

Conference Council Meeting

Nov. 5, 2005

10:10 a.m.

Attendance: Carl	Pat	Jeff L.
Sharon F.	Bob	Sharon B.
Steve	Christine	Louise
Brian	Chuck	Leon
Ed	Tammie	Beth
Betty	Tina	Mark
Tom	Lee	Ellie S. minutes

- Tina offered devotion
- Sharon B. offered prayer
- Sharon B. spoke to need for agenda items to reach her in a timely manner. Reports from teams need to reach her by the deadline date with action items indicated.
- Card was passed for Debra O'Connor-Slater
- Leon questioned need for meeting to be held to 3 hours. Sharon B. responded that the agenda was set up based on the number of team reports she received by the deadline. It will also depend on the number of action items being considered. **Tammie suggested that the meeting always be planned as being from 10a.m. to 3 p.m., and if we finish early, GREAT!**
- Sharon recognized Steve Deckard for an update on the strategic planning.
- Steve opened by speaking of transitions and sharing some things about himself by reflecting on two questions:
 - 1) How are you formed by your place? And 2) What are the words that define your style?
- Then Steve spoke to the length of time that most people present have been on the Council...many less than one year. He added that many things take up to 3 years to accomplish. Steve said that we needed to learn how our teams work and communicate; how people work or don't work together. He said that we needed to share our own faith.
- Steve then asked everyone to split up by each area coordinator to discuss these 2 questions:
 - 1) As you reflect back on Annual Conferences of the last 10 years, what rises to the top as the brightest moments?
 - 2) As we move into our Ministry Plan, what specific things are happening that are pleasing you as signs of hope?
- RESPONSES: #1) Camp Ministry 84
 - full conferencing and celebration – the spiritual tone
 - new church starts and revitalizations
 - spiritual approach to problems
 - Bishop Fisher's arrival with all of her energy and passion
 - collection of health kits & parade of banners
 - Director's invitational
 - diversity in the Conference
 - the Strategic Plan

#2) willingness to change
Director's invitational
tone of Conference
increased accountability
hiring of Loren and Daryl
churches working cooperatively
working as teams
use and spreading of Evangelism and Stewardship

- **March Training Events** reported on by Chuck Forbes. Training events will be held March 11th and March 25th at JCC in Watertown and CCC in Auburn. These are Conference wide training events with 6-8 workshops each hour over the four hour day that you may pick and choose from. They are hoping for 250-300 people to attend. Some factors figuring into the sites were parking, handicap accessibility, and break-out rooms.

Tammie said that Christian Education would like to join the event.

- **They are still looking for a good motivational speaker.** If anyone has any suggestions, see Chuck or another team member.
- Moving on to team reports...Sharon asked that any budget requests within reports be held until the end when the budget is discussed.
- **Global Ministries** reported on by Jeff Losey
Note that Jeff Losey is replacing Jeff Childs as chairperson.
Jeff indicated that there was a paragraph missing in his report from Wendy. He read the paragraph, which encouraged us to focus on covenant relationships with missionaries and to focus on the 2006 Partnership in Missions.

- **First action item is setting dates for four special Sunday's with offerings**

Leon questions wisdom of scheduling back to back special collections. Questions then ensued as to whether there were other special offerings those days.

Steve moved that the item be referred to him and he will coordinate the dates. Leon seconded.

All in favor- 20 opposed- 0 abstained- 0

- **Love Offering 2006 – resolution to support 3 ministries**

Partnership with a Conference in Africa, Dismantling Racism in America, Dismantling Racism in our area. Discussion followed regarding just how we were to accomplish these things. The wording is too vague. **It was suggested that it be referred back to the team for a more detailed action plan.** Sharon B. voiced a concern that no results have been given on how the money from the '05 Love Offering was used. Lee voiced a concern that the amount of money collected is too small an amount to address racism in ALL of America. Brian **asked that "our area" be defined as NCNY.**

Jeff withdrew the resolution for clarification and a more detailed plan to be discussed in Feb '06.

- **Second resolution is for 2007 budget that a new line item be added under Global Ministries entitled “Shares for Ministry” which would be equal to 3% of the total budget.**

Leon voiced a concern that many churches do not pay their shared ministries. Bob suggested removing line from the 2nd whereas and following. He said to either vote it down or encourage all churches to pay 100% of their shared ministries. Jeff L. stated that Jeff Childs’ idea is just to offer a different approach: To have this be a conference wide responsibility and that we as a Conference will pay 100% of our apportionments.

Steve made a motion that this be referred to Finance Team to be brought in as a proposal from Finance. Leon seconded.

All in favor- 20 opposed- 0 abstained- 0

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- Steve said that the Bishop is leading a Conference Cabinet team on a mission trip to the Gulf Coast in late Feb. There are many mission trips being planned.
- Beth stated that Sylvia’s mother passed away on Friday, Nov 4th.
- Next to **Stewardship** presented by Chuck F.
Chuck presented stewardship training report. Beth added that there are materials leftover. Tammie asked for clarification on why Chuck was presenting this report. Chuck responded that he was asked to do it over a year ago. **Carl would like to see some feedback on the stewardship training be in “Connections”**. Dave indicated that he had a great idea but that it would fit with the budget discussion.
- **Lay Ministry report** presented by Chuck F.
Chuck had nothing to add to the report and there were no action items. Chuck said that a portion of the 2005 “Love Offering” was used to send Lay Leaders to Philadelphia for training.
N.B. Page six of report is a blank page.
- Moving on to **Service Ministries** presented by Lee Mount.
Lee noted that there are no action items. **Lee stated that Archives and History would like to be more involved when a church closes. It was noted that DS’s should show the Leadership Video at their church conferences.** The video is for sale through the resource center. **DS’s should take the request of Archives and History back to the cabinet regarding closing churches.**
- **Sessions Report** by Lee Mount.
Any group who would like to sponsor a workshop for Annual Conference should have a proposal to Kathy by January 5th. Theme is: “Standing on the Promises: Living into the Church God Created Us to be”. Each workshop is 1 ½ hours long. The workshops will be held on Saturday afternoon.
- **If you need time at Annual Conference you must let Kathy know by January 5th.**
- There will be (6) regional pre-conference briefings that will not be included with the district meetings.
- No new resolution should be offered at just one pre-conference briefing; rather it should be held over for Introduction at Annual Conference. If you bring it to Annual Conference you must bring your own copies and

- It must be there 24 hours in advance of its presentation for action. **Steve said Sessions will make these dates and deadline clearer.**
- **Spiritual Leadership** presented by Tammie. There were discussions regarding cooperative ministries at SU.
 Chuck said that a motion had once been made to decrease SU money and the motion was referred. **Tammie Made a motion that incorporated ministries background of SU and Cornell. 4 year plan, rather than fold SU ministries. Continue to support SU at current 2005 budgeted amount.** Sharon asked that the discussion be tabled until the discussion of the budget. Tammie says that they need to look at other places that can meet these campus ministries, but that people are reluctant to let go of SU. Tammie believes that DS's have the money to support cooperative ministries at SU. Dave said that he does not believe that that is completely accurate. The board is aware that funding is needed for other locations. **Sharon B. said that we needed to hear from teams for supporting other campus ministry plans.** Tammie added that not included in the report is a BOOM item. **BOOM needs to discuss the plan for monies voluntarily coming from our clergy salaries to go to Louisiana and Mississippi.**
 - **Christine had no written report.** She said she'd get one out later. She was reporting on **Churches in Society.** Mary Fisher is the team leader but the team has not met yet. **Disability Concerns wants a Sunday Awareness Day, but there would be no special offering.** **COSROW wants to update the Sexual Harassment information.** **In 2006, COSROW wants to celebrate women in the clergy.** Alan Kinney will lead **Dismantling Racism** (10 training sessions per year for 4 years for clergy and laity) **Committee for Native American Indians** is planning a trip to Washington D.C. On Monday there will be a Seminar, "Native Gambling & Society". Tuesday they will meet with the Legislature. **They are looking for people interested in going.** It will be advertised throughout the Conference. Last year \$3,000 was given to Onondaga United Nation for Pastoral supports. Discussions ensued regarding the Pastor's salaries. **Steve suggested the Groups involved should meet for discussions. Sharon B. said the teams dealing with Holdenberg and Onondaga Plans have discussions and bring the information back to the next meeting. The DS's need to be involved in these discussions. Leon believes that the determination of Pastoral salaries is a policy issue.**
 - **Congregational Development Area report** presented by Leon. AS far as the budget is concerned, the numbers speak for themselves. This is a difficult time and difficult decisions need to be made. The money just is not there and some people are not going to be happy. Leon went over each item in his report. Sharon B. asked to discuss the rollover question at the end of Leon's report. Pat Curtin said that money from Shared Ministries cannot be rolled-over, but money from special events can be carried over. We have an Annual Operating Budget for Shared Ministries.

Sharon B. stated that there was then nothing to pass. Pat Curtin agreed.

Leon noted that the page labeled “DRAFT” should be ignored as it was not supposed to be in the report.

- Christine asked where developing a multicultural center would belong. Dave said CDMA. Sharon B. said that a committee would have to address it first. Christine said she was just wondering where it would go.
- There is a **request to form a new team called the “Spiritual Formation Team”** to be chaired by Carol Keller. This team would work with the Spiritual Gifts Assessment Program so that “Equipped For Every Good Work” doesn’t get lost as it is part of our Strategic Plan.

Motion to form “Spiritual Leadership Team”

All in favor- 20 opposed- 0 abstained- 0

Tammie needs to bring back a definition of group responsibilities to committee for approval.

- Sharon asked who was responsible for updating the Ministry Plan on Website. Tammie stated that we need to be consistent in calling the plan the Ministry Plan vs. Strategic Plan.

Sharon B. stated that going forward it is to be the Ministry Plan.

- Sharon B. asked Steve who on conference staff is responsible for maintaining the Ministry Plan on the website. Steve said that the council approves the changes and that he would make sure the Ministry Plan was updated on the web.
- The **September Meeting Minutes** have not been up for approval yet. Lee said that he did not get the minutes.
Another person was missing the minutes also. The minutes come from Linda and are also on the website.

Motion to pass September Minutes.

All in favor- 18 opposed- 0 abstained- 2

- **Finance Team** presented by Bob.
Our income level has dipped the last 2 months while there has been an increase in donations for the hurricanes.
We are going to be in trouble if the money doesn’t come in for Shared Ministries. A letter from the Bishop is going out stating what a great job we’ve done, all the good we’ve accomplished, and that if we want this to continue, we must meet our Shared Ministries. Also they are planning a bulletin insert showing the good we’ve done and stating that if we want this to continue we need to get Shared Ministries in.
Leon stated that there is a policy for arrearages. After so many arrearages, the church is closed. Bob said that churches that are falling behind are being addressed. Leon said that these churches are “stealing” from his church. Bob said that members of the Finance Team are working one on one with some of these churches. The Finance Team is trying to let people “see” where Shared Ministry money is being used.
- **Dave’s Brainstorm-** Take a Sunday in Advent and make it a “Miracle Sunday” to respond to the need for all churches in Annual Conference. We would have a special collection. There would be 2 offerings that day.

All in favor- 20

opposed- 0

abstained- 0

- Pat stated that **Campus Ministries request to stay at '05 budget amount for '06.**
- **CUIC wants to stay at '05 budget amount also.**
- Sharon B. asked Pat what the amount is in Council now. Pat replied, approximately \$25,000.
- **Steve made a motion that the budget be approved as amended. Christine seconded.**

All in favor- 20

opposed- 0

abstained- 0

- **Christine offered a reminder that we need to add a line item for the Church and Society Team.**

Sharon said that Pat would take care of that.

- Mark had (2) questions:
 - First, are we expecting any more hiring at Conference Level? Steve responded that we lost an accountant and hired an accountant. We also hired (2) new directors.
 - Secondly, regarding the new health plans. It was his understanding that there would be some help available for pastors. Beth said that applications had gone out that week. There are 35 churches and \$50,000 available.
- Christine told the group a story.
- Betty asked if we have dates set for next year's meetings. **Feb 4th and Apr 1st are the next two meetings at CUMC**
- Two weeks before Feb 4th meeting is the deadline for reports and items for agenda with action items noted.
The deadline would be Jan. 15th.
- **Steve said we need to talk about the '07 budget with teams, areas, to council.**
- **2007 Budget Forms are on-line under Council.**
- Pat said that we cannot close '05 budget and get started on '07 budget all in the same two weeks time from the deadline to the Feb 4th Council Meeting.
Steve said that we would get the dates clarified, but that by April 1st meeting, we need to have the '07 budget that will go to Annual Conference.
- **Get budget forms for '07 in by January 15th.**
- **Leon asked how much is available. Steve said "0" is available and not to count on more than 3%.**
- **Meeting adjourned 1:35 p.m.**
- Leon offered prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor V. Stivers