

Alabama-West Florida Conference
CORE Team Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2015
Blue Lake

Meeting begin at 10:01 am

Introductions were made.

Present – See attached

Absent - Jeff Wilson, sick; Rob Couch, meeting with the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry; Helen Edwards, sick; June Jernigan, scheduled appointments; Martha Rovira, sick; Jim Wilcox, out of the country; Lynn Hamric, sick; Barbara Sadler; Jason Thrower; Beebe Frederick; Frank Dunnewind.

Devotion given by Steve Furr.

Prayer given by Brennan Peacock.

A motion was made by Beverly Maddox to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Steve Furr second the motion. The minutes were approved.

Mission Team Report – Neil McDavid

Neil went over the Mission Team Budget Recommendations presented at the last CORE Team meeting. He noted that the approved 2015 allocations for the ministries, boards, and agencies related to the annual conference are affirmed since the 2014 apportionment receipts exceed the allocations. Missional giving was up 1.6 percent in apportionments. This is the highest it has been since 2005.

Imagine No Malaria (INM) – Susan Hunt

Susan presented the district/conference summary (see attached). We are at 75 percent of our goal. This will continue to be our Annual Conference Mission Offering in 2015. Other conferences across the denomination are participating. The CORE Team thanked Susan for leading this campaign for the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Antioch Project - Dan Pezet

The Antioch Project is an Alabama-West Florida Conference initiative designed to partner with local churches that are currently plateaued, are in decline, or are not sure what should come next. Churches who are invited to participate in the Antioch Project have demonstrated good pastoral leadership, good lay leadership, and potential resources to jump start a new life cycle of ministry fruitfulness.

The Antioch Project is based on Acts 11:19-30. When a new church springs into existence in Antioch, the church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to investigate. Barnabas goes and celebrates with the church. After spending some time with them, Barnabas knows that Saul is the best person to help the church, so he helps to create a partnership

between them. Saul and Barnabas work with the church for a year, and the church receives new direction for its future.

The Antioch Project is a process that identifies viable congregations that may benefit from a strategic partnership with the church, sends a Barnabas Team to visit with the church and establish recommendations for the future, assigns coaches to the church to fulfill the recommendations of the Barnabas team.

The Antioch Project is comprised of a group of churches each year that have been recommended by the cabinet as meeting these specific criteria, and then are prayerfully selected and invited by the Bishop to participate. For congregations that sign the Antioch Project covenant, a 2-3 year process is launched that includes:

- Concentrated new ministry leadership skills training each month for the pastors in the Initiative (80 plus hours total throughout the year, along with accountability for implementation back home at their churches);
- "Mystery Worshipers" who visit and worship at each Antioch Project Church, and then provide extensive feedback about their experiences;
- An extensive self-study completed by each church, including history, finances, staffing, organization, ministry activities and demographic setting;
- A three-day on-site weekend (known as the Barnabas Visit), provided by Antioch Project's Barnabas Team, that culminates in a consultation report with five unique "prescriptions" (recommendations) or next steps the church needs to take to move from plateau/decline into jump starting new fruitfulness; and
- If an Antioch Project church votes 70% or better to accept its prescriptions (via an official church conference), the decision is made to go forward to the Saul phase of the Antioch Project. The Saul Phase is when the pastor leads the implementation of the prescriptions, with the assistance of "prescription coaches" (ministry leaders who already have a successful track record in their own setting with that prescription) to help guide and advise. The prescription coaches are underwritten by the Alabama-West Florida Conference and continue to guide the pastor and congregation for up to two years.

Recently, the Bishop had a banquet where twenty churches were invited to be a part of the Antioch Project. Those churches were recommended by their District Superintendent. Said churches went back to meet with their church councils. They have until March 8, 2015 to respond if they want to participate. Three (3) churches have already committed. Dalraida United Methodist Church is the pilot Antioch project church.

MissionInsite - Dan Pezet

MissionInsite (MI) provides instant access to community information for your church via The MI System. You'll get desktop, web-based access to demographic data for a variety of geographic levels.

The MI System provides you with a new way to access demographic information. It moves beyond the static reports you order to a powerful "discovery tool" for exploration and "out of the box" thinking for church ministry, church planting, church growth and outreach.

The system also provides the ability for local churches to locate their church members and others affiliated with their church on your map. This is referred to as Congregant Plot. So, while there are a few things you need to learn, the system is designed to be user friendly and provides you with additional services not available from other systems. Have fun exploring your mission context and remember there is no possibility of accidentally harming the system or data.

As part of the Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Church churches have free access to MissionInsite and the demographics around their church after they register.

Today's meeting within the rhythm of the CORE Team is **visioning**. We've spent time in the past talking about clergy and lay leadership resulting in the Academy on Congregational Excellence (ACE). We've spent some time looking at eliminating poverty resulting in Circles of Transformation. Today's focus is on four (4) areas (see attached; number five (5) are existing ministries) with regards to visioning around the conference. Also attached are questions that go along with this visioning.

At 10:40 am. we broke into groups based on what category you are drawn to. Group number 1 "**Making New Disciples**" consisted of Matt Mobley, June Jernigan, Frank Moore, and Steve Furr. Group number 2 "**Congregational Vitality**" consisted of Dan Pezet, Neil Epler, Beverly Maddox, Pat Caylor, and Steve Lewandowski. Group number 3 "**New Clergy Leaders As Existing Clergy Retire**" consisted of Mary Catherine Phillips, Jim DuFriend, Brennan Peacock, John Weaver, Jeremy Pridgeon, Bob McKibben, and Bob Sweet. Group number 4 "**Conference Diversity**" consisted of Susan Hunt, Nathan Attwood, Shirley Woodie, and Libba Stinson.

11:20 am resumed.

Neil asked the groups to think of the questions (see attached) as they reported.

Group number 1 – What's working well? New church starts, new campuses, contemporary services are growing. When moving forward you need to take risks and do different things. The new church starts that have been successful the pastor and congregations often took risks. The vision is to have a proven model. What is the goal when you plant a new church? In planting a church it is about making new disciples. Don't worry about those who church hop.

Group number 2 – Mostly echoed group number 1. They gave an example of Crosspoint (formerly Niceville UMC) opening many campuses and/or creating new communities of faith. For example, Crosspoint partnering with St. Mark. St. Mark initiated the partnership. St. Mark was losing their identity. Another example of creating new communities of faith is the cooperative parish that the Auburn Wesley Foundation has. This group also wondered what Blue Lake could offer to smaller churches. Blue lake could possibly offer programs that larger churches currently offer. For example marriage retreats (which one is coming up soon at Blue Lake), leadership training, etc. A point was made by this group that young adults like to minister with a church instead of a church ministering to them. We may need to help congregations think of ways to go where the young adults are; i.e. sports fields, etc. If they are at the ball field, go to the ball field.

Group number 3 - We need to identify the challenges with a gross number of retirees at this upcoming annual conference and who to replace them. New clergy with a seminary debt at an appointment that may not be able to fund their expenses. This may discourage those to respond to the call. We may need to be more flexible when

mentoring those who are called into the ministry. Discernment first, education, then appointment. We need to think of proactive ways to meet the shortage of our clergy leadership.

Group number 4 – Have a vision of more diversity throughout the conference. Examine the boards, committees, agencies, etc and make sure diversity is met. Encourage sensitivity training in our churches. We aren't as sensitive as we think. Be more intentional with diversity when making nominations to board, committees, etc. Also when planting new churches, make sure we plant churches. Period. Not an ethnic church.

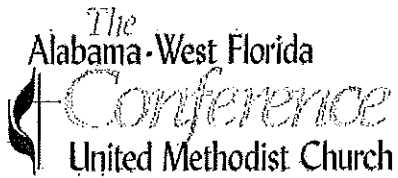
Neil thanked the group for the conversation. All of the groups overlap in so many ways. How we create a culture of awareness that allows us to move forward seems to be the common theme. This will lead us to more vital and fruitful congregations.

The next CORE Team meeting will be May 14, 2015 in the Oakwood Lodge Conference Room. The meeting will begin with coffee at 9:30 am.; business at 10:00 am. CT.

Frank Moore, Conference President of the United Methodist Men (UMM) passed out the brochure of the upcoming **UMM Advance**. He encouraged everyone to take it back to their local church. Steve Lewandowski, Executive Director of Blue Lake, mentioned the upcoming **Marriage Retreat** at Blue Lake. This is a first for Blue Lake. He encouraged everyone to place that in their bulletins and newsletters.

Libba Stinson closed in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.



Alabama-West Florida Conference
CORE Team Agenda
February 26, 2015
Blue Lake

Welcome

Steve Furr

Devotional

Approval of Minutes

Mission Team Report

Neil McDavid

Missional Giving Report

Imagine No Malaria

Susan Hunt

Antioch Project

Dan Pezet

Visioning

Additional Business

Next Meeting

Please list your name even if not collecting mileage for attendance purposes

TRAVEL EXPENSE AND ATTENDANCE RECORD

INSTRUCTIONS:

Do not write in Column A.

Column C: Give complete address. PLEASE PRINT (INCLUDE ZIP CODE)

Column D: Round Trip (RT) miles are required.

Column E: Number of persons traveling in one car.

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

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

Meeting Name: Core Team

Date: 2/26/2015 Location: Blue Lake

A	B	C	D	E
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>RT Miles</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Steve Finn	214 Plantation Trace Jackson, AL 36545	234	1
	SUSAN Hunt	4719 Woodmere Blvd. Montgomery	—	
	Bob McKibbin	3468 Crystal Lake Dr Chipley FL	180	1
	Beverly Maddox	34171 Nims FK Rd Robertsdale AL 36567	170	1
	Jim Dufriend	1005 Bolen Dr. Jackson, AL 36545	236	1
	Steve Lewandowski	8500 oakwood Ln. Andalusia, AL 36420	0	1
	Pat Caylor	5862 County Road 15 Union Springs, AL	200	1
	Dan Pezet	4719 Woodmere Blvd Montgomery, AL	—	
	JUNE THOMASON	DESTIN FL	-	1

Please list your name even if not collecting mileage for attendance purposes

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CORE Team Mtg

Date: _____

2/26/2015

Location: _____

Blue Lake

A	B	C	D	E
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>RT Miles</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Frank Moore	P.O. Box 482 Daleville, AL 36322	140	1
	Shirley Woodie	171 Meadow View Dr. Ozark, AL 36360	158	
	Brennan Preece	32200 Jimmy Frazier Dr. Spanish Fort, AL 36527	220	1
	Matt Mobley	_____		2
	John Weaver	_____		
	Bob Sweet	_____		1
	Libba Stinson	359 Butternut Dr. Auburn, AL 36830	342	2
	Mary Catherine Phillips			
	Nathan Attwood			

Mission Team Recommendations

	2013 allocations	2014 Allocations	2015 Requests	2015 Allocations
Priority Ministries				
Hispanic Ministries	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Circles of Transformation	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Total	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Agencies				
	2013 allocations	2014 Allocations	2015 Requests	2015 Allocations
Milk & Honey	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge)	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Dumas Wesley	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 25,533.00	\$ 25,533.00
UM Inner City Mission	\$ 52,100.00	\$ 57,310.00	\$ 57,310.00	\$ 57,310.00
Pensacola UMCM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
ARIM	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 28,600.00	\$ 28,600.00	\$ 28,600.00
The Ark	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
Total	\$ 160,200.00	\$ 170,010.00	\$ 197,743.00	\$ 179,743.00
Boards				
	2013 allocations	2014 Allocations	2015 Requests	2015 Allocations
Discipleship	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 32,500.00
Laity	\$ 5,230.00	\$ 5,330.00	\$ 5,465.00	\$ 5,465.00
Advocacy/Ethnic Ministries	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Higher Education	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Church & Society	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 7,250.00
Global Ministries	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Town & Country	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 57,230.00	\$ 60,080.00	\$ 62,215.00	\$ 62,215.00
Total	\$ 317,430.00	\$ 370,090.00	\$ 409,958.00	\$ 391,958.00

Alabama-West Florida Conference
Imagine No Malaria

District Summary, as of January 31, 2015

district	TOTAL received	Lives saved	goal (lives)	goal met
Conference undesignated	\$ 11,313.74	1,131.37	n/a	n/a
Baypines District	\$ 97,404.48	9,740.45	10,000	97.40%
Demopolis District	\$ 50,867.04	5,086.7	5,000	101.73%
Dothan District	\$ 39,334.96	3,933.50	14,000	28.10%
Marianna/Panama City district	\$ 87,311.55	8,731.16	10,000	87.31%
Mobile District	\$ 91,270.13	9,127.01	10,000	91.27%
Montgomery-Opelika District	\$174,097.08	17,409.71	18,000	96.72%
Montgomery-Prattville District	\$ 120,060.67	12,006.07	12,000	100.05%
Pensacola District	\$ 79,350.55	7,935.06	21,000	37.79%
Totals	\$ 750,295.20	75,029.52	100,000	75.0%

Details can be found at www.awfumc.org/inmprogress

Updated 2/17/2015

Imagine No Malaria
Summary - as of January 31, 2015

district	Avg. att	goal (lives)	Total # churches	# churches participating	% participating	churches saving at least 1 life per att.	# churches exceeding expectations	goal lives to save per attendee
Conference undesignated								
Baypines District	6,385	10,000	75	51	68.0%	32	17	1.57
Demopolis District	2,991	5,000	93	56	60.2%	37	25	1.67
Dothan District	8,841	14,000	96	44	45.8%	13	5	1.58
Marianna/Panama City district	6,655	10,000	68	51	75.0%	37	18	1.50
Mobile District	6,211	10,000	54	50	92.6%	34	31	1.61
Montgomery-Opelika District	11,694	18,000	84	84	100.0%	58	43	1.54
Montgomery-Prattville District	7,326	12,000	101	78	77.2%	38	21	1.64
Pensacola District	15,041	21,000	51	46	90.2%	20	14	1.40
Totals	65,144	100,000	622	460	74.0%	269	174	28.0%

1. Making New Disciples

- More seeking
- New faith communities
- More small group ministry
- Re-purpose vacated church buildings for new communities of faith or sell property and use for new church development
- Take more risks

2. Congregational Vitality

- Healthy church partnering with smaller churches
- Young adults – more missional/outreach opportunities

3. New clergy leaders as existing clergy retire

- Educate our own for within conference work outside of the seminary model
- Bi-vocational
- Part Time
- Prepare clergy for rural appointments
- Seminary

4. Conference Diversity

- Ethnic ministries
- More inclusiveness/diverse outreach to communities

5. Enhance existing ministries

- Circles of Transformation
- ACE
- SEND Model
- Spiritual Formation

VISIONING

Words create worlds

Image inspires action

We get more of what we focus on

1. What is working well? Where do you see energy and excitement in this ministry area?
2. What is the vision for this ministry going forward? What is the preferred picture of what this ministry looks like in the future?
3. What one, two, or three things could be done to help move this ministry toward the vision? What is being done now to move this ministry toward the vision?
4. What resources will be needed to move toward the realization of this vision?