

Council on Ministries meeting report -- submitted by Mary Arnaudin

Sept. 15, 2009

FUMC Fellowship Hall, 6:30-8:00 pm

Present: Anna Galloway (Children's Ministries), Carol Dodson (Worship), Chris Lewis (Stewardship), Steve Pagano (Missions), Brenda Whitcomb (Prayer Ministry), Phyllis Blount (Church Life), Dee Campbell (Lay Leader), Bob Dye (Witness & Evangelism), Bob Hayward (Stephen Ministry), Ray Garner (Adult Ministry), Mary Arnaudin (Council Chair)

Staff - Mike Jordan, Kerry Purselle, Kim Dodson, Mieke Benepe, Jamie Gilmore

Opening Bible reading and prayer: Mary Arnaudin

AGENDA:

1. Finishing up 2009

Deadlines:

For the October "Tie" newsletter: please submit your information by September 21 at noon. Late submissions will be included in the next newsletter.

For 2009 Charge Conference on Sunday, November 8 -- Each ministry group chairperson should submit a one-page report covering your activity from Dec. 2008 - Nov. 2009 to Jamie Lancaster by October 15th.

In addition, our ministers will work with COM members to set FUMC's Vision Goals for "The Power of 3 for WNCC" in 2010: number of professions of faith, worship attendance, mission teams, and revitalizing & planting new congregations.

For additional funds for ministries in 2010: submit requests to Finance committee by Oct. 7th.

Reports/Updates:

Chris Lewis shared plans for the November, 2009 Stewardship Campaign. He encouraged us to put thought and prayer into visionary activities that require resources beyond the current level provided in the budget. Oct. 7 is the deadline to submit an amount with a detailed description of how you would use the funds to the Finance Committee. The focus of the Stewardship effort is "Growing Incrementally as a Cheerful Giver."

Steve Pagano reported that a mission team will go to Alaska in July 2010. Another team plans to return to the orphanage in Mexico. Our great day of service will be October 3, coordinated by Andy Scott.

Ray Garner said a pumpkin sale in October will help fund adult ministries. The hope is to acquire a bus. The children's, preschool, and youth ministries all support the acquisition of a bus.

Carol Dodson announced the Nov. 29th "Hanging of the Greens" service and encouraged all the ministry groups to get involved in implementing it. The COM agreed

to have 1 service on Dec. 27 at 10:00. Pastor Mike will check to see if the radio station will be able to air the recorded service at 11:00 that day.

2. Group Activity Mary Arnaudin led the council in an interactive exercise called “Directions” to help us understand how our behaviors in groups may affect our work together as a council and in our respective committees/work groups. The process helped us realize that each “direction” (north, south, east, west) has both strengths and limitations. Awareness of the four basic “directions” helps us appreciate different perspectives and value a balance of viewpoints on our teams. A summary of the activity is attached at the end of this report.

3. Implementing the Vision: *Christ’s People - Drawn together in love, moving out to serve.* Mary stated that we have needed vision that will bind us together. A problem has been that while we do a lot of good things as a church, work areas often seem to operate in isolation, and sometimes overlap in efforts, dates on the calendar, meeting space, and participants. Sometimes there are so many opportunities, the congregation may feel overloaded. Perhaps fewer, more coordinated efforts would draw us closer together, get us more focused, and help us accomplish our mission more effectively.

How can we, as church leaders, make this vision a reality within and outside our church family? Mary gave out guiding questions for COM work area efforts/activities/programs as a tool to help work areas implement our vision and mission. She encouraged everyone to think how they might partner with other work areas.

Guiding Questions for Work Area efforts/activities/programs:

How does it move us closer to our church’s vision?

How is the church’s mission (follow Jesus, make disciples, transform the world) being accomplished through your work?

Where would you like to see Jesus in our community? or world?

Are your efforts leading others to creative and joyful Kingdom living - now & for all eternity?

Are there gaps or areas that need support in order for you to accomplish your goals?

Do you need more resources?

Could you partner with one or more work areas to be more effective?

Are your programs intergenerational? are they helping people across the generations to know each other? to learn and be in ministry together?

Does the work help us grow through prayer, study, worship, and service?

Is the work inspired by the Holy Spirit?

For next year, the COM will meet three times to coordinate plans together:

in January to plan for spring, in May to plan for fall, in September to plan for winter.

Council members are encouraged to check out the classes offered at the District UMC Leadership Conference on January 9th, 2010. We will coordinate transportation with those who want to attend.

“DIRECTIONS”

Results for FUMC COM group exercise Sept. 15, 2009
(Present: 7 norths, 4 easts, 3 wests, 2 souths)

NORTH:

Strengths: energetic, doer, self-starter, not intimidated, delegator

Limitations: no short-term patience, take short-cuts, do not always build consensus, take on too much....are overcommitted.

Style hardest to work with? wafflers, those who don't follow through, passive aggressive people.

What others need to know to work with them effectively? they are goal-oriented and others need them badly. Others must perform.

SOUTH:

Strengths: avoidance of conflict, inclusive, compassionate, pleasant

Limitations: slow to action, tendency to do the work yourself, afraid to ask others to do things, fear of change

Style hardest to work with? Norths - move too quickly; Wests - too much calculation

What others need to know to work with them effectively? understand them

EAST:

Strengths: envision the goal, seeing how parts fit, creative

Limitations: possibly unrealistic about others' perspectives, dreamers, bubbles get burst, slow to respond to immediate needs

Style hardest to work with? Norths - the lightening bolts. jumping in without a plan or vision of the big picture.

What others need to know to work with them effectively? they need to brainstorm on big idea. Need time to think how it all works. Need clear reason for what we are doing -- and how it fits into the whole.

WEST:

Strengths: no mistakes, completed work, dependable, decisions based on fact.

Limitations: slower, need lots of information, have limited vision

Style hardest to work with? Easts -- creative thinkers

What others need to know to work with them effectively? Others need to be patient. We get our job done right.

Things to Consider in applying this exercise:

What might the distribution of “directions” mean? (% of members in each direction)

What is the best combination for a group to have? Does it matter?

Do you feel bonded with others who are the same direction as you?

Can you appreciate the other direction types? How can you show this appreciation?

How can you avoid being driven crazy by another “direction”?

What directions do others in your work area represent?

How might you use this awareness to lead more effectively? to follow Jesus better?

