

Alabama-West Florida Conference
CORE Team Meeting
July 30, 2018
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The meeting was called to order by Ashley Davis.

Those present were: Ashley Davis, Beverly Maddox, Suzanne Krejcar, Beebe Frederick, Susan Hunt, Martha Rovira, Bishop Graves, Sarah McWilliams, David Morris, Debbie Bell, Mary Catherine Phillips, Misty Roberts, Rick Dinkins, Ron Ball, Ron Penton, Brennan Peacock, Celeste Eubanks, Emily Kincaid, Tim Trent, Jonathan Hart, Clara Ester, Steve Lewendowski, Nathan Dickson

Welcome and introductions were made. There are several new staff on board- specifically Ashley Davis, new Director of Connectional Ministries and Suzanne Krejcar, new Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services. David Morris offered a devotional and prayer.

The minutes of the March 8, 2018 CORE Team meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Tim Trent, seconded by Mary Catherine Phillips. The motion was approved by voice vote, none opposed or abstaining.

Suzanne Krejcar, the new treasurer of the AWFUMC, gave a brief financial report indicating that the conference year to date income is higher than that of the same time the previous year. Our spending is also less than this time last year. The conference fiscal office has experienced some turn over recently, and Suzanne is taking the opportunity to simplify, maximize, and evaluate processes, staffing needs, roles, and more. As we look forward to future meetings, all are encouraged to give budgeting diligent thought and detail in order so we have a robust line item budget for next year.

Jeremy Steele presented the report on the grant process. Things have paused in order to allow time for new staff members to come on board and acclimate.

Ron Ball gave a report on the ACE Ministry Launch project. As with the CORE Team Grant Process, this project has been put on hold in order to bring on new staff persons. The outline and applications that were distributed at the last meeting have not changed. Ashley Davis mentioned that this pausing also allows time to ensure clarity around the funding allocated for missional use.

Susan Hunt presented the Communities of Transformation report. Since the passing of Laurel Blackwell, Fred Blackwell has been acting director of COT. Fred and Laurel were the initial directors brought on board to head the program. The search for a new director has been fruitful, and a new director will be named within the week. The ministry is looking to expand into Florida. The Connectional Ministries staff will be more involved moving forward as well. This is a great avenue for mission and discipleship work.

Celeste Eubanks encourages all to attend the At the Table event at the Vision Center in Mobile on October 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The event is made possible by a grant through G-CORE (The Vision Center partnered on the grant) and focuses on cultural competency for clergy

and laity of all backgrounds. This event will also serve as the kick-off for cross cultural appointment training in the conference. The event is open to ALL people- not just minority groups. There will be breakout sessions for clergy and laity. Rev. Dr. Maria Dixon Hall of the North Texas Annual Conference, but raised in Georgiana, AL, will be the speaker. ALL are encouraged to attend!

Jeremy Steele presented on the Ultimate Training Event idea. In order to streamline and maximize impact and resources, it has been proposed that an annual or biannual conference-wide event take place that would offer a wide array of seminars, workshops, and/or trainings to benefit those in church leadership whether clergy or lay. The idea is to offer something for everyone- leadership training, small church focused sessions, EZRA/stats reporting, social media workshops, etc. Perhaps hold the conference at the beginning of the year or later in the year to give enough space before/after Annual Conference. A group was formed to explore this idea more fully: Jeremy Steele, Celeste Eubanks, Mary Catherine Phillips, Susan Hunt, David Morris, Beverly Maddox, Nathan Dickson, and Ashley Davis.

Ashley Davis gave the Connectional Ministries report. The conference staff recently completed a team building workshop, and in that workshop, four main priorities emerged-

- 1.) Attracting exceptional talent to AWFC; keeping talent while requiring excellence; promoting a culture of call for clergy and laity
- 2.) Multiplying targeting fast growing demographics, growing God's Kingdom: everyplace, every person becomes a God person, a disciple of Jesus Christ
- 3.) Teaching, training, and providing coaching to make excellent preaching an art form whereby congregations are steeped in the Word, and inspired for deep discipleship
- 4.) Addressing the unknown, providing leadership into uncharted territory

We are working on priority number 1 through partnering with the Board of Ordained Ministry, Huntingdon Leadership Academy, and others to foster the culture of call through clergy and laity. "Call" goes beyond just preaching. It looks different for everyone and may include a path to ordination or it may not. Everyone's call is important. Priority number 2 can be practiced through the start of new congregations, Fresh Expressions, and our Hispanic and Multicultural Ministries. Priority number 3 is a new one for us in that we are looking to develop methods and support systems that will help connect preaching through discipleship and the weekly life of the church. Number 4 is to remind us that we won't ignore the challenges that lie ahead, but we have more important work to do than focus all our energy on what ifs and hypothetical unknowns. We will work through it by utilizing the our first three priorities.

Before our next meeting, brainstorm on how we can better structure this group in order to be more functional in addressing our vision, focal areas, and priorities.

Brennan Peacock closed us in prayer and the meeting was dismissed.