
- Hoping to take the Resource Center on the road (aka: Cokesbury displays at events).
- Worship team is still defining their role in life of the Conference.
- Evangelism will be the next focus area.

4. **Congregational Development Ministry Area (Leon VanWie)**

- Grant application process is not going smoothly; grants for 2006 will be decided on soon.
- CDMA Handout, page 5, lines 37-42: *We affirm the general tenor of the Strategic (Ministry) Plan with respect to revitalizing congregations and we are continuing to refine the recommendations in light of present resources and realities. We see our role having two tracks: first, making available educational and supportive revitalization tools to the conference churches, and second, providing limited short-term financial support to identified vital churches in need of development funding. By consensus of the Council, CDMA is on the right track.*
- Action Item page 2, lines 23-35: *...we are requesting that any carryover balance in the Congregational Development Ministries Area be set aside, as a reserve fund, and allowed to accumulate over the next several years.* Discussion: Pat Curtin informed CDMA that there is no mechanism in place for carryover. There are currently, 100 funds. Bob Sherburne recommended the issue be referred to the Service Ministry Area – with a report due for the November Council Meeting. Recommendation accepted.
- Action item page 4, lines 29-45: 2006 funding requests. Lines 29-41 deferred to November Council Meeting. Lines 43-45 discussion: *The original budget suggestion*

- was \$64,000 for 2006. We (CDMA) would like to see the remaining \$14,000 go to Revitalizing Congregations this year. Discussion: Point was made by Jeff Childs that money can be moved within an Area without having to seek Council approval. This is true but does not apply to this case since a personnel change is included (New Start pastor no longer exists). \$14,000 allocation to Revitalizing Congregations approved.
- Action item page 8, lines 29-33: *Since our Task Force (NCNY Conference Boundaries) was established after the 2005 and 2006 budgets were presented and accepted, a budget line for our Task Force needs to be established. This would primarily be for travel and any overnight expenses. We are requesting \$1,500 for 2005 and \$3,000 for 2006. It is vital that all areas (geographic and ministry) are represented in this process. Travel will be a major expense.* Discussion: Prior funding for boundary discussions came from the Area Office. Pat Curtin informed the Council that there is \$2,000 available in the Conference budget. This money could be reallocated to the Task Force. Reallocation of the \$2,000 approved by the Council.

Footnote from Bishop Fisher: the Task Force is looking at missional reasons for merging. We are going ahead and assuming/being proactive. NEJ and other upstate conferences involved – bulk of meetings will take place in Syracuse.

- Chuck Forbes affirmed the format of the CDMA report. All Area reports should be of similar format and will be sent electronically to the Council Secretary (Chuck Forbes in the interim <mailto:Chuck.Forbes@juno.com>), two weeks prior to the Council meeting.

5. Church and Society Ministry Area:

- October 29th, 2005 – Religion and Race Interfaith event at Erwin First UMC.
- Dismantling Racism: Individuals have received training in EPA and are available to resource local churches, etc. Contact either Alan Kinney or Will Baez.
- Note from Wendy Rhodehamel: Journey for Justice in Palestine event in January 2006.

6. Service Ministry Area (Lee Mount):

- Lee is new to this assignment. Will have written reports at the November Council Meeting.

7. Finance/Stewardship Plan (Chuck Forbes):

- Bowers Events: October 15th at Fayetteville UMC – primarily for Mohawk and Crossroad Districts; and, October 29th at Watertown: Asbury UMC for Northern Flow District.
- The Stewardship Sub-committee feels that the jobs we have to do are: develop a stewardship ministry plan; recruit people; and provide training. Our charge is to work with the local churches to raise the funds for the LC, the conference and the General Church. David Buchanan has agreed to chair the Stewardship Task Force as a sub-committee of CF&A, David will become a member of CF&A with vote. Chuck Forbes will be secretary. The current membership of the sub-committee will take the Stewardship Training for LCs. Also, I have been in contact with NEJ Finance – Dr. Mary White, Chairperson, is talking to the Bishops about an NEJ-wide Stewardship Training Event. Organizational Mtg: October 1st at 1 PM, Cicero.
- Question: Why are we moving Stewardship under CF&A? Want stewardship to include spiritual development, not just money. Answer: David Buchanan will keep spiritual element front-and-center. We need to intentionally keep communication open between ministry areas. For the time being, Stewardship Committee will begin as a joint effort and see how it evolves.
- Bishop Fisher acknowledged Chuck's leadership to Stewardship.

Introduction of new staff (Steve Deckard): Two new Conference Directors: Lauren Swanson, Director of Connectional Ministry (not present) and Darryl Barrow, Director of Spiritual Leadership. Darryl comes to us from the Baltimore-Washington Conference after serving in Florida and Mississippi.

New Business:

- Bishop Fisher informed the Council of Steve Deckard's daughter's situation: Jessica lived and worked in New Orleans – she has lost everything and has no job to go back to. She is currently living with Steve. Bishop Fisher requested that a special collection be taken to assist Jessica. It was suggested that there are others to include who have ties to NCNY. Therefore, by consensus of the Council: Laity Sunday, October 16th will be set as the special collection Sunday (or any Sunday in October if a LC has made other plans). Sharon Fulmer will create a bulletin insert. Anyone who knows of additional people needs to email the Bishop with their names and situation.
- Louise Matthews informed the Council that there are several high school and college students from the South who have relocated to our area. What needs do they have?
- Jeff Childs requested that the Conference Calendar be updated to show all special Sundays for a year (per ¶1266 of the Book of Discipline: Conference Council sets special Sunday dates).

Revitalizing Congregations vs. Missional church

Leon VanWie will update the Council at the November Council Meeting with a definition of a Missional Church. He referred us to page 1 of the CDMA Report to Council, September 17th, 2005, lines 11-13: *The Mission Priorities Team supports churches in strategically located areas for mission purposes. These churches need the financial support of our conference to maintain a United Methodist mission presence.*

Conference Calling Procedures (Pat Curtin):

- Pat distributed the Conference Calling Procedures and billing information. With the increase in mileage reimbursements due to the rise in gasoline prices, use of the calling procedures is encouraged.
- Questions were raised about cheaper ways of teleconferencing such as Internet Calling, and broadband hub centres.

Ministry Plan Updates (Chuck Forbes and Bishop Fisher):

Action Step Revisions (Chuck Forbes):

To all Council members and Area Coordinators: you are free to revise the action steps as long as they are addressing the critical issues. The original action steps were to be used as a basis for getting started.

Review Team (Bishop Fisher): page 11 of the Ministry Plan states: 'The Implementation Team will be replaced by a Futures Team, which will guide us through evaluation and adjustments'. Page 19: Recommendation on Futures and Trends and Recommendation for Evaluation of the Strategic Plan.

- Bishop Fisher will convene the Review Team by December 2005.
- Questions to be asked: Are the four critical issues still critical? If not, what are the new issues? Where are we in implementing the Plan? What has been accomplished? What are emerging issues?
- Changes to the Ministry Plan: Page 19 – change '*... one representative of each conference Ministry Team..*' to read '*...one representative of each conference Ministry Area...*'. Also change Conference Steward to Conference Director of Connectional Ministries.

Resolution for Finance Chair and Conference Treasurer (Chuck Forbes):

Need to change Plan (page 10) to say – Finance Team Leader with vote and Conf. Treasurer without vote. Change approved by Council

Clarification raised: Why does the DCM get a vote and the Conference Treasurer does not? Bob Sherburne moved that the Conference Treasurer be given vote. Motion was seconded and approved by the Council.

Resolution on Equalization members (Chuck Forbes):

Currently, our policies indicate that the district conference will elect equalization members, but we haven't followed this procedure in a number of years, because of the late date at which these conferences meet. Generally, they have been recruited by the District Superintendent. What we are proposing is to follow our current practice, but ask that the District Superintendents have names selected by February 1st, to allow for adequate time to get their names recorded and materials distributed to them along with all other members of conference.

From Conference Policies:

4. Equalization Members of the Annual Conference shall be selected annually using the following process:
 - A. Equalization Members shall be allocated in equal numbers to each of the various Districts. The Conference Secretary shall determine the total number of Equalization Members needed from the Districts, shall divide that number by the number of Districts, and shall inform each District Superintendent of the number of Equalization Members needed from her/his District. ~~Each District Conference shall elect the appropriate number of Lay Equalization Members from that District. The District Superintendents will then choose individuals to serve as equalization members representing their districts. This process is to be completed no later than February 1 preceding the conference sessions for which they are being asked to serve.~~ It is strongly recommended that the Lay Equalization members from each District be selected proportionally according to age, gender, and racial/ethnic inclusiveness.
 - B. Two Lay Equalization Members from each District will be youth. ~~to be selected by a process determined by the District Council on Youth Ministry. If there is no District Council on Youth Ministry, selection will be made by the District~~

~~Council on Ministries. [Please note that this provision does not violate the intent of ¶30 of the church's constitution, as amended following the 2000 General Conference. It extends that amendment in providing for two youth per district, rather than one.]~~

- C. Laity serving as directors, delegates, or members of General Church Agencies shall be seated as Equalization Members of the Annual Conference, provided that they are not already seated as members in another capacity (Diaconal Minister, Lay Member of a charge, Conference Lay Leader, Deaconess, etc.). This number shall be determined annually and deducted from the total number of Equalization Members, so that the District allocations remain equally distributed, in accordance with section 4.A.

Council unanimously approved resolution. District Superintendents requested that the Conference Secretary, Dale Austin, have the formulas to the DSs by November.

Finalizing 2006 Budget (Pat Curtin):

- Coordinators to be in contact with team leaders to finalize figures. Pat is requesting that the supporting detail for each line item/each team/area. See 2006 Proposed Budget Handout, Worksheet A and Worksheet B. Detail due to Pat by October 22nd, 2005. Forms are available on the Conference Web Site.
- If any money is not needed, please let Pat know.
- Shared Ministry receipts are ahead of last year at this time, but the percentage is slightly behind.
- Information only: Archives and History has requested \$2,000 for 2006.
- November council meeting will finalize budget.

DCM Updates (Steve Deckard):

- Katrina Relief in February 2006 – focus interest on VIM trips through Sylvia Reimer. VIM develops list of work projects; from the projects, linkages can be formed between churches in the North and South. February 19th, 2006 will be VIM Sunday. There will be VIM Team Leader training Thursday, September 29th, 2005 from 6-9 P.M. at Cicero.
- Wendy Rhodehamel suggested that BOOM arrange respite for Southern clergy in NCNY. Bishop Fisher would like BOOM to coordinate clergy salary gifts of \$10.00/month to support Southern clergy.
- Steve provided the Council with an updated "So You Are A Team Leader" brochure.

2007 Budget Process (Steve Deckard):

- See 'Preliminary Request for Funding resources – Budget Year 2007' handouts and Worksheet A and B. Coordinators to meet with teams between Nov. and Jan. to decide on requests. Requests are due by January 23rd, 2006 to Steve. Coordinators will bring preliminary requests to February Council Meeting. We will use same documents/ formats as last year.

Future Dates: (Steve Deckard)

Upcoming calendar events:

Sept. 23-25	NEJ Board of Laity Meeting in Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 1	UMW Annual Meeting
Oct. 5	NPR Meeting
Mid Sept.-Nov.	Charge Conferences (NOTE: Bishop Fisher is making a video on Spiritual

	Leadership, to be shown at all Charge Conferences. Video will include a Study Guide.
Oct. 7-8	Older Adult Ministry Conference (with Western NY)
Oct. 8	Leadership Training Event Planning Meeting, Cicero, 10 AM
Oct. 10-14	Health Flex Enrollment Meetings
Oct. 15	P.Bowers Stewardship Event at Fayetteville UMC (for Mohawk/Crossroads)
Oct. 29	P.Bowers Stewardship Event at Watertown: Asbury (for Northern Flow)
Oct. 18-20	Bishop's Convocation (Theme: Health and Wholeness)
Oct. 26-29	Quadrennial Benefits Conference (GBOPHB), Annapolis, MD
Nov.	Urban Academy
Nov.	Charge Conference wrap-up
Nov. 5	Council Meeting in Cicero, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Jan. 19-21, 2006	Conference Connexion Dallas Training
Jan. 23, 2006	2007 Budget Request due
Feb. 4, 2006	Council Meeting in Cicero, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Mar. 11 and 25	Leadership Training Events – Bishop will attend March 11 th Training
Apr. 1, 2006	Council Meeting in Cicero, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
May 25, 2006	AC Clergy Session, Liverpool UMC
Jun. 2-4, 2006	AC Session, Liverpool Holiday Inn
Sept. 23, 2006	Council Meeting in Cicero, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Oct. 13-15, 2006	Healthy Leader Training, Philadelphia, PA
Dec. 2, 2006	Council Meeting in Cicero, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Old/New Business

- Video/DVD Spiritual Leaders with discussion guide available. See Sharon Fulmer or the Resource Center.
- Unfinished business from April 9th, 2005 Council Meeting: (Leon VanWie) Task Force to revisit the wording of page 8 of the Ministry Plan to clarify the meaning pursuant to policies and procedures.

The intent of our new structure is to provide a "permission giving" atmosphere in which each team/board/agency or task force of our conference can help accomplish our four critical issues. The Conference Council is the ad interim decision making body in the Annual Conference. If there is to be a "policy" either established or changed it needs to either be brought to the Annual Conference session or to the Conference Council.

The establishing of "practices" or "procedures" remains the responsibility of the individual team/board/agency or task force of our conference.

Leon VanWie
Diane Deline
Thom White Wolf Fassett

- Jeff Childs: Thanks for the 2005 Love Offering received and where some funds have been distributed. Jeff has asked for reports from all those receiving money. Jeff suggests that the 2006 Love Offering be used to tighten a connection with the church in Africa. Jeff will work with the Global Ministries Team.
- Motion from Lee Mount: All reports/handouts be distributed to Council two weeks prior to Council Meeting. Motion was seconded and approved by Council.
- Betty Youmans informed us that this year is the 100th Anniversary of the Utica Neighborhood Centre.
- Bishop Fisher and Wendy Rhodehamel mentioned that 2006 is the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the UMC.
- Wendy Rhodehamel reported that only five (5) churches in NCNY have a covenant to a missionary. Fifteen (15) churches have sent in money in support of missionaries. NOTE: Churches can group with other churches to support a covenant – with one church handling the money. Clergy should receive "red box" on Advance covenants, mission opportunities, etc. Wendy will attend the October meeting of the NEJ BGM.

- Jeff Childs reported that as of September 14th: \$41,000 has been raised in NCNY Katrina Relief; and, as of September 12th: \$ 2.6 Million by UMC.

Resolution for Closing West Genoa UMC (Deborah O'Connor-Slater):

WHEREAS the Congregation of the West Genoa United Methodist Church in West Genoa, NY has

diminished in membership and resources to make mission and ministry no longer feasible or possible, and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the West Genoa United

Methodist Church and that the members of the congregation be provided the opportunity

to transfer their membership to another United Methodist Church or other church of their choice, and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, the majority of the District Superintendents, and the District Board of Church Location and Building, and all the proper disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Genoa United Methodist Church be discontinued as of July 1, 2005, and if said property does not sell before July 1, 2006 the property will revert to the Trustees of the Annual Conference and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that proceeds from the sale, after all obligations incurred from the sale of the property and obligations to the Annual Conference have been satisfied, the assets shall be distributed as follows:

*One percent (1%) of the sale price or a minimum of \$1,500.00 shall go to Marguerite DeSanto for reimbursement of expenditures and for faithful service to the West Genoa United Methodist Church.

*All other assets resulting from the sale of the property are to be equally distributed to The King Ferry Volunteer Fire Department, The Southern Cayuga Ambulance Service and Camp Gregory with the understanding that the recipients be in compliance with paragraph 2540.3b of the Book of Discipline 2004.

Approved: seventeen (17) aye; two (2) abstentions.

Carl Johnson suggests that the Conference compile a list of UM ministries, etc. that churches could designate as recipients of assets at time of closure. Bishop Fisher asked that this be referred to the Cabinet.

Resolution for Closing Lock Berlin UMC (Deborah O'Connor-Slater):

WHEREAS the Congregation of the Lock Berlin United Methodist Church in Lock Berlin, NY has diminished in membership and resources to make mission and ministry no longer

feasible or possible, and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the Lock Berlin United

Methodist Church and that the members of the congregation be provided the opportunity

to transfer their membership to another United Methodist Church or other church of their

choice, and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, the majority of the

District Superintendents, and the District Board of Church Location and Building, and all the

proper disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lock Berlin United Methodist Church be discontinued as of July 1, 2005, and if said property does not sell before July 1, 2006 the property will revert to the Trustees of the Annual Conference and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that proceeds from the sale, after all obligations incurred from the sale of the property and obligations to the Annual Conference have been satisfied, shall be used for the purposes identified by the Lock Berlin United Methodist Church congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCNY Annual Conference in session express thanks to the member of the Lock Berlin congregation who over the years have been faithful in their ministry to proclaim the word of God and invite persons into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Approved: Sixteen (16) aye; one (1) nay; two (2) abstentions.

Discussion on Closures

Who signs legal documents? Since the local church stopped July 1st, 2005, are the Conference Trustees handling the assets? Direction of assets remains with the congregation until July 1st, 2006 at West Genoa. Council recommended amending the closure to include oversight of property, sale, etc. is in the hands of the Conference Trustees.

Leon moved/Brian Ethington seconded: that the West Genoa closure resolution be modified as follows:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Genoa United Methodist Church be discontinued as of July 1, 2005, and ~~if said property does not sell before July 1, 2006~~ ~~the property~~ will revert to the Trustees of the Annual Conference and

Council approved.

Deborah moved/Jeff Losey seconded: that the Lock Berlin closure resolution be modified as follows:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lock Berlin United Methodist Church be discontinued as of July 1, 2005, and ~~if said property does not sell before July 1, 2006~~ ~~the property~~ will revert to the Trustees of the Annual Conference and

Council approved.

Church Merger (Deborah O'Connor-Slater):

South Hannibal UMC and Hannibal Center UMC have agreed to merge with the new church to be known as UMC of Hannibal Center located in South Hannibal, New York. The South Hannibal church and parsonage have been sold with the proceeds going to the newly formed church. Council approved.

Wendy Rhodehamel expressed appreciation to Deborah and all DSs for work done on closures.

Next Mtg. November 5th, 2005

Adjourn with Prayer by Bishop Fisher