

**Alabama-West Florida Conference**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**CORE Team – First United Methodist Church, Montgomery**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 30, 2010**

**Opening**

The meeting was opened 9:29 a.m. by Steve Furr. Members of the CORE Team introduced themselves.

**Present**

See attached.

**Personal Privilege**

Appreciation went out to Beth Bowdin. Beth has served as the Conference UMW President for many years. Thank you, Beth, for your service.

**Devotion**

Rev. Sam Williams gave the devotion based on Ecclesiastes 9:10: *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...”*. Prayer requests were taken. Rev. Williams led the CORE Team in prayer.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Sam Williams to approve the minutes from the September 2010 meeting. Meredyth Earnest second. The minutes were approved.

**Business**

Neil McDavid thanked the new people on the CORE Team for being present. He also thanked those who served as chairs of the three (3) budget teams: Leadership, Administration, and Missional. The CORE Team was asked by Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) for level funding on budget requests. Each team did what CFA asked. All budgets came in at level funding.

The Conference Budget 2012 Worksheet A was presented (see attached). Larry Bryars made a motion to approve Worksheet A. Beth Bowdin second. Worksheet A was approved.

**Missional Budget Team Report**

The Missional Budget Team spent a day meeting with the boards and agencies of the annual conference. It was good to hear about their ministries. Neil McDavid explained what each agency does within it's ministry. He also talked about changes happening within each agency/ministry. The Missional Team 2011 Funding Allocation Proposal was presented (see attached) and adopted. The Missional Team is in the process of developing a ministry audit to be used in evaluating agency budget requests as we go forward.

During the Missional Budget Team Meeting, this team also went over the boards budget requests. Note: Martha Rovira will be leaving the conference November 30, 2010 to become the Marketing Director for the Franklin Clinic. Martha has served our conference for almost four (4) years as the Hispanic/Latino Conference Coordinator. Note: Leigh Meekins will become the Director of Discipleship beginning January 2011. Leigh is currently serving our conference as the Coordinator for Children's Ministries and will take on this additional job description.

A youth ministry team is being developed. Youth Directors from all over the conference will be gathering in January to discuss youth events for the year.

### **Conference Boards**

Board of Advocacy – Susan Hunt discussed the Strengthening The Black Church For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SBC21 ) event held in July. It was a great success. The board is also preparing information regarding advocacy within the local church. This information will be available soon.

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry – Nathan Attwood reported that there has been an increase in Wesley Foundation members/attendance due to the great leadership of the Wesley Foundation Directors.

Board of Laity – Steve Furr pointed out that a lot of the Laity Budget monies go towards sending laity to training. Other parts go towards the Laity Banquet at annual conference.

Board of Church and Society – Brenda Boman discussed several possible events to take place within the conference: Celebrate Recovery, AL ARISE and FL Impact, Cooperative School of Christian Mission (already in place) and Prayer Breakfast at the beginning of the AL and FL Legislative Sessions just to name a few.

Board of Global Ministries – Susan Hunt discussed Disaster Response and the good work of Amelia Fletcher (Conference Coordinator for Disaster Response). Susan also mentioned UVMIM Team Leader Trainings that are scheduled for 2011.

Board of Communications – Meredyth Earnest pointed out that funds within this budget go towards maintenance of the computer, upgrades, and training as needed.

Town and Country Commission – Sam Williams informed the group that this was a revised ministry. This board used to be called Small Membership Commission. But it was determined that a lot of our churches who have a small membership are located in town!

### **Recommendation of the boards budget requests on the Missional Team 2011 Funding Allocation Proposal**

Dan Morris asked the question do we have the funds we are approving in place? He pointed out that we adopt a budget/apportionments we don't usually fund. Bishop Leeland made the comment that our budget and conference is in the same trend as other conferences. This conference has taken steps to more towards fully funding the budget like District Superintendents salaries being frozen, direct billing with health insurance, the conference 'staffing', etc. Bishop Leeland also pointed out that the boards and agencies have done a great job in asking the three (3) budget questions: (1) What can we stop doing?; (2) What can we put on hold?; and (3) We do we have to do? Dan Morris stated that he was very proud of the steps that have been taken.

After discussion the 2011 Funding Allocation Proposal was approved.

11:07 BREAK

11:19 RESUMED MEETING

Neil McDavid wanted to let the CORE Team know that the conference office is assisting the agency

directors by getting them together for training.

Susan Hunt discussed Circles®. Circles® is an innovative model based on a body of research suggesting that in order for families with low income to improve their situation, they must have bonding social capital within the community, bridging social capital to access the resources available to higher income networks, and linking social capital that connects the first two with public institutions.

Operating in communities around the country, each Circle™ initiative consists of a family working to get out of poverty and several middle and upper income Allies who befriend them and lend support. The family is the Circle Leader, setting direction for activities. With the help and friendship of their allies, each family sets and achieves goals unique to their own needs.



Getting Ahead is a comprehensive curriculum in which Circle Leaders learn to use the hidden rules of class to build up financial, emotional and social resources. Leaders also research the causes of poverty in their community. Bridges out of Poverty is a training program that provides Allies with community planning tools to address poverty and teaches the hidden rules of class. Weekly Community Meetings gather Circle Leaders, Circle Allies, and other interested community members to provide support and networking opportunities. At Big View Meetings, held once a month, all the causes of poverty in the community are addressed over time, including community and system barriers.

She showed a video explaining the program.

Susan has visited the Escambia County (FL) and MS Conference Circles® programs.

The Missional Team hopes monies are left over within the budget pool to become the seed money for this program. Brenda Boman and Pat Caylor expressed their excitement about the program. Neil McDavid said the conference needs the “right” person to run the program. Susan Hunt presented the Circles® program to the Extended Cabinet and some names were mentioned as possible prospects. Frank Dunnewind pointed out this individual could be lay or clergy.

Dan Morris moved that we move forward with the Circles® program with more specifics to be presented at the next CORE Team meeting. Debora Bishop second. All were in favor.

### **Academy For Church Leadership**

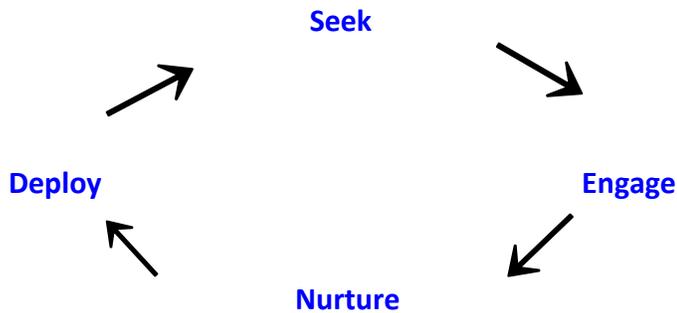
The Academy For Church Leadership Steering Committee met at Huntingdon College. Minutes from this meeting can be provided upon request. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2011.

### **New Church Start**

Several candidates have begun the process to become New Church Start Planters within our conference. Interviews were done in the FL Conference.

### **SEND System**

The SEND System was discussed (see attached). The SEND System can be applied in all areas within the conference, district, and local church levels.



### **New Business**

Bishop Leeland stated that the Full Cabinet has spent a year looking at how to live out the mission of fruitful congregations and effective leaders. They finished a year in an incubator and have continued into a second year. Looking at the possibility of having the John Maxwell Group come to our conference and train church leaders to form fruitful congregations and effective Christian leaders.

Kenyona Brown, currently the Assistant Treasurer, has been named Controller for the conference. Her new position will begin in January 2011. Based on a recommendation following the 2010 AWF Conference audit, the Controller will allow for additional internal controls and more segregation of duties within the Conference Fiscal Office. Strategic reallocation of resources provided for the creation of the position with minimal financial impact to the annual conference. This move allows the conference treasurer to be a more direct resource to districts and local churches. Ronny Mobley (President of CFA), Meredyth Earnest (Director of Communications) and Frank Dunnewind (Conference Treasurer) will develop a plan to get word out to the district offices and local churches.

The check order signature requirements were passed out (see attached). Documentation for every check written is required.

The Committee on Nominations will begin their work early this year. There is a form online for those who wish to serve in some capacity on an annual conference level.

The 2011 Annual Conference Agenda should be finalized early January.

CORE Team meeting locations will be set by the conference office.

Blue Lake is in the process of getting WiFi and cell phone service. The cables are laid and they are awaiting the final install.

Neil McDavid closed with scripture from Matthew 16.

Bishop Leeland gave a word of prayer.

**12:08 ADJOURNED**

**FUTURE CORE TEAM MEETING DATE:**

- February 5 - Blue Lake. Gathering at 9:00 a.m.; Business at 9:30 a.m.
- May 21 - Blue Lake. Gathering at 9:00 a.m.; Business at 9:30 a.m.
- September 1 - Blue Lake. Gathering at 9:00 a.m.; Business at 9:30 a.m.
- December 1 - Blue Lake. Gathering at 9:00 a.m.; Business at 9:30 a.m.