

**Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Church
CORE Team – Huntingdon College
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2009**

Opening

The meeting opened 10:01 a.m. by Steve Furr.

Present

See attached.

Introductions

Steve Furr instructed everyone to introduce themselves and recite their favorite Bible verse.

Prayer requests

A resident of Sybil Smith Village at Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile was killed. Prayer is in need for her family. Everyone was glad to see Martha Rovira doing well.

Devotion and Joys and Concerns

Don Kirsch gave a devotion on Isaiah 40: 1-5.

Prayer

Prayer was led by Paulette Thompson

Meeting Focus

Neil McDavid asked the group to begin with the budgeting process. The 2011 CONFERENCE BUDGET was passed out to those in attendance. Neil reminded everyone that three (3) teams were formed (LEADERSHIP, ADMINISTRATION, MISSIONAL) where budgets were presented. What is decided during today's meeting will be presented to CFA who will then present it to the Annual Conference. Neil asked each chair of each team to give a brief description of how their meeting went. All three concurred that the meetings had good attendance and everyone worked hard to reduce their budgets.

Frank Dunnewind was asked to explain the 2011 CONFERENCE BUDGET handout. Overall there was a 37% reduction in the budget. Direct Billing had a significant impact on this reduction. Some members were surprised that the reduction was not MORE significant but that was due to the 2008 receipts.

A point was made that David Goolsby was a part of the CRC staff leading campus ministry but his position has been eliminated for a season. The Personnel Committee will revisit the possibility of placing him back on staff. A personal note was made that David lead the Wesley Foundations to be stronger and more vital.

Open discussion was held about the 9% reduction on line items 44 and 45 in the 2011 Conference Budget. The question was raised why this conference supports both Huntingdon College and Birmingham Southern. An answer was given that both the Alabama-West Florida Conference and the North Alabama Conference support each college respectively. Those present did express delight with the increase in students and curriculum at Huntingdon College.

An explanation about any line item in regards to the conference budget can be answered in the CONNECTION, a downloadable document from the conference website.

The members were reminded that this budget is only a recommendation to CFA. CFA will have to present it to the Annual Conference for a vote.

As of November of this year, we are at 61% in receipts. We were at 63% in 2008. The month of December usually brings in approximately 15% in receipts.

Dan Morris made a motion to accept the 2011 Conference Budget to be recommended to CFA. Michael Lawler seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dan Morris made another motion for CFA to look at adding additional line items detailing the boards and agencies for greater transparency. This proposal was made in light of significant discussion as to how the boards and agencies are funded and the recent years decrease in funding. Nathan Attwood seconded the motion. Jim Sanders raised the question about where would they be made public. Dan Morris answered they could be made public in the Conference JOURNAL. Frank Dunnewind agreed. All were in favor.

Neil McDavid suggested that more discussion would be necessary at other meetings.

This group can be more intentional about educating local churches about apportionments.

LEADERSHIP CENTER

Neil McDavid reminded the group that this past year we began a vision of a Leadership Center. A small group was formed to come up with a plan; a vision. Neil suggested that each of the aforementioned teams (LEADERSHIP, ADMINISTRATION, MISSIONAL) could meet and discuss their roles in developing a vision/plan for a Leadership Center, incorporating each others purpose, i.e. Leadership would not only discuss the leadership aspect of the center but how administration and mission could play a role, etc.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cultivating Dynamic, Thriving Congregations

Do we still want to use this statement? A small committee (Tonya Elmore, Bob Sweet and Neil McDavid) were formed to help decide if the annual conference would like to still use this.

FUTURE CORE TEAM MEETING DATES:

- ❑ February 6 at Blue Lake
- ❑ May 22; location TBD
- ❑ September 2; location TBD
- ❑ December; date and location TBD

All meetings begin with a coffee gathering at 9:30 a.m. The business begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Leeland thanked the group for being here today and for the leadership they bring to the Annual Conference. He expressed his appreciation of the wonderful spirit shown throughout this conference.

Neil McDavid reminded everyone about "The Gift" from last year's meeting. He passed out \$10.00 to each member and asked them to touch someone's life using "The Gift".

Martha Rovira closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m. with lunch.