

North Central New York Annual Conference
Of the United Methodist Church

Lay Ministry Team Meeting

February 24th, 2005

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture and equip Christ-centered spiritual leaders to be in ministry and mission in God's world.

- Attending: Sharon Bassett, Conference Lay Leader, NCNY Council Chair
Chuck Forbes, Lay Ministries Area Coordinator
Brian Ethington, Mohawk District Lay Leader
Louise Matthews, Northern Flow District Lay Leader
Ed Enstine, UMM
Carol Keller, Lay Speaking Ministries
Sharon Fulmer, NCNY Information Services
Tammie Nipper, Spiritual Leadership
- Excused: Carol Jubenville, Older Adult Ministries
Jason Moore, Young Adult Ministries
Beth Quick, CCYM Adviser
Shirley Verity, UMW
Mark Flandreau, DLL Finger Lakes
Tina Haines, DLL Crossroads

Opening Prayer led by Chuck Forbes

Administrative Items:

- Reminder to all team leaders to provide Don Easton, Conference Nominations Committee, with a list of the team members and any vacancies that need to be filled.
- Reminder to all team leaders to provide Chuck with a schedule of team events and monthly spending plans.
- Each team is asked to prepare an article about team activities and goals for 205 for Annual Conference. Deadline for submitting articles is March 23rd, 2005 to Vicki Putney (mailto: ncnyvicki@aol.com). Louise Matthews suggested that District Lay Leaders also provide articles – this has not been done in the past, but would be a good means of communicating what is going on.
- There is still no district lay leader for Central Lakes. A person has been asked and is considering. Additionally, Northern Flow is looking for a co-district lay leader.

Laity Luncheon Planning

Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd, 2005 from noon to 1:15 PM.

Tammie Nipper shared her experience from the Healthy Church Workshop in Houston, Tx. A healthy church is one that has achieved deeper faith and does good works. Some churches focus on faith/ spiritual development/bible study – but have no outreach. Some churches focus on outreach but have no spiritual development. A church has to be balanced to be healthy

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and grow. The Healthy Church topic has been adopted for presentation at the Laity Luncheon. Tammie has agreed to assist the LMT with the presentation.

Brian Ethington recommended that we make the topic universal. Give the attendees a list of suggestions on how to make their churches healthy (Sharon Fulmer offered to make a booklet to be handed out).

Sharon Bassett recommended that we use some of the web information from the GBOD Healthy Churches link in a PowerPoint presentation. Sharon Fulmer will contact GBOD Communications for presentations from the Houston workshop.

Tammie shared a case study of St Paul's UMC, Houston: Top reasons why the people go to church: majority said music, preacher, fellowship. The LMT will ask all attendees to think about '*what is a really cool thing that you (local church) do that makes people want to come to your church*'. A piece of paper will be provided at each persons seat; we will ask them to fill in their response; and, during the lunch, discuss their gifts with their table mates (prior to the presentation). Each persons response will be collected and a master list of all the gifts will be compiled and given to all attendees prior to leaving Annual Conference.

Tammie shared her passion for Spiritual Development and the Healthy Church Workshop. She told us about initiatives that have been implemented at her local church:

- Thirty six people agreed to develop five personal contacts (3 contacts to people who used to attend the church and 2 contacts to un-churched people).
- Improve music ministry: SPRC is working on a new Music Ministry job description.
- Improve spiritual development; improve understanding the Bible; and, improve understanding prayer.
- Establish prayer groups.

Tammie's church will review progress in March – at that time, they will start to add a new initiative each month. Tammie suggested that the conference create a conference-wide database of gifts so that Local Churches don't have to re-invent the wheel. The LMT will speak about the 'Equipped For Every Good Work' offering and tell about the SGA leaders (who is available in each of the districts).

The presentation will be one half hour in length; the title will be 'Being A Healthy Church'. Ideas for the presentation: use a medical health theme – assess vital signs; where is your pulse; get a balanced diet; exercise. Begin by assessing where you are at and where you should be.

All team members are asked to think about what visual items we can show inside the convention hall – email ideas to Chuck at <mailto:Chuck.Forbes@juno.com>.

We need to **STRESS COMMUNICATION!** Give the attendees information they can take back to their local churches. Let them know what their shared ministry monies are being used for.

A sub-committee to work on the Laity Luncheon presentation was formed: Tammie Nipper, Louise Matthews, Sharon Bassett, Carol Keller and Chuck Forbes. The sub-committee will meet on March 16th, 2005 at 10:00 AM in Cicero at the Conference Offices. Anyone else who is interested in helping is welcome to attend.