

Alabama-West Florida Conference CORE Team Meeting
September 4, 2014 - Blue Lake

Meeting begin at 9:30am

Attendance: see attached

Agenda: see attached

Introductions were made

Prayer requests were given

Frank Moore gave the devotion. Titled "*When God Calls What's Your Excuse*"?

Approval of minutes: Shirley Woodie made a motion the minutes be approved; Pat Caylor second. The minutes were approved.

Neil McDavid went over two handouts: **CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE NOW** and **NEW MINISTRIES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS** (see attached). These handouts were part of a discussion from the CORE team meeting in May. Neil informed the CORE team that he and Bishop Leeland invited young clergy of different types (in seminary, etc) throughout the conference to put fresh eyes on these handouts. Some thoughts that came out of the gathering: They affirmed the need for a stronger and simpler institution. Value of a larger institutional vision, value of a stronger connectional presence, covenant groups early in ministry, hold each other accountable becoming a habit throughout their ministry, be willing to take a risk, be willing to fail, be willing to go, when we say go into the world we actually go into the world, more diversity, move on – if something is not working then move on.

Neil also announced the new **Executive Director of Blue Lake**, Steve Lewandowski. Steve served as site director of Blue Mountain Camp in the Missouri conference. His wife is Elaine. Steve will begin September 15, 2014.

Neil also welcomed to the CORE team **Dan Pezet**, Conference Director of Congregational Vitality. Dan worked at Gulf Breeze and Shalimar UMC's before entering Seminary. Dan spoke about what he will be doing in the office of congregational vitality – looking at churches with good clergy and lay leadership but have entered a plateau. Looking at churches who are under performing. Dan has asked each DS to nominate three (3) churches from their district who fit this description. They will be invited to a banquet at the first of the year and ask to enter into an 18 month contract/covenant. Said churches will partner with other churches who went through the very same thing. This project will be titled the ANTIOCH PROJECT. Dan is also working with other conferences who are already doing congregational vitality. Dan has already had churches in our conference who have come to him seeking help. This will include rural churches.

Academy for Congregational Excellence (ACE) - Ron Ball: During this cycle of the CORE team meeting, we look at a ministry that came out of our team. Today we are hearing from ACE. Ron spoke about the vision for ACE - to have effective leaders and fruitful congregations to transform the world. ACE is currently focusing on clergy effective leaders. The seven initiatives of ACE are: 1. Preaching Excellence; 2. Clergy Self Care; 3. Missional Church; 4. Equip Training; 5. Academy for Ministries with Children; 6. Primary Leadership Skills; 7. ACE Lead Team/SLI. An ACE website is on the way. Possible videos of any sessions are in the future. ACE operates through a board of directors who meet quarterly. They also have an operational team who meet regularly. Our focus is on leader development . We look towards the SEND model which is a disciple making model. Ron also sits on the extended cabinet.

The CORE team divided up in to groups at 10:30am to look at where ACE might go in developing lay transformational leaders. What is needed that ACE might offer to provide lay leadership.

Resumed at 10:50am

Results:

- Teach churches about ACE: What is it? What does it do? Branding issue.
- Help laity learn/develop/use their spiritual gifts (curriculum to help develop this)
- Utilize strengths of large churches to become teaching churches to link to ACE.
- Develop online piece to reach more people.
- Develop more training/development videos that can be seen; more accessible. Sample topics: lay congregational care, how to lead a meeting, how to share your faith in today's culture, what do we believe and why (UM theology), how to lead a small group, understanding one another (MBTI)
- Lay/clergy training together.
- Train clergy to help hand responsibility down (leaders always training new leaders who train new leaders...)
- Recognize laity who have gifts and passion and commitment and empower them.
- Document and share success stories.
- Spiritual disciplines are important for spiritual leaders
- Cultivate new leaders continually and keep existing leaders fresh
- Focus on utilizing and training younger lay leaders
- Have ACE regional teams
- Develop "Becoming A More Effective Leader" for laity.

The more you focus on other things rather than the mission of the church you will plateau.

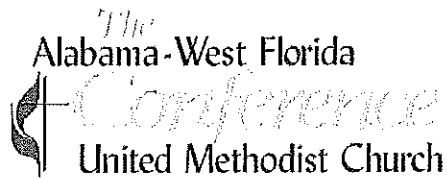
Ron Ball thanked the CORE team for the suggestion above and their support of ACE.

Imagine No Malaria (INM) - Susan Hunt: Susan passed out a progress summary (see attached). Susan and Bishop Leeland both agreed that this is a perfect way to strengthen our connection; giving towards INM. INM is not a top down asking; the conference asking the local church's to give. INM is a grassroots movement from Nothing But Nets from the United Methodist Church, from the Bill Gates Foundation, etc. The focus is not on the dollar amount. The focus is on the number of lives saved. Each district set the goals for each of their local churches. Bishop Leeland announced that there would be no more annual conference special offerings until we've reached our goal of saving 100,000 lives. We are so close. Then Susan challenged each member of the CORE team present to save a life. All gave. The team saved 37 lives; 21 people were present.

CORE team budget teams - Neil McDavid: Neil handed out the listing of each budget team and its members contact information. The teams are ADMINISTRATIVE, LEADERSHIP, and MISSION (see attached). The CORE Team reviews all the conference budget requests, through the ADMINISTRATIVE, LEADERSHIP, and MISSION teams. All teams meet in November to look at budget requests and report back to the CORE Team with the results of their decisions. The ADMINISTRATIVE and LEADERSHIP teams look at the budgets for the year ahead (i.e. not for 2015 but for 2016). The MISSION team looks at the budgets from boards and agencies for the following year (i.e. 2015). The collective recommended budget is then presented to CFA.

Additional business – Bishop Leeland: **Annual conference changes** - There will be some changes at the 2015 Annual Conference Session. In particular, if one has a report in the BROCHURE OF REPORTS and not action is required, then a verbal report will not be given. **Appointment changes** - There are 142 Alabama-West Florida Clergy who can retire in 2015. This is an issue we need to be aware of. The cabinet is in conversation around the case where there are multiple pastors serving a church (senior pastor, associate pastors, etc) where an associate may have to be moved. Bishop Leeland just wanted the leaders of the conference, the CORE team, to be aware of this situation.

Betty Helms offered a blessing for our lunch. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.



Alabama-West Florida Conference

CORE Team Agenda

September 4, 2014 • Blue Lake

Welcome/Introductions

Steve Furr

Devotional

Approval of Minutes

Review Packet

Neil McDavid

Academy for Congregational Excellence

Ron Ball

Imagine No Malaria

Susan Hunt

Review of Budget Building Process

Neil McDavid

Additional Business

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 am gathering; 10 am business,
Montgomery First

TRAVEL EXPENSE AND ATTENDANCE RECORD

INSTRUCTIONS:

Do not write in Column A.

Give complete address in column C. PLEASE PRINT (INCLUDE ZIP CODE)

Round Trip (RT) Miles are required in Column D.

Number of persons traveling in one car is listed in Column E.

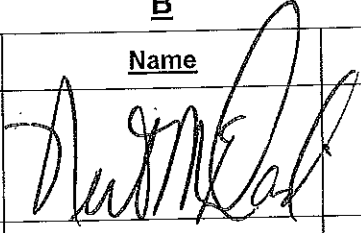
Per mile rate: 1 person = \$.14; 2 persons = \$.17; 3 or more persons = \$.20

Please list name even if not collecting mileage for attendance purposes

Return to AWFC, 4719 Woodmere Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36106

Meeting Name: CORE Team Meeting

Date: 9/4/2014 Location: Blue Lake

A	B	C	D	E
	Name	Address (City/State/Zip)	RT Miles	Number
			—	—
	Shirley Woodie	171 Meadowview Dr. Ozark, AL 36360	158	
	Betty Helms	3043 Headland Ave DOTHAN, AL 36303	180	
	Neil Epler	6000 Atlanta Hwy Montgomery, AL 36117	236	
	Marda Riba	conf staff.		
	Jeff Wilson	1507 Dauphin St Mobile 36604	260	
	Brennan Peacock	32200 Jimmy Faulkner Dr Spanish Fort, AL 36527	230	
	Jim Dufriend	1005 Bolen Dr Jackson AL 36545	236	
	Steve Furr	214 Plantation Trace Jackson, AL 36545	241	
	Frank Moore	P.O. Box 482 Daleville, AL 36322	120	

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Date: _____ Location: _____

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>
	Name	Address (City/State/Zip)	RT Miles	Number
	Pat Cayton	5862 Co. Rd. 15 Union Springs	200	1
	Matt Mobley			
	JUNE THOMAS		-	-
	Jim Wilcox		-	-
	John Weaver	1434 Cloverbrook Cir. Auburn, AL 36832	240	
	Rob Couch			
	Dan Pezet		-	-
	Stacy Henderson			

Conversations To Have Now

- Target/Goal: New Disciples
- More seeking
- More small group ministry
 - Develop training for small group leaders (facilitating)
- More of CIRCLES
- Ethnic ministries
- More new faith communities that are UMC
- Outreach to our communities to be more inclusive/diverse
- Keep young adults in the church
- More missional/outreach opportunities (especially for young people to stay involved)
- Emphasize more social media

What is essential? What must we hold on to? What can we release? What can we experiment with? To try?

- Acknowledge some churches will die in the next 10 years
 - What to do with real estate?
- Need for new clergy leadership as many retirements come soon
- Alternative ways to educate clergy?
 - Educate our own for within conference work outside of seminary model
 - Bi-vocational

- Part time
- Use new church start process in existing churches
- Vacant churches become a new church start or divest in the property
- Facilitate sharing resources among churches
- (small ↔ large); (e.g. Niceville & St. Mark)
- Save some of the dying churches
 - By large churches making small church a satellite or sister church
- Don't forget the rural areas
 - Prepare (city) clergy for rural appointments
- Emphasize service (more than theology)
- Increase spiritual awareness, growth, formation
 - Form spirituality for the sake of others
- Take more risks

New Ministries In The Last Five Years

- Clergy Effectiveness
- Incubators
- Circles of Transformation
- Academy for Congregational Excellence (ACE)
- New Conference Center
- New Church Process
- Blue Lake Connection
 - Hospitality House
- Increase Missional Giving
 - More at 100% (increase generosity)
 - More stable financial position
- Spiritual Directors – More trained
- Youth Directors – Connectedness
 - Increase Awareness
 - Youth Ministry Roundtable (leaders)
- Comprehensive Plan of Inclusiveness
- SEND Model
- CORE Team Budget Process now more inclusive
- District Superintendent's now more missional strategist
- Young Clergy Initiative

Alabama-West Florida Conference
 Imagine No Malaria
 Progress Summary
 As of August 31, 2014

district	TOTAL received	Lives saved	goal (lives)	goal met
Conference undesignated	\$ 9,985.74	998.57	n/a	n/a
Baypines District	\$ 91,696.53	9,169.65	10,000	91.70%
Demopolis District	\$ 48,203.04	4,820.30	5,000	96.41%
Dothan District	\$ 33,420.86	3,342.09	14,000	23.87%
Marianna/Panama City district	\$ 77,246.30	7,724.63	10,000	77.25%
Mobile District	\$ 87,710.13	8,771.01	10,000	87.71%
Montgomery-Opelika District	\$141,895.05	14,189.51	18,000	78.83%
Montgomery-Prattville District	\$ 96,450.67	9,645.07	12,000	80.38%
Pensacola District	\$ 66,608.29	6,660.83	21,000	31.72%
Totals	\$653,216.61	65,321.66	100,000	65.32%

detailed district reports: www.awfumc.org/inmprogress

CORE Team Administration, Leadership, Mission Budget Teams					
Budget Team	First Name	Last Name	Position	Email	
Administrative	Frank	Dunnwind	Conference Treasurer	frank@awfumc.org	
	Beebe	Frederick	President, CFA	btf@tfains.com	
	Bishop Paul	Leeland	Resident Bishop	bishop@awfumc.org	
	Beverly	Maddox	At-Large Member	beverlymaddox@yahoo.com	
	Bob	Mckibben	Chair, Board of Pension	revbmck@bellsouth.net	
	Mary Catherine	Phillips	Director of Communications	marycatherine@awfumc.org	
	James	Wilcox	At-Large Member	jawpaw@andycable.com	
	Jeff	Wilson	President, Board of Trustees	jwilson@dauphinwayumc.org	
	Leadership	Rob	Couch	Chair, Board of Higher Ed	rob@prattvillemethodist.org
		Jim	DuFriend	At-Large Member	dufriend@bellsouth.net
		Neil	Epler	Conference Secretary	nepler@frazerumc.org
		Steve	Furr (*)	Conference Lay Leader	furs@bellsouth.net
		Matt	Mobley	Chair, Commission on Equitable Comp	matt@mulderchurch.com
Brennan		Peacock	Chair, Personnel Committee	brennanpeacock@yahoo.com	
Jeremy		Pridgeon	Cabinet Representative	Jeremy@umcpenacoladistrict.org	
Libba		Stinson	Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry	libbastinson@yahoo.com	
Bob		Sweet	At-Large Member	sweet9227@bellsouth.net	
June		Thomason	Chair, Board of Congregational Dev	jcthomason1@cox.net	
Shirley		Woodie	At-Large Member	swoodie171@troycable.net	
Mission		Nathan	Attwood	Chair, Board of Church and Society	nathanwattwood@gmail.com
		Pat	Caylor	At-Large Member	pjcaylor2@gmail.com
	Dunford	Cole	Chair, Board of Advocacy	revdunfordcole@gmail.com	
	Helen	Edwards	At-Large Member	hmeearl@aol.com	
	Nancy	Hart	Chair, Board of Global Ministries	n_hart@bellsouth.net	
	Betty	Helms	President, UMW	betty@fumcdathan.org	
	Susan	Hunt	Director of Mission and Advocacy	susan@awfumc.org	
	Steve	Lewandowski	Executive Director, Blue Lake	director@bluelakecamp.com	
	Neil	McDavid (*)	Director of Connectional Ministries	neil@awfumc.org	
	Frank	Moore	President, UMM	frank@jfmooore.org	
	Dan	Peretz	Director of Congregational Vitality	dan@awfumc.org	
	Martha	Rovira	Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Ministries	martha_r@comcast.net	
	Barbara	Sadler	Chair, Board of Discipleship	barbara.sadler@mchsi.com	
John	Weaver	Chair, Town and Country Commission	john.l.weaver@gmail.com		

(*) denotes facilitator