

## MINUTES OF THE TRANSITION TEAM

November 17, 2011

WebEx call

1. Those on the call were Bishop Sherer-Simpson, Bishop Jones, Gary Brooks, Gary Beach, Tom Watson, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Pat Ault-Duell, Brian Kottas, Charlotte Abram, Debra McKnight, Matt Fowler, Nancy Brown, Sheran Cramer, Troy Bowers, Eduardo Bousson, Jan Todd, David Livingston, Dixie Brewster, Janet Maxwell and Oliver Green. Also present were Communicators Lisa Diehl and Kathryn Witte.

2. Janet Maxwell offered Scripture and prayer.

3. David Livingston reported for the Writing Team. These reflections and suggestions were offered in response to the document:

The question was asked how the report will be used. It was agreed that the release date is January 15th so the Team can gather feed-back at the Clergy Session and from laity before the final report is written. The report will be widely distributed. The final report will include the specific plans.

The section on leadership needs clarifying and editing. It was suggest that three or four points from each Dream Team be included.

The section on grief needs more emphasis on the future.

It was suggested that the report include a timeline with nice graphics. Also consider length of document so people read it all. Does it need to feel new and fresh in its format, including color? Kathryn and Lisa can edit, etc. Use both tools--glossy and document. Corey, Troy and Jan can also look at it from marketing task force. [It was decided to do the glossy report in March.]

The Team decided that it wanted a shorter document: with a timeline, where we are going/ have been and a good ending. It could include questions and answers (Q and A) about Conference office, insurance, etc.

Eduardo will also help with Q and A. Kathryn reminded of the website's Q and A.

4. Presentation to Clergy Session: January 18th, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Suggestions included that as many of the Team that can be present are asked to be present. Representatives from each Conference will present--laity, clergy and administrative clergy. We will also have the Dream Teams members stand. Kathryn suggested a 4 to 5 minute video presentation for the Joint Called Clergy Session and any other presentations in January. Bishop Jones said these presentations need to have a visionary appeal to the emotions as well as the facts. Video would give some of the plans and drive people to the website. Jan and Mitch Todd could write a song.

Tom will appoint a planning team for the process including the video.

5. Janet made the recommendation from their Cabinet that laity meetings be held. The target group is 2012 Lay Members of the Annual Conference. Transition Team members will also attend. It will be a series of February meetings would also be good feed-back. Also there will be input from the Transition Team at the District pre-conference briefings in May. First and third Saturdays in February are suggested with multiple sites, not Districts. Bishop Sherer-Simpson, Bishop Jones, and Carol Roettmer Brewer will organize with three Conference lay leaders. It was suggested using a similar format to the clergy session. It was recommended that Annual Conference Lay Members be invited by the Conference Lay Leaders.

6. The needs of the 2014 Annual Conference were raised. The Team wants the Conferences to do as much together as they can. One suggestion was that one Conference does business; other two conferences go into workshops or do mission work and then switch. It was agreed that theater seating is best. The Bishops will decide the Annual Conference dates in the next two months. Carol will ask the staff for additional research, and we will discuss this again in January.

7. Staff Transition Policy Work Group will be organized by January by Jan Todd and Gary Brooks.

8. There will be Dream Teams reports at the January Transition Team meeting. Some recent highlights were shared. Racial Ethnic Dream Team is cranking up slowly. The Youth Dream met last week-end in Topeka; they have completed their work. Rural and Small Church have their second meeting on December 2; they will be collating their subcommittees' reports. Youth Adult Dream Team have had a phone chat; they are having a joint gathering at Joint Called Clergy Session. Technology Team has met twice in conference calls; asking lots of questions about their focus of using technology and how to lead the Conference(s); they will meet again December 1.

9. Asset Allocation: Gary Beach has convened three conference attorneys. The attorneys have asked for estimate of work needing to be done.

10. Annual Conference Sessions Committee of East and West want to know the schedule of Transition Team. Bishop Jones suggested a three hour block. Nebraska is considering holy conferencing; Bishop Sherer-Simpson said 3 1/2 hours. Nebraska needs a strategy so the retired clergy can ascertain their proposed new benefits. Each conference will use their time as they decide.

11. The next meeting is January 12-13 in Lincoln.

12. It was decided that the glossy marketing piece is for March after listening sessions.

The closing prayer and blessing was offered by Oliver Green.

Recorded by Carol Roettmer Brewer

Assignments:

Writing Team revise and work with Marketing  
Bishops set February listening sessions  
Staffing Task Force be established by January  
Carol offer a report about sites for 2014 Annual Conference