

Alabama-West Florida Conference
CORE Team Meeting
September 5, 2013
Blue Lake

Attendance: See attached

Steve Furr opened the meeting at 9:30am.

Minutes approved. A motion made by Jim DuFriend; second by Pat Caylor.

Introductions were made and prayer requests were offered.

John Bonner led prayer.

Bishop Paul L. Leeland led devotion; Colossians 1: 24 – 29

Neil McDavid thanked Bishop Leeland for the devotion and setting the tone of the meeting. Neil asked everyone was there anything that came to mind from the devotion or in your own experience that characterizes what it means to be a Methodist. Some responses were:

The view of grace; Methodists are tolerant; actually study the Bible; the connection within churches; spreading of the gospel; reminded of a quote, “if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together; Methodist outreach; invitation; discipleship; do all the good you can; a church for all people; focused on Jesus.

Being a Methodist, what is a Methodist is not easy to describe or put in words. This is true for seasoned Methodists. A new material titled *The Wesleyan Way* is a good resource to focus on who we are as Wesleyan Christians. In this exciting and inspiring new study, Bishop Scott J. Jones helps seekers and believers to envision and practice discipleship as a way of life. Presenting Christianity from a Wesleyan perspective, Jones invites participants into a deeper, more thoughtful, more active commitment to Christ.

A good companion resource is *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity**. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. *The Wesleyan Way* speaks to who we are and the “Five Practices” represent five key ways we live out who we are.

The team reviewed The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations handout (see attached). Jeremy Pridgeon, District Superintendent and Beverly Maddox, District Lay Leader in the Pensacola District, shared how they are implementing this in their district. They are taking each section (one of the five practices) and focusing on that for a year. Beverly spoke about RADICAL

HOSPITALITY where she received a cold welcome from a church some years ago. Others like Martha Rovira shared her experiences with the Hispanic members not feeling welcomed in local churches and how important hospitality is to a church. Neil McDavid used all five practices as a stewardship theme. At the end of the five Sundays each member had a commitment card based on the theme.

The team broke into groups of five at 10:30am to discuss these two resources. Each group followed a set of questions (see attached). The groups returned at 10:50am. Each group discussed their actions using buzz words:

Simplify focus; taking risks; love others; truly welcoming; motivation focused; authentic; common strengths; excellence; long haul; SEND model; consistency; continue; small groups

Each person made a commitment on how they would use these materials in their own local church and placed that commitment on a post it note. The notes were placed on the walls around the room.

11:15 break; 11:20 resumed

The CORE team is divided into three (3) budget teams (administration, leadership, mission). Each budget team broke into their own group to talk about the ministries within their ministry areas. They were to focus on some questions (see attached). The CORE Team resumed 11:45am.

Open Forum:

Neil asked the question, "What is going well in your board or committee". Some responses were:

- Rob Couch – The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry: The Tuskegee Wesley Foundation has had a huge turn around. There are 102 ACTIVE students in Wesley. Active is the operative word;
- Shirley Woodie – Academy for Congregational Excellence (ACE): ACE is making a major impact on leadership training among the clergy;
- Connectional ministry giving is going up;
- Harry Hodges – Board of Church and Society: Thanked the annual conference for support regarding immigration and predatory lending issues;
- Circles of Transformation

Each budget team will need to schedule a time to meet to go over their areas of ministry and compile your budget requests. **Budgets need to be submitted by November 15.** Each budget team was encouraged to remember these resources mentioned today when reviewing their budget.

The CORE Team went over the Ministry Fruitfulness brochure (see attached), which represents the work of the writing team. The writing team reviewed the work of the Ministry Fruitfulness

Task Force and the meetings facilitated by Lynn Beshear with the CORE Team, Board of Laity, Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet. Four words seem to repeat themselves: **Discipleship, Relationships, Vision, Excellence.** These four words became the theme for this document. This is not a document needed for a vote before the AC. The CORE team was asked that if they had any comments, to send them to Rev. Nathan Attwood who led writing team or to Neil McDavid.

Neil thanked the Conference Board of Laity for being a part of the CORE Team meeting today. They met as a board after lunch later in the afternoon.

Neil asked Bishop Leeland to come forward and pray over the commitment notes and for the prepared meal.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

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 (RT) 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

Please list name even if not collecting mileage for attendance purposes

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

Meeting Name: CORE Team Meeting; Bd of Laity
 Date: 9/5/2013 Location: Blue Lake

A	B	C	D	E
	Name	Address (City/State/Zip)	RT Miles	Number
	Jim Dufriend	1005 Bolen Dr. Jackson, AL 36545	235	1
	<i>[Signature]</i>		—	—
	Steve Furr	214 Plantation Trace Jackson, AL 36545	248.2	1
	Barbara Blend	424 Hillabee Dr. Montgomery, AL 36117		1
	George Mingledorff	3940 Sunset Dr Montgomery, AL 36109	—	1
	Jim Wilcox	25488 HIDDEN FOREST LN ANDALUSIA, AL 36421		1
	John Bonner	Box 1279 Demopolis AL 36732	—	1
	Harry Hodges	670 Valley Rd Thomasville AL 36784		1
	Judy Rector	1981 state hwy 153, Samson, AL 36477	—	
	DAN DELONEY	3612 OAK RIDGE LANE DOTHAN, AL 36303		1

FRANK DUNNEWIN
 Beebe Frederick

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<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>
	Frank Moore	P.O. Box 482 Daleville, AL 36322	-	1
	Neil Epler	6000 Atlanta Hwy Montgomery, AL 36117	240	1
	Barbara Sudler	Gulf Breeze	—	1
	Deborah Bishop		—	
	JUDE THOMSON		—	
	David Bowen	16-B Brentwood Dr Montgomery AL 36105	240	1
	SUSAN Hunt	—	—	—
	Martha Rovira			
	Clara Ester			
	Vaughan Nichols	3880 Bay Wind Dr Gulf Breeze, FL 32542		
	Pat Caylor	Union Springs, AL 36089	290	

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	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>RT Miles</u>	<u>Number</u>
	<u>Paul Lehard</u>	<u>_____</u>		
	<u>MOM Colleen Phillips</u>			
	<u>JOHN CROFT</u>	<u>_____</u>		
	<u>Beebe Trudersok</u>	<u>_____</u>		
	<u>Jeremy Pridgen</u>	<u>_____</u>		
	<u>Harry Hodges</u>	<u>670 Valley Rd Thomasville, AL 36784</u>		
	<u>Michael Ard</u>			
	<u>Georgette Griffith</u>	<u>1503 Indian Hill Rd. Demopolis, AL 36732</u>	<u>372</u>	
	<u>Shirley Woodie</u>			

FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

Radical Hospitality

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7)

Passionate Worship

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord.” (Psalm 84:1-2)

Intentional Faith Development

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

Risk-taking Mission and Service

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Extravagant Generosity

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Five Practices Questions

1. If you have used The “Five Practices ...” resources, what were the outcomes? What worked well? What did not work well or what did you want more of?
2. How do you see The “Five Practices...” benefitting the local church?
3. If we embraced these two resources across the districts and local churches, what might it be like in a year? What would we be hearing and seeing and doing?
4. Write down what you will be and do specifically to help this vision of the future become a reality.

[DRAFT COPY]

Effective leaders and congregations demonstrate fruitfulness through Christ-like discipleship, healthy relational development, clear and relevant vision, and commitment to excellence.

...so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:10

This resource is the distilled wisdom of the Ministry Fruitfulness Task Force and conversations among the Board of Laity, Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry and the CORE team on the marks of fruitful and effective ministry among clergy, congregations and lay leadership. It seeks to cast a positive and inspiring vision of ministry, so that our world may be reached with the grace of Jesus Christ and congregations might become more vital, fruitful communities of faith.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. John 15:8

Ministry Fruitfulness and Effectiveness

Alabama West Florida Conference

United Methodist Church

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

Clergy Fruitfulness and Effectiveness

Discipleship
Clergy are committed to highest ideals of living the Christian life. They practice spiritual disciplines on a regular basis and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in their daily walk.

- Authentic
- Integrity and character
- Humility and servanthood
- Spiritual leadership

Relationships
Clergy should demonstrate strong people skills, cultivate a positive, healthy atmosphere in the congregation, and represent the church in the community well.

- Welcoming spirit
- Open communication
- Team player
- Compassionate and approachable pastoral presence

Vision
Clergy discern, articulate and embody a biblical and community relevant vision of the church's mission.

- Community engagement
- Long range planning
- Purposeful, focused action

Excellence
Clergy demonstrate high standards and continual development and renewal.

- Competence in tasks such as preaching and administration.
- Passion
- Teachability and continual growth
- Wise judgment
- Intentional planning, preparation and evaluation

Lay Fruitfulness and Effectiveness

Discipleship
Effective lay serving in Christian leadership demonstrate a growing commitment to Christ, living Christ's teachings, and practicing spiritual disciplines.

- Leading as a servant
- Character and trustworthiness
- Balance in family, work, and church

Relationships
Effective lay leaders partner with clergy to foster healthy relationships within the congregation and relate to the outside community in a compassionate, responsive way.

- Hospitality
- Team builder
- Conflict resolution
- Healthy understanding of clergy/lay partnership
- Accepts and respects all people and their differences

Vision
Visionary laity help cast and claim ownership of mission of the local church in its community.

- Embrace mission
- Identify needs of the congregation
- Community missional mindset

Excellence
Fruitful lay partner with clergy to serve congregations and the greater connection with deep commitment and high standards.

- Personal responsibility
- Facilitates planning and action
- Values congregational growth and vitality

Congregational Fruitfulness and Effectiveness

Discipleship
An effective, fruitful congregation sees being connected with God as a community of Christ-followers as the heart of its life together.

- Intentional prayer, spiritual formation, and faith development
- Biblically formed and empowered
- Transformational, engaging, transcendent worship

Relationships
Healthy congregations embody God's love, hope and healing. They are marked by life-giving relationships within the congregation itself and between the congregation and the community.

- Culture of hospitality
- Community oriented
- Effective communication system
- Inclusive
- Responsive congregational care

Vision
Visionary congregations are united in a shared mission grounded in scripture and appropriate to the community around them.

- Outward focus
- Purposeful ministries
- Focus and clarity
- Articulated core values and defined ministry action plan

Excellence
Congregations with a commitment to excellence seek to glorify God by giving their best in every phase of ministry.

- Empowering leadership development
- Invitational and inspiring worship
- Evaluation, attention to detail, passion
- Generous financial stewardship

Team - (*) denotes facilitator	First Name	Last Name	Email	Charge Name	District Name
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Ministry Budget Review By Team/Sept 2013

ADMINISTRATIVE

Annual Conference
Administration
Archives and Depository
Board of Pension and Health
Benefits
Capital and Operations
(Trustees)
Episcopal Office Account

LEADERSHIP

Equitable Compensation
Board of Congregational
Development
Board of Ordained Ministry
Huntingdon/Birmingham-
Southern
Huntingdon Student Aid
Wesley Foundations
Academy for Congregational
Excellence (ACE)

MISSIONS

Connectional
Ministries/Communications
Blue Lake Operations
Blue Lake Capital
Improvement/Debit Retirement
Methodist Homes Corporation
Mission and Ministry Fund:

- Hispanic Ministries
- Circles of
Transformation
- Milk and Honey
Outreach Ministries
- Mary Ellen's Hearth
- Dumas Wesley
- Inner City Mission
- Pensacola UMCM
- ARM
- The Ark
- Board of Discipleship
- Board of Laity
- Board of Advocacy
- Board of Higher
Education
- Board of Church and
Society
- Board of Global
Ministries
- Town and Country
Commission

Review of Ministries

- Where do you see God blessing in our ministries?
- Where is the energy?
- What do you want more of?
- Where do the ministries align with The “Five Practices...”