

**Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Church
CORE Team
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2008**

Opening:

The regular meeting of the AWF CORE Team was called to order on March 28, 2008 at The Conference Office by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster.

Present: Mike McKnight, Judy Reiter, Nathan Attwood, Barbara Sadler, Jim Carpenter, June Jernigan, Shirley Woodie, Jack Kale, Martha Rovira, Frank Dunnewind, Curtis Henderson, Meredyth Earnest, Pat Luna, David Goolsby, Frank Jenkins, Don Kirsch, Robert Powell. Special guest: Brad Goode, Evangelism Coordinator at St. James UMC, Montgomery.

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

C. Devotion

Given by Mike McKnight

D. Business and Agenda Items

Evaluation of recent conference events

Men's Advance: Robert Powell spoke about the Men's Advance held in January at Blue Lake. He said attendance was up from previous gatherings. The theme was "Running The Bases". The speakers were the General Secretary of UMM, Rev. Brad McClain, and several District Superintendents. The evaluations that were turned in said the Men's Advance was one of the best spiritual growth meetings.

COSROW: Curtis Henderson spoke about the COSROW retreat held in January at Blue Lake.

The Bishop's Confirmation Retreat: Bishop Goodpaster and Nathan Attwood spoke about the retreat held in February at Blue Lake. In the past the "Bishop's Confirmation Retreat" has been a one-day event but this year it was over an entire weekend. Attendance doubled. Over 21 churches brought confirmation classes. Several AWFC clergy taught workshops. Bishop Goodpaster said the conference has hit upon a format that works.

Upcoming events and activities

Leadership Summit, a video conference at St. James UMC, Montgomery: Brad Goode, Evangelism Coordinator for St. James UMC, spoke about the upcoming

Leadership Summit in August to be held at St. James. The dates of the Summit are August 7-8, 2008. Brad showed a video of past Summits and left brochures and information. He said the Summit was geared toward pastors and church leaders.

Overview of 2008 Annual Conference (theme, schedule, offering, leadership development): The theme for the 2008 Annual Conference is “Amazing Love...Great Grace” (Acts 4:33). This year's offering will go toward the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia (Africa) for emergency program support. This builds on our "nets" offering last year and expands to include other diseases of poverty that are being addressed through Ganta. The goal will be **\$60,000** in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of [*The Advance for Christ and His Church*](#). According to Bishop Goodpaster, \$60,000 will provide two years of funding for the hospital, which is the only one available for approximately 300,000 people. Bishop Goodpaster expressed that several people have been missing Bible study at Annual Conference. This year we will have Dr. Lacey Warner, Professor of Evangelism at Duke University, teaching a Bible study each morning of Annual Conference. On Tuesday, Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, will lead a leadership development seminar titled “Leading Beyond The Walls – Developing a Heart For The Un-churched.” On Sunday night of Annual Conference, Bishop Goodpaster will preach, and worship will be led by a Youth Choir. The Youth Choir will be composed of several AWF Conference local church youth choirs and be directed by James Keith Posey, Music Minister at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church. The Ordination Service at Montgomery First United Methodist Church will be held on Monday night. The time has been moved back 30 minutes to accommodate those who will be attending the service. On Tuesday night we will have a dinner. The theme of the dinner will be “Mission and Outreach,” and the guest speaker will be Shawn Bakker, Director of The Advance.

Report from Conference Trustees

Frank Dunnewind reminded the CORE Team that the Annual Conference voted on a conference-wide insurance program (PACT). Is it mandatory? No. However, the Board of Trustees wanted every church to fill out the questionnaire whether or not the church was going to participate. By mid December 2007 there was not enough commitment to have a conference-wide insurance program. So a third party was found willing to provide coverage. Most of our coastal churches are in PACT through this third party. Frank Dunnewind passed out Report No. 9 of the Conference Board of Trustees that can be found in the 2008 Brochure of Reports. This report explains the benefit of having a conference-wide insurance program. There was discussion on the risk liability of not having coverage in each local church. If a local church is not adequately covered, then the district superintendent has the leverage to inquire as to why that church does not have adequate coverage. Local Church Boards of Trustees who have adequate coverage can go to other Local Church Boards of Trustees who do not have adequate coverage and tell them that they are putting other churches in the conference at risk. The Conference Board of Trustees want to raise the awareness of ‘shared liability’ for all churches.

Report from Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Frank Jenkins, President of CFA, gave the report. CFA recently met on March 10, 2008. At the meeting CFA visited the apportionment formula and decided not to change. The moving date for clergy has increased by a week. Those moving have a week off in-between churches. It is also a 50/50 break in salary and helps with pension. Lay speakers, district superintendents, retired clergy, conference staff will cover the pulpits. There was a 3.78% increase in the conference budget. There was no increase in the health insurance apportionments.

Reports from Ministry Teams and Boards

Young Adult Council: Nathan Attwood gave the report. A Young Adult Council has been formed by clergy and laity. This council is developing a strategy on how to reach un-churched young adults. First, the council will blast a survey asking a few questions to determine what their needs are. Second, a short presentation will be given at the 2008 Annual Conference introducing this council and new ministry. Third, a big event has been planned in 2009. Details are forthcoming.

Board of Discipleship: Pat Luna gave the report. The Board met in January and went over the new way funding will be handled. They decided as a group on how to allocate money.

Board of Congregational Development: Don Kirsch gave the report. Don explained about "Visionary Shares". It is \$10/share that allows an individual to be an investor in a new church development. The spring appeal is Foley UMC.

Wesley Foundations: David Goolsby gave the report. David thanked the CORE Team for re-launching the Tuskegee Wesley Foundation and for the funding for Julius Wardley. Julius is training at the Auburn Wesley Foundation and will take over at Tuskegee in June. He has created by-laws, a calendar, etc. He is ready and has the leadership abilities to move forward.

New Funding Requests

Mike McKnight presented a request from the Board of Discipleship for \$2500. The original request was for \$4000 but \$1500 has been received in funding. The request is for the ministry event "Growing The Church: Moving To The Next Level", a leadership training event. This event will empower church leaders on how to help their church grow. Result: APPROVED.

Robert Powell presented a request from the United Methodist Men/Board of Laity for \$8000. This request is to train men as Ministry Specialists. Men in the local church would assist clergy on how to win men to Christ and involve them in ministry. Don Kirsch commented that this would be money well spent. Meredyth Earnest suggested the group that will be trained be multi-cultural. Result: APPROVED.

12:10pm Lunch Break

12:32pm Resumed meeting

Other agenda item/reports

General Conference: General Conference will be held April 23-May 2, 2008 in Ft. Worth, TX. There was a contest to pick several bands from all over to lead worship at different times during General Conference. Clanton United Methodist Church (Montgomery-Prattville District) was one of the bands chosen. However, none of the expenses incurred by the band is covered by General Conference. The cost that Clanton UMC would incur is approximately \$5000. Clanton UMC is trying very hard to raise the money. The Montgomery-Prattville District voted to give Clanton UMC \$1000. June Jernigan made a motion to issue a check for \$2000 immediately for upfront costs and to offer up to \$2000 for other costs as needed. Don Kirsch seconded the motion. Frank Dunnewind clarified on how the money will be issued and used. The motion was approved unanimously. Rev. Jim Carpenter, Montgomery-Prattville District Superintendent, expressed his deepest appreciation for what the CORE Team has offered to do. Issuing these monies to Clanton UMC keeps the connection through our conference. They will be representing the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Hispanic Ministry: Martha Rovira, Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry for the AWFC, has found a Spanish speaking pastor for the Demopolis and Mobile Districts. Martha has helped start many Spanish speaking churches in our conference.

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 28th at Blue Lake.

12:50 Meeting adjourned.