

Alabama-West Florida Conference  
United Methodist Church  
CORE Team – Blue Lake  
Meeting Minutes  
September 2, 2010

**Opening**

The meeting was opened 9:30 a.m. by Steve Furr. Members of the CORE Team introduced themselves.

**Present**

See attached.

**Devotion**

Rev. Jim DuFriend gave the devotion based on Psalm 103. Prayer requests were taken. Rev. DuFriend led the CORE Team in prayer.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Helen Edwards to approve the minutes from the May 2010 meeting. Sam Williams second. The minutes were approved.

**What does the CORE Team do?**

The CORE Team meets four (4) times a year. Neil McDavid reminded the group that the meeting cycles were based on VISIONING at the first meeting; NEW AND EMERGING MINISTRIES at the second meeting; REVIEW OF MINISTRIES AND BUDGET PROCESS at the third meeting; and the last meeting of the year was devoted to BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS.

**Open Forum**

*Susan Hunt - CIRCLES™*

CIRCLES™ is a national campaign to end poverty. Susan has been in contact with the Escambia Co program. She will be visiting the MS Conf where CIRCLES™ is currently in place conference wide. The hope for this program is for local churches to tie into it.

*Neil McDavid – Academy for Church Leadership*

The purpose of an Academy for Church Leadership is to enhance/improve the effectiveness of clergy and lay leadership. A steering committee is being put together to design and launch an academy in conjunction with the Duffey Institute at Huntingdon College.

*Neil McDavid – New Church Starts*

The Alabama-West Florida Conference has hired Mont Duncan as a consultant for New Church Starts. He currently serves as the Director of New Church Starts in the FL Conference. He has been doing this for over ten (10) years with a solid plan in place. Some names have been identified in our conference as New Church Start Pastors. They will enter in the same system/model the FL Conference uses. This pool of names will consist of pastors who have gone through an extensive assessment process of becoming New Church Start Pastors. This does not mean they will immediately start a new church; the amount of time a pastor remains in the pool is unknown. Also there is a lay component in the New Church Start Plan. A lay person could also enter the pool.

### *Neil McDavid – Oil Spill Response*

Amelia Fletcher has been named as the contact person regarding the Coastal Crisis. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has awarded our conference with a grant for physical, emotional, and spiritual support to churches and congregations affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. If you have any thoughts of where help is needed please contact Amelia. Her contact information is on the conference website.

### *Neil McDavid – Leadership Summit*

Neil opened the conversation around the room about the recent AWF Leadership Summit held August 28, 2010 at St. James UMC in Montgomery. Neil and Bob Sweet took notes and they can be made available for those who want them. Several members of the CORE Team expressed their thoughts about the summit. Accountability was the general theme. Non-negotiables were identified. The hope is to begin the 2011 conference year with the same theme and the non-negotiables. Some CORE Team members expressed the desire for more education of a particular ministry to be on the AWFC website. For example explain to the reader what is a Lay Speaker? What is the UMM? One CORE Team member said that the extended cabinet model presented at the Leadership Summit was a good model to follow.

All of the presentations can be found at <http://www.awfumc.org/pages/detail/274>

### **Review of our ministries**

Blue Lake – Phyllis Murray spoke on behalf of Blue Lake.

- Blue Lake has had an 8% increase in the summer program;
- Started seven (7) new programs;
- Partnered with Common Ground Ministries in Montgomery;
- Partnered with Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries;
- Hired a Development Director;
- Hired Media Staff; and
- Plans to be a totally self-sustaining camp within 12 months

Town and Country Commission (Sam Williams) - Sam Williams is the new chair of the renewed Town and Country Commission. This ministry will help small membership churches with development and resourcing throughout the conference. Some of our urban churches have become 'small membership' churches. Sam is excited about this new and upcoming ministry.

Board of Advocacy (Susan Hunt) - They held an SBC21 (Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) event in July. This is the first of it's kind since 1992. Approximately 18 congregations participated and have been assigned coaches from SBC21 in Nashville with regards to these congregations' goals.

Hispanic Ministries (Martha Rovira) - Over the last 3 ½ years Hispanic Ministries have planted many congregations. In the Pensacola District, Rev. Francisco Castillo has had approximately 50 in worship, added Bible studies and applied to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) to be a Community Developer. In the Demopolis District, there is a core group meeting in Jackson UMC. In the Mobile District, steady growth at St. John/The Grace Place and a new Bible study group has been formed at Saraland UMC. American brethren are also attending at Saraland UMC. Hispanic Ministries hopes to one day incorporate bi-lingual services throughout the conference.

Lay Speaking Ministries (Helen Edwards) – AWFC Lay Speaking Ministries hosted the SEJ Lay Speaking Conference at First United Methodist Church, Montgomery. Had over 100 people in attendance. Also, there are three (3) trainings coming up in the fall. Helen made a note that lay speaking was not just pulpit preaching; it's leading Bible studies, etc. She also confirmed that individuals could be trained in another district even if they do not attend a church in that district. All trainings are universal. The basic lay speaking course is a great leadership program. All local church lay leaders should take this course. Finally a Lay Witness Program has been written and approved and should be offered at future trainings.

**10:50 BREAK**

**11:00 RESUMED MEETING**

UMM (John Croft) – The AWFC UMM are sponsors of the Upper Room Prayer Line. Churches throughout our conference volunteer to answer the prayer line for 2 hours once a month. The UMM has a scouting division. Approximately eight (8) churches are working towards the Bishop's Award of Excellence. The Conference UMM has set up an email contact list for local church units. They are launching a program at Blue Lake called "100 under 100". This program is designed to assist Blue Lake with maintenance projects throughout the camp. Finally, the UMM Annual Advance will be held in January 2011

CORE Team Basecamp (Meredyth Earnest) – Meredyth Earnest, Director of Communications, has set up a basecamp for the Conference CORE Team. Projects go well when people talk to each other, discuss issues openly, and communicate clearly. Basecamp is focused on making this easy. Meredyth will alert the CORE Team when the basecamp is up and running.

CFA (Neil McDavid) – Frank Dunnewind could not be present at the meeting. Neil explained the budgeting process. Members on the CORE Team have been assigned to three (3) specific teams; ADMINISTRATIVE, LEADERSHIP, and MISSIONAL. The chairs of these teams are Larry Bryars (ADMINISTRATIVE), Paulette Thompson (LEADERSHIP), and Neil McDavid (MISSIONAL). CFA has determined that all budgets for 2012 must remain as in 2011. Now each ministry within a board or agency can re-evaluate their budget requests and lower them from last year if another ministry within that same board or agency needs to raise their bottom line. Everyone must look at their budget with a non-negotiable mentality. Try to incorporate the SEND model. This will give each board/agency a common framework.

Blue Lake (Phyllis Murray) – Phyllis Murray introduced the new Director of Development, Sissy Louise Moore. She will be speaking to churches throughout the conference as well as outside agencies like the Lions Club, Kiwanas, etc.

Board of Communications (Dric Williford) – Dric Williford informed the CORE team about the many ways to advertise any event for free. He encouraged the team to 'look outside the box'.

Board of Global Ministries (Susan Hunt) – Susan shared about her recent trip to Haiti. UMCOR is working with the United Methodist Church of Haiti on a 3 year plan to empower the Haitians – make them more self-sufficient. Susan expressed to the CORE Team that the Haitians are looking for hope. They need to find the body of Christ.

Annual Conference Planning Team (Shirley Woodie) – Dr. Woodie informed the CORE Team that the Annual Conference Planning Team is busy at work planning the 2011 Annual Conference. The dates of the conference are June 5 – 8, 2011. It will be a voting year. The agenda may be full. If you or you know of anyone who would like time/space on the agenda they must get with Dr. Woodie very soon.

Board of Discipleship – Children’s Ministries (Leigh Meekins) – Leigh informed the CORE Team that a Day Camp will be offered to annual conference clergy and lay members who may need childcare during annual conference. This will give the local church the option/opportunity to vote on younger members to annual conference who may have a need for child care. Advertisement for the Day Camp has been placed in the charge conference packets.

**Final Thoughts.....**

Neil asked the CORE Team to remember four (4) points:

CLARITY – Be clear about our vision

ALIGNMENT – Align our resources, ministries, talents to move toward the vision

FOCUS – Be focused on the vision; don’t chase rabbits

MOVEMENT – Move your ministry work forward

We need to work as a symphony; not a solo act.

Prayer and blessing of the food was given.

11:55 ADJOURNED

**FUTURE CORE TEAM MEETING DATE:**

- November 30<sup>th</sup> ; First United Methodist Church, Montgomery; 9:00 am gathering; 9:30 am business

**TRAVEL EXPENSE AND ATTENDANCE RECORD**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Do not write in Column A.  
 Give complete address in column C. PLEASE PRINT (INCLUDE ZIP CODE)  
 Round Trip Miles are required in Column D.  
 Number of persons traveling in one car is listed in Column E.  
 Per mile rate: 1 person = \$.14; 2 persons = \$.17; 3 or more persons = \$.20

Mail with completed check order form to: Fiscal Office, 100 Interstate Park Dr., Suite 106, Montgomery, AL 36109

Meeting Name: CORE Team  
 Date: 9/2/2010 Location: Blue Lake

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>RT Miles</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Jim Wilcox	25488 HIDDEN FOREST LANE ALSO 36421	42	1
		LEADER Ship Summit 8/28/10	210	1
	JOHN CROFT	207 STANLEY AVE. ANDALUSIA, AL 36420	20	1
	Sam Williams	203 N. Live Oak Geneva, AL 36340	128	1
		Leadership Summit 8/28/10	210	1
	Helen Edwards	534 Lee Ave Selma, AL Andalusia Meeting	220	1
	SUSAN Hunt	100 Interstate Park Dr. Montgomery AL 36109	—	
	<del>Meredith Garner</del>	<del>_____</del>		
	Ronny Mobley	292 Pebble Creek Circle OZARK, AL. 36360	162	2
	Shirley Woodie	171 Meadowview Dr. Ozark, AL 36360	—	—

Jim DaFriend 1005 Bolen Dr Jackson, AL 36545 234 1  
 Pat Caylor - 5862 County Rd. 15, Union Springs - Leadership Summit 80 miles RT  
 CORE Team 200 miles RT

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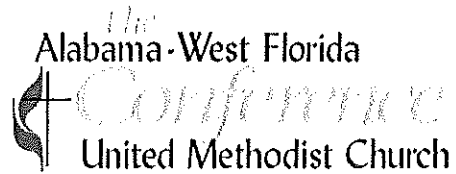
Meeting Name: CORE Team

Date: 9/2/2010 Location: Blue Lake

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>RT Miles</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Phyllis Murray	8500 Oakwood Ln. Andalusia, AL 36420	0	
	Bob Sweet	121 OCEANS WAY/ DAPHNE, AL 36528	0	
	Doric Williford	9200 Holtville Road Wetumpka, AL 36092	258	
	Leigh Meekins	—	—	3
	Jane Jernigan	—	—	—
	Barbara Sadler	3 Fairpoint Pl. Gulf Breeze, FL	—	—
	Jack Herdick	—	—	—
	Francis Turner	—	—	—

Steve Fin 214 Plantation Trace  
 Jackson, AL 36525 239.6

# ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

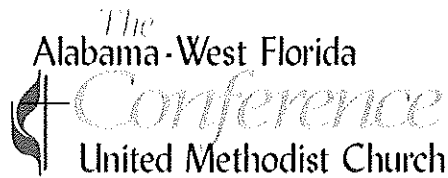


**2010-2011**

## **CORE TEAM**

*(Connecting Our Resources and Empowerment)*

**“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”**



**CORE**  
**(Connecting Our Resources and Empowerment)**  
**TEAM**  
(Standing Rules 5A and 24)

**The Conference Lay Leader, Co-Chairperson:** Dr. Steve Furr

**The Director of Connectional Ministries, Co-Chairperson:** Rev. R. Neil McDavid

**Dean of the Cabinet:** Rev. Tonya Elmore

**President UMW:** Beth Bowdin

**President UMM:** John Croft

**UMY Representative:** Ian Butler

**Chairperson, Board of Pension and Health Benefits:** Rev. Dan Morris

**President, Council on Finance and Administration:** Ronny Mobley

**Chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry:** Rev. Larry Bryars

**Chairperson, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries:** Rev. Nathan Attwood

**Chairperson, Board of Discipleship:** Rev. Cory Smith

**Chairperson, Board of Global Ministries:** Pat Bethea

**Chairperson, Board of Church and Society:** Dale Segrest

**Chairperson, Board of Congregational Development:** June Thomason

**Chairperson, Town and Country Commission:** Rev. Sam Williams

**Chairperson, Board of Advocacy and Ethnic Ministries:** Rev. Dunford Cole

**President, Conference Board of Trustees:** Dr. Paulette Thompson

**Chairperson, Commission on Equitable Compensation:** Rev. Francis Turner

**Chairperson, Board of Communications:** Rev. Dric Williford and Pat Luna

**Chairperson, Conference Policies and Personnel Committee:** Susan Kunde

**At-Large Members:** James Wilcox, Toni Houston, Rev. Bob Sweet, Eugenia Loggins,  
Rev. Jimmy DuFriend, Pat Caylor, Helen Edwards

**Ex-Officio Members (Voice, No Vote)**

The Resident Bishop: Bishop Paul L. Leeland

The Conference Secretary: Dr. Shirley H. Woodie

The Treasurer and Director of Admin Services: Frank S. Dunnewind

The Director of Natural Church Development: Barbara Sadler

The Director of Communications: Meredyth Earnest

The Director of Mission, Advocacy and Ethnic Ministries: Susan Hunt

The Director of Blue Lake: Phyllis Murray

The Coordinator of Ministries With Children: Rev. Leigh Meekins

The Coordinator of Hispanic-Latino Ministries: Martha Rovira

The Director of Ministerial Services: Rev. June Jernigan

Administrative Assistant: Traci Herndon



**AWF CORE Team - Administrative Budget Team**

9/14/2010

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Denotes Group Leader

AWF CORE Team - Leadership Budget Team

9/14/2010

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Denotes Group Leader								

AWF CORE Team - Missional Budget Team

9/14/2010

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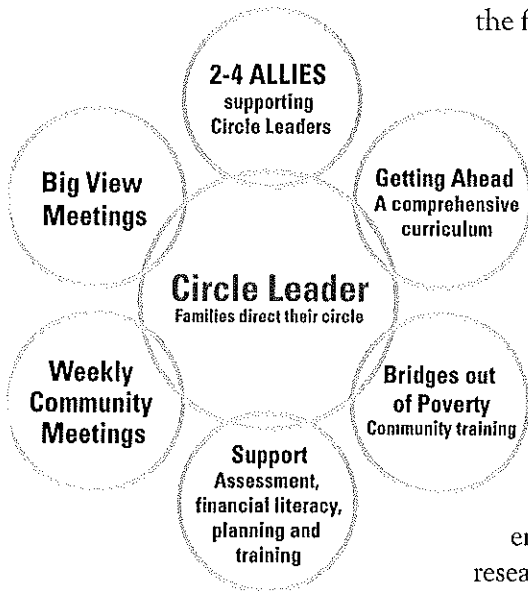
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# An Innovative Model to End Poverty

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 contained by 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 per month, all the causes of poverty in the community are addressed over time, including community and system barriers.

Each Circles™ initiative is developed and designed by a **Guiding Coalition**, composed of community leaders, families with low income, elected and appointed officials, and volunteers. The coalition works to change the mind set and policies of their community with respect to

poverty. A **Lead Agency** is responsible for staffing, operational oversight, and for contributing resources to each Circles™ initiative.

With the help of passionate and dedicated people like you, Circles™ has increased the emotional and

financial stability of participating families and reduced their use of welfare benefits. Most importantly, Circles™ has brought the experience of poverty into the minds and hearts of new Allies and community leaders, taking us one step closer to the national commitment to end poverty!

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"My Circle gave me a sense of family that I needed. They were reliable and held me accountable to my dreams."

— **Circles™ Leader**

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