

**Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Church
CORE Team
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2009**

Opening:

The regular meeting of the AWF CORE Team was called to order on May 16, 2009 at Blue Lake by Bishop Paul L. Leeland.

Present: See attached.

Introductions

Bishop Leeland introduced the new Executive Director of Blue Lake Assembly Grounds, Phyllis Murray. Bishop Leeland also gave personal privilege to Chaplain Keron Vickers, current Executive Director of Blue Lake Assembly Grounds.

Introductions were made around the room.

Bishop Paul Leeland thanked everyone for their attendance.

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 32

Today's scripture is the backdrop for today's meeting.

This passage reminds us that God's will shall prevail.

Meeting Focus

We are the leaders of the Alabama- West Florida Annual Conference. The work of the CORE team is to 'buy the field'. We should follow the same 'rules' that were introduced at the very first Annual Conference in 1784 - Christmas Conference in Maryland:

- ❑ What are we to teach?
- ❑ How are we to teach?
- ❑ What are we to do?

We have two (2) focuses: Develop spiritual leaders and create healthy churches and congregations. As we begin to build momentum this wheel will begin to move. If we are effective in our work areas we will only have to guide the wheel. As spiritual leaders we must ask God what to do.

Spiritual Formation ↔ Effective Leadership. These two (2) need to be linked.

These are the questions we need to ask ourselves:

1. How do we create value that will draw others to it?
2. What serves the people of the Alabama-West Florida Conference?

3. How do we fund this 'program/center'?
4. Should we create post-seminary curriculum?

We need to take a vision and make it a movement.

Frank Dunnewind, Pat Luna, Joe Reams, Neil McDavid, Michael Lawler, and Shirley Woodie all made comments.

Comments from around the room were:

1. We need to link changes within any local church that were successful to the Annual Conference.
2. Make a covenant to let go.
3. Shift our attitude of abundance.
4. Does this program/center capture our vision?
5. What does it take to make spiritual leaders effective leaders?

10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:45 a.m. RETURNED TO MEETING

Personal Privilege:

The Alabama-West Florida Conference Fiscal Office received an excellent report from the auditors office.

Please keep Mrs. Pat Dunnewind's (wife of Frank Dunnewind) family in your thoughts and prayers. Her mom is quite ill.

At the last meeting, two (2) task forces were formed. One (1) to reach out to find out where new and emerging ministries were already being done in an excellent way in either other Annual Conference or our own (see attachment). This task force included Beth Bowdin, Helen Edwards, Toni Houston, Susan Hunt, Neil McDavid, Nick Mielke, Martha Rovira, and Barbara Sadler. Each member reported back on what they found. You can contact each of them for a copy of their findings.

The other task force was to develop a mission statement for our CORE Team. Their finding was this:

"Devote our primary efforts to the development of effective lay and clergy leaders who will guide the Church in advancing God's kingdom locally and globally."

11:30 a.m. BROKE INTO GROUPS

11:55 a.m. RESUMED

Below are the recommendations from around the room:

1. Have one (1) main spiritual leader.
2. Create a name and logo for this program/center.
3. Who are we targeting? Younger clergy/laity for our future?

4. Resemble the early Church.
5. Need to identify what will attract followers.

Bishop Leeland formed a task force that will bring back a vision from today's meeting/conversation. Those on this task force are:

Meredyth Earnest, Steve Furr, Neil McDavid, Pat Luna, and Bishop Leeland

Closing:

Bishop Leeland again thanked everyone for being there. He said there was wonderful energy in the room. He ended the meeting with a quote from John Wesley: "John Wesley asked 'what is a Methodist'? A Methodist is someone who loves the Lord God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their strength, and with all their mind. And they must love their neighbor as their self. Someone responded "But that's everyone; all Christians." John Wesley said "That's my point."

Prayer for the meal

12:15 p.m. Adjourned

FUTURE CORE TEAM MEETING DATES:

- Thursday, September 3rd Blue Lake
- Thursday, December 3rd Montgomery

All meetings being at 9:30am