

**Alabama-West Florida Conference  
United Methodist Church  
CORE Team  
Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2009**

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the AWF CORE Team was called to order on February 7, 2009 at Blue Lake by Rev. Mike McKnight

**Present:** See attached.

**Introductions**

Dr. Steve Furr instructed everyone to introduce themselves. Bishop Paul Leeland thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Devotion and Joys and Concerns**

Helen Edwards gave a devotion on Psalm 23. Rev. David Goolsby asked for joys and concerns. Those mentioned were Rev. Joe Reams for the loss of his mother, Dr. Shirley Woodie for her recent eye surgery, Mrs. Brenda Stegall for the loss of her mother, Mrs. Meredyth Earnest for the recent birth of her child, Dr. Al Harbour healing for his mother, Sabastian Rovira, the grandson of Martha Rovira, Rev. Bill Calhoun for the loss of his brother, Cameron Cowley, the grandson of Rev. Brian Cowley and Jennifer Brown (the wife of Rev. Bob Brown) for her recent heart surgery. All bowed their head for prayer.

**Meeting Focus**

We need to reset our compass. Today's meeting is about strategy. This will be a strategical meeting; not a tactical meeting. And during today's meeting it will not be acceptable for anyone to have an idea or a thought and not share it. Be mindful to 'share the air' giving others time to speak.

The CORE Team needs to meet strategically by: (1) Making Disciples; (2) Having two (2) kinds of Holiness, Personal and Social; (3) Following three (3) simple rules, Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay In Love With God; and (4) Focus on four (4) primary areas, Developing Leaders, Creating Places For New People, Eliminating Poverty, Improving Health Globally.

Do we believe?

- Every congregation, and conference, can be an obedient, vital, missional, evangelistic congregation regardless of size?
- Congregational vitality is not about getting people to show up, it is insuring that God shows up?
- As Conference Leaders, what are we doing to make this a reality?

As spiritual leaders we must ask:

- What would God have us do?
- Does the work of ministry really have the significance we attach to it?
- What is more important, the political power that openly rules the world, or the kingdom of God that secretly consecrates it? (Richard Lischer)

The primary question is not whether we will provide spiritual leadership – it is whether it will be done well or poorly!

Good direction is like good preaching; you know it when you hear it.

Five dysfunctions of a team:



We agree to: Recreate our time, evaluate and reflect on our work, and align our resources.

Today's meeting is about strategy; focusing only on the direction and purpose of our ministry.  
We would give priority to Vision, Mission and Values.

What would be radical minimum standards (things that are not negotiable)? Baptism, worship, our calling (to do whatever He asks), and making sure the local church is where every believer experiences the fullness of the life Jesus promised.

10:20am Broke into small groups to discuss the minimum standards for the Annual Conference.

10:32am Resumed meeting

### **Minimum standards determined**

#### Leigh Meekins Group

(1) An attitude of excellence; (2) A spirit of connection; (3) Communication ability; (4) Follow God's direction/vision; (5) Inclusiveness; (6) Patience

#### Barbara Sadler Group

(1) Outward focus; (2) Adult profession; (3) Service to the community; (4) Evangelism; (5) Intentional spiritual growth

#### Francis Turner Group

(1) Conversion/witness; (2) Inclusiveness (good tension, typical, befriending spirit); (3) Bridge between theory and practice; (4) Holiness communities; (5) Servant leadership

#### Nick Mielke Group

(1) 100% of financial giving to their best ability; (2) A minimum of one (1) profession of faith; (3) A full connection among all of the AWF local churches; (4) A consistent quality among the AWF staff

#### Amy Persons Parkes Group

(1) Order our lives after Jesus Christ; (2) The life of Christ be our center; (3) Good communication; (4) Jesus Christ be made available

Align Our Resources: Where might we put our greatest efforts?

10:47 am Broke into groups to identify specific areas and what direction to put them in.

11:00 am Resumed. Took a 5 minute break.

11:10 am Resumed.

### **Top Areas**

Leadership Effectiveness

Evangelism

Communication Teaching

New Church Development/Outreach

Accountability

11:47 Broke into groups of your choice

12:02 Resumed

All of the areas discussed are areas discussed in every local church. We are not off of the mark.

### Four (4) primary areas of focus:

1<sup>st</sup> Effective Leadership (Clergy and Lay)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vital Congregations  
3<sup>rd</sup> Evangelism  
4<sup>th</sup> Communication/Teaching

Two (2) task forces were formed. One task force will create a statement that embraces a direction for new and emerging ministries. Members of this task force are Leigh Meekins, Don Kirsch, Michael Lawler, Luke Lucas, and Frank Dunnewind. The other task force will report back to the CORE team on where have new and emerging ministries been successful; what can we learn from others that will save us time? Members on this task force are Nick Mielke, Neil McDavid, Toni Houston, Barbara Sadler, Martha Rovira, Susan Hunt, Helen Edwards, and Beth Bowdin.

The Budget Task Force on funding will report on their progress and the Membership Task Force will make a report at the next CORE team meeting.

**FUTURE CORE TEAM MEETING DATES:**

- ❑ Saturday, February 7th Blue Lake
- ❑ Saturday, May 16th Blue Lake
- ❑ Thursday, September 3rd Blue Lake
- ❑ Thursday, December 3rd Montgomery

All meetings being at 9:30am

Martha Rovira closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.