

Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members  
Leadership Meeting  
October 23, 2006

**Present:**

Joseph Auslander	Nancy Araujo	Marcia Wickert
<b>Crossroads District</b>	Jack Keating	George Sanderson
<b>Finger Lakes District</b>	Ellen Knight	
<b>Central Lakes District</b>	Janet Lee	Jack Ford
<b>Mohawk District</b>	Frank Loan	Marsha Madore
<b>Northern Flow District</b>	Sharon Satterlee	Don Briant

**Excused:** Art Fellows

**Guest:** Marco Araujo

Nancy Araujo, CO Chair opened the meeting with prayer at 10: 10 AM.

Nancy reported that there is October 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a balance of \$723.93. in the bank.

Joe shared with all District Reps the information about Course of Study information (in paper form) that they will distribute to folks in their district. Some members have commented that they do not need some of the e-mails (as they concern COS) and it was decided that ALL emails will go to every member, and it is there choice to read or delete. It is too large a project to sort through the lists for specific items.

Nancy observed that not only do we have a good representation, every district is represented.

For clarification purposes a **Meeting** will refer to Leadership meetings, and **Gathering** will be the entire fellowship.

**On September 29, 2007 Bishop Fisher has called a Gathering and Communion at Vienna UMC. As this is “called” by the Bishop, this is a mandatory event. Please mark this date on your calendars now so that there is no problem with attendance. The Bishop is the ONLY person who can make exceptions to that, and she is the ONLY person to be contacted in the event that you **MUST** ask to be excused. Weddings are NOT a reason to be excused. Plan ahead!**

The tentative schedule for this Gathering will be:

9:30-10:00 AM	Coffee, fellowship and registration
10:00 – 12: Noon	Business Meeting, Election of Officers, Conversation with Bishop Fisher
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Worship and Communion with Bishop Fisher
3:00 PM	Dismissal and return home

A Gathering at Annual Conference was discussed, and it was agreed that we would have lunch and fellowship at the Liverpool Fire Department again in 2007. We will plan for Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>, at noon. Joe Auslander will contact the Fire Dept. Because of the time restraints, there will be no Business meeting or Elections, but we will do that at the September Gathering. This was a motion made by Frank Loan, seconded by Ellen Knight, and passed.

### **Annual Conference Dates:**

Clergy Day May 30<sup>th</sup> place to be announced  
Conference opens on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Order of Elders is having a seminar on “Theological Perspectives on American Culture” in Hamilton NY on December 8th starting at 2 PM and ending on December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. All members of the FLPAM are encouraged to attend. This is a time for the Order of Elders and FLPAM to be together away from Annual Conference time. There will be an auction of various items, and CEU’s will be available for this seminar. The FLPAM has been especially invited by the Order of Elders to join them. A good attendance by our membership would be great.

Remember that we are to acquire Continuing Education Units, and report them to the Charge Conference, as well as on the Pastor’s Report to the District Superintendent. (pg. 359 (pg 350 BOD)).

A possible Gathering with the Western NY FLPAM was discussed. It was proposed that we ask Robert Kohler, Director of Continuing Education from The Board of Global Ministries to be our guest speaker, perhaps focusing on COS issues, Associate Membership, and Continuing Education. The date will be dependent on his schedule, but will hope to do this in late March or after Easter (April 8, 2007). We would also invite all the District Superintendents.

District Representatives were asked to contact those FLPAM members in their district about activities and educational opportunities. Northern Flow has a monthly breakfast meeting on the first Thursday of every month, as well as an ongoing Lectionary Group. Contact either Sharon Satterlee ([ssatt@hotmail.com](mailto:ssatt@hotmail.com)) or Don Briant ([quitshop@gisco.net](mailto:quitshop@gisco.net)) for further information. When your district has a special event, it was suggested that it would be nice to invite another LLP to join you (or better yet take them with you).

It was suggested that it would be nice if ALL clergy could have three or four times a year just to worship together. This would be Order of Elders, Probationary Members, and FLPAM. Joe will write to Bishop Fisher about this concern.

It was suggested that the Secretary add the names of Local Hires, and Certified Laity to the mailing list. They may be on track become LLP's, and should be included. They also have no specific group to be a part of at this time.

Frank Loan reminded us of the National Gathering at Atlanta which includes the Order of Elders, Probationary Members, and FLPAM groups. It is a useful time, when a great deal of information is exchanged. Frank would hope that this Fellowship could become more active in presenting issues and resolutions to the Annual Conference on matters that concern the FLPAM.

Joe brought to our attention that many churches that are "yoked"-one pastor, one parsonage owned by both churches-are underrepresented at Annual Conference. It would be to everyone's best interest to be sure that you are getting proper representation for your church(es). He also reminded us about incorporation of the church. If a church is incorporated, there are legal papers on file in the County Clerk's office, and this prevents the trustees from being libel personally in any legal matters. If the church is unincorporated-the trustees may be sued as individuals in any legal issue. Deeds to the church (es) may be found at the Assessor's office in your location.

Other areas of general conversation were:

- The BoD on CD is much easier to find certain topics than the printed book version
- We are responsible for Lay Speakers in our churches-and should hold them accountable for their preaching , presence and involvement in church activities. We have to sign off on their reports for Charge Conference, and we are accountable to the DS and the Bishop .
- It is the responsibility of each LLP to make the connection with a mentor, or mentoring group. Each District, and DCOM seems to have a different approach to this matter, and you should be proactive about this. We are required by BoD to be in a mentoring relationship.
- It is important that we find a way to receive spiritual renewal-at another church's service, at a service in our district. We can't "feed the flock" if we ourselves are on empty.
- Changes in emails should be sent to Marcia ([mjwickert@hotmail.com](mailto:mjwickert@hotmail.com)) so that all communications reach you.

Marcia Wickert  
Secretary

**Next Leadership Meeting**  
**January 8 2007 at the Conference Center**