

Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Church
CORE Team
Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the AWF CORE Team was called to order on July 1, 2008 at The Conference Office by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster.

Present: Francis Turner, Eugenia Loggins, Neil McDavid, Meredyth Earnest, Pat Luna, Steve Furr, Robin Wilson, David Goolsby, Nick Mielke, Bob Sweet, Jim Wilcox, Frank Dunnewind, Mike McKnight, Amy Persons Parkes, Toni Houston, Beth Bowdin, Barbara Sadler, Leigh Meekins, Helen Edwards, Carolyn Davis, Joe Reams, Traci Herndon

A. Opening

Bishop Goodpaster opened the meeting at 10:02am with prayer. His scripture lesson was based on Luke 12:54 “How Do You Interpret The Present Time”.

B. Introductions from the CORE Team

The 2008 CORE Team introduced themselves and in what capacity they were serving on the CORE Team. Bishop Goodpaster announced that Rev. Frederick Outlaw was elected Dean of the Cabinet; The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Conference Board of Trustees has not yet elected a chairperson; The Conference Council on Finance and Administration elected Rev. Jim Sanders as the chairperson.

C. Business and Agenda Items

The CORE Team – “Connecting Our Resources and Empowerment” Team

Bishop Goodpaster passed out *The CORE Team – “Connecting Our Resources and Empowerment” Team* (hard copy on file). He began to define the CORE Team’s roles and responsibilities. The CORE Team was adopted in 2002 in order to bring together all of the conference leaders and board chairs. The CORE Team would have the authority to empower things to happen within the conference and in the local church. The CORE Team would allow the leaders and board chairs to discuss the spiritual health of churches and clergy. The only way we will make disciples of Jesus Christ is with healthy churches. The CORE Team is responsible for making sure everyone, conference wide, is operating on the same page.

Discussion was held by a few members:

Pat Luna – Pat expressed that the mission of the CORE Team had not been completed. She said we have not been living big. She was glad to see new members who have joined the team and welcomed new ideas and commitment to live big.

Steve Furr – Steve said he believes the CORE Team has simply become a funding agency. That is not what the CORE Team should solely function as.

David Goolsby – David believes the meetings held within the board/agency need to change. He said if you only meet for funding purposes then that is all you will accomplish and all you will bring to the CORE Team meetings.

Amy Persons Parkes – Amy believes each board/agency needs to bring exciting and

interesting facts about what is going on within each board/agency.

Bishop Goodpaster went on to say that we can start new – on a blank page. The CORE Team has done good things – some of them were a struggle and some of them were slow to begin – but good things have been done. For example, with the financial help from the CORE Team, Julius Wardley was able to intern with the Auburn Wesley Foundation for a year before heading up the Tuskegee Wesley Foundation. Bishop Goodpaster suggested that the next CORE Team meeting be a retreat setting. Steve Furr agreed. However, each chairperson must meet with their board/agency BEFORE this retreat in order for a retreat setting to work. Barbara Sadler mentioned that when each chairperson reports on an event their board/agency had an evaluation must follow. Mike McKnight and Pat Luna both agreed. Pat said each chairperson needs to defend how the money they were allocated was spent.

Discussion was held on explaining funding requests. Funding requests are for new and emerging ministries.

D. Conversation and Evaluation: 2008 Annual Conference

Bishop Goodpaster allowed discussion on the recent 2008 Annual Conference held June 1 – 4, 2008 at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery.

Francis Turner – Francis said that it (annual conference) was the best one he had been to in many years. He said there was balance throughout the entire conference.

Pat Luna – Pat said that having Rev. Adam Hamilton deliver his Bible study helped boost the energy of the conference.

Amy Person Parkes – She agreed with Francis that it (annual conference) was the best one she had been to in many years. She said her lay members came back energized.

Joe Reams – Joe said that one of the parts of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is learning – that is what we did at the recent annual conference – learn.

Neil McDavid – Neil said the laity learned a lot to take back to the local church.

All agreed that the worship service on Sunday night was outstanding.

Meredyth Earnest, the Conference Director of Communications, provides an excellent tool for each local church to download a bulletin insert in order for the lay member to give a report back to the local church or simply place inside the bulletin.

Other suggestions included (1) having a night off – a time for fellowship. Removing the Tuesday night worship service would make that fellowship time among the clergy and laity possible; (2) changing the days of the week from Sunday through Wednesday to possibly Thursday through Saturday. This might help laity and local pastors be able to attend; (3) provide childcare. Not having childcare often keeps some laity and clergy away from attending annual conference. Leigh Meekins offered hosting a vacation bible school for elementary children during annual conference. This was unanimously agreed upon by the CORE Team that childcare would be provided at the next Annual Conference to be held June 7-10, 2009 at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery.

Meredyth Earnest passed out answers from an on-line survey she issued to the laity and clergy of our conference (hard copy on file).

E. Upcoming Events

Spiritual Formation Event for Clergy: September 21-23, 2009 at Point Washington United Methodist Church. Keynote speaker – Dr. Bill Mallard.

Two Year Spiritual Formation Academy: August 2009. Three of the six leaders for the academy are members of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Transformed Giving: August 14, 2008. Dr. John Ed Mathison has written an excellent resource for nurturing spiritual growth through Christian stewardship. Dr. Mathison will lead us through an overview of the Transformed Giving program, offering his unique insights and inspiration on its use in local churches. We will leave with a renewed confidence in the stewardship potential of our churches and with the resources to implement a successful program of Transformed Giving. Scholarships are being offered from each District.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute: October 2-3, 2008. the Leadership Institute is a powerful source of creative ideas, hope, and renewal for mainline church leaders from around the country. Every fall, the Leadership Institute defines leadership by sharing new ministry concepts that are practical, proven and applicable to ministry settings of all sizes—based on Resurrection's own ministry work and innovations during the previous year. Resurrection's innovative staff members share what's working, pitfalls to avoid, and specific, practical ideas for how you can apply these ideas in your own ministry. Maybe a scholarship or assistance could be provided for clergy and lay members to attend.

F. Report from Board of Discipleship

Board of Discipleship – Division of Worship: The Division of Worship is providing every active clergy The Upper Room Disciplines. Dr. Robbins Sims and Pat Luna are part of the writing team for this publication.

G. Personal Privilege

On behalf of the CORE Team, Meredyth Earnest thanked Bishop Goodpaster for the wonderful job he has done over the past eight years. He was presented with a cake.

12:17pm ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH

12:50pm MEETING RESUMED

H. Action Items

New Funding Requests

Board of Discipleship, Division on Christian Education (hard copy on file) - **Children's Ministries Academy**. This will be an academy that will provide two 2-day events and two 1-day events for Children's Ministries. Those who participate in all events will be eligible for certification as a para-professional through the GBOD. National speakers will be brought in for this event. This event will be co-sponsored by the North Alabama Annual Conference. Amount requested = \$5,000. Action taken – APPROVED.

Donation to Iowa Annual Conference, Disaster Recovery – With all of the disasters our conference has been through other annual conferences have been very generous. Bishop Goodpaster asked the CORE Team to approve a financial gift (\$5,000.00) to be sent to the Iowa Annual Conference. Action taken – APPROVED.

I. Check orders and fund processing

Frank Dunnewind discussed how check orders need to be handled by the secretary/board chairperson of each board/agency. Check orders need to be signed by the correct person. Our auditors are enforcing signature rules and accountability. Every board/agency chairperson receives a copy of a monthly analysis of their budget/account. Frank asks each chairperson to study this analysis every month.

J. Other agenda items

- Neil McDavid praised PACT for his church insurance premiums being lower than ever before. Neil said having PACT really made a difference.
- Bishop Goodpaster reported 149,931 members in the Alabama-West Florida Conference as of December 31, 2007. This is a net gain of 754 members and only 69 members short of the Bishop's goal of 150,000 members.

K. Next Meeting

The next CORE Team meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 12-13, 2008. Location is to be announced.

1:20pm the meeting was closed with prayer by Steve Furr.