

Minutes of the Conference CORE TEAM Meeting

January 28, 2016

First United Methodist Church, Montgomery

Attendance (those who signed in): Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Cory Smith, Frank Moore, Tim Trent, Jim DuFriend, Beebe Frederick, Pat Caylor, Helen Edwards, Susan Hunt, Steve Furr, Lynn Hamric, David Saliba, Libba Stinson.

Not attending: Jim Wilcox, out of the country; Jeff Wilson, schedule conflict; Shirley Woodie, schedule conflict (ACE); Matt Mobley, schedule conflict; Traci Herndon, schedule conflict (ACE); Frederick Outlaw, Baypines dCOM Meeting; Steve Lewandowski, Blue Lake Trustees Meeting; Bob McKibben; Barbara Sadler

Unknown/not signed in: Nathan Attwood, Dunford Cole, Rob Couch, Frank Dunnewind, Beverly Maddox, Brennan Peacock, Dan Pezet, Mary Catherine Phillips, Jeremy Pridgeon, Martha Rovira, Jason Thrower, John Weaver

The meeting was called to order with a **welcome** by Rev. Cory Smith.

The **opening prayer** was given by Dr. Robbins Sims.

The **devotional** was then given by Bishop Paul Leeland using scripture from Acts 22.

Bishop Leeland discussed the fact that much prayer is needed as the new appointments are being considered. He reported that many churches will be changing pastors. We will be looking at diversity and inclusiveness. The question we need to ask is: "why wait" for new leadership. What is the next best step to take.

The **minutes** of the last meeting were approved.

The key points of the **task force** work were discussed.

We each had a copy of the summary of the **4 CORE TEAM meetings**.

1. We took a few minutes to talk in small groups to discuss what we liked about being in our conference. Based on the conversations we found that overall we like being connected, being empowered to try new things, how we connect our resources, our mission is based on making disciples. All small teams work well together.
2. Where are we engaging people in a life-changing way?

Engaging all of our local churches allows them to be a part of various ministries and from the youngest to the senior citizens.

3. Where are we seeing Nurturing and growth?

The Discipleship Program is being taught in many churches, we serve through our food pantries, clothing closets, the Imagine No Malaria goals being met, we focus more on small group .

4. Where are we using the “Deploy” part of our mission?

(a) Lay Servant/Speakers in our conference number 600.

(b) ACE

(c) Rural Ministries

(d) seminary students receiving help

(e) countless hours are spent by volunteer servants.

Review Fresh Expressions

Mulder UMC has started ministering and holding church in a trailer park.

A Fresh Expressions model must be connected to a church. A pioneer goes out to a place that could not draw the people into the traditional church. Is it feasible for our conference to try this? The beginning would be a visioning day to find the interest.

We had a motion by Frank Dunnewind and a second to continue to discuss the merit of partnering with Fresh Expressions. The motion passed.

The **Antioch Project** was briefly mentioned as was the name change from Circles of Transformation to **Communities of Transformation**.

Communities of Transformation will host the writer of the book *Toxic Charity*, Robert Lupton, in March 2016 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL.

The 2016 General Conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland May 10 - 20. Steve Furr gave a brief report on the meeting held by the delegates to the **General Conference**. There will be over 1000 proposals to be voted on at the General Conference. Visit <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/briefing-previews-2016-general-conference-debates1> for a list of proposals to be discussed.

The **Board of Pension** Principles were reported on and how that effects the investments in businesses that pay for our pensions for clergy.

The **next CORE TEAM meeting** will be held April 4, 2016 at Crosspoint UMC in Niceville, FL with the Conference Board of Laity.

The **closing prayer** included the blessing of the food we would be receiving.

Respectively submitted, Pat Caylor