

**Mission Interpretation & Communication**  
**Meeting January 6, 2005**  
**Conference Offices Cicero**

Bad weather, travel and work schedules prohibited member attendance. Only the chair and staff made it. We met from 10 a.m. to noon and dealt with several issues and are making some recommendations to the full committee. Persons present were Sharon Fulmer, Steve Deckard, Shirley Stevens, Charlene Peak, (for budget and financial discussion), Karen Campolieto (part-time) and Nelson Price, chair.

**Budget:** We looked at expenditures and budget for 2004. The Connections budget is fixed; other line items are variable depending on income. It appears the Connections budget may be over for 2004 by \$1000-2000. Unclear as to whether deficits are carried into next year; balances are not. Final figures should be available by the first week of February.

2005 Budget:

Connections & website maintenance	\$30,000 (fixed)
Marketing (2/3 Camping, 1/3 Other)	\$30,000 (variable – 82-87%)
Program & Operations	\$10,000 (Variable)
Add'l Camping Marketing	\$ 5,000 (Variable)
Total MIC Budget	\$75,000

All conference budgets will be reviewed by the Conference Council on Feb 5, 2005. If needed, we will consider early in the year reducing pages or issues of Connections to stay within the 2005 budget.

2006 Budget: A proposed budget for 2006 is due by March 30, 2005.

**Igniting Ministries Billboard:** Cicero Church owns property back to Route 81 and is willing to build a billboard with volunteers from the Church. It will be visible by all traffic moving South on the highway. We discussed making it an Igniting Ministries Billboard. Sharon has talked with Nashville and they are willing to consider a grant. It was estimated that total construction and poster would run about \$10,000, half of which might come from the grant.  
**Recommendation:** That the committee present the proposal to the Conference Council on February 5 for consent or approval and that we seek private donations for the balance of the cost.

**Websites:** Shirley Stevens reported briefly on local church, district and conference websites. A website template has been created for congregations. A form is filled out and Shirley creates a basic website for the congregation. Several congregations have upgraded their websites.

Each district but Northern Flow (St. Lawrence) has a website. Shirley will contact and see if she can help in setting one up with them.

The conference website continues to grow in resources and links.

**Inter-Conference Relationships:** We explored briefly the desirability to begin conversations with our colleagues in the other three NY conferences to share ideas and possible areas of cooperation. NCNY will host. Sharon and Steve will explore.

**Connections:** Subscription campaign: Sharon will check with other conferences to see what they have done and with what success. Reader Survey: will consider at next meeting. Printer: Sharon is exploring other options but is satisfied with current arrangement.

**Four Critical Areas:** Discussion on how we tie into the four critical areas was postponed to the next meeting.

**Benevolence Interpretation:** Discussed ways of interpreting benevolence causes. Connections and conference website contribute. Considered providing a bulletin insert six times per year highlighting a cause through a personal story. Sharon and chair will follow through.

**Goals and Objectives – 2005:** Postponed to next meeting.

**Special Projects Funding:** Each of the six ministry areas has been allocated \$10,000 for special projects related to the four critical areas of a. vital spiritual leaders; b. New and revitalized congregations; c. Racial and ethnic diversity; and d. Connectional Ministries. MIC is part of the Service Ministries Area with Robyn Wernham as coordinator. She has asked that all proposals be emailed to her by January 15.

**Recommendations:**

**\$5,000 to begin planning a conference-wide leadership training event with national keynoter and 12-20 workshops. Steve will write proposal.**

**\$5,000 for a video for use by congregations featuring Bishop Fisher to challenge congregations to participate in vital ministry. Sharon & Steve will write.**

**The Committee needs to approve these proposals. Please email Sharon & me when you have received the proposals with your suggestions and vote.**

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