

Ministry Team Council Minutes

Bard Hall 6-8 PM

January 26, 2006

In attendance:

Ex officio - John Davis, Convener; Nancy Fisk, Secretary; and Fred Hammond,
Intern Minister

Inreach - Suzette Southfox, Virginia Dunn, Steve Howard

Caring - Julie Kain, Dan Heiserman

Worship and Program - Arvid Straube, Ken Herman (Beverly Joy absent)

Denominational Affairs - Liz Lancaster, Arvid Straube

Generosity - Thelest Stewart, Iris Masotti

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning - Caroline Clark (Liz Jones absent)

Social Justice - Marge Wurgel, Julie Kain

Observers - Betty Boone, Jackie Statman, Cyd Carpenter

After check-in, John Davis noted that the Ministry Team Council, the Governance Action Group and the Constitutional Revision Committee have all been integrated into a new email distribution list, to insure better communication among the groups when communicating matters important to everyone working on the Empowered Organization Plan.

Group updates:

Inreach: Several groups have been added to Inreach such as the Singletarians and the UU Women's Federation. They have a draft of their mission statement.

Social Justice: Marge is stepping down as co-chair of Social Justice. Instead, she is coordinating a Green Sanctuary Program for the church, and presented the idea to the Council. It was suggested that she incorporate members from Social Justice and other ministry teams, and report back to the Council on the progress of the program. Arvid said that the Strategic Plan is a good place for programs like the Green Sanctuary Program to be incorporated.

Caring: The Care Giving Ministry Team has changed their name to the Caring Ministry Team, to be inclusive of all the functions of the team. These include a Care Advisory Committee as the steering group, Lay Pastoral Care and Practical Care. They have recently added a new Alcoholics Anonymous group, a support group for therapists, and a grief group. They also have a new brochure in the office.

Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning: Liz Jones will return in February. In the meantime, Caroline Clark shared a story of meeting with a group that needed a sponsor for a speaker they would like to bring to campus. She was pleased that, after determining that the speaker was in alignment with the mission of her ministry team, she was able to okay sponsorship of the speaker without the usual delay. She feels this was a case of the Empowered Organization at work.

Denomination Relations: Liz Lancaster says that her team is looking for GA delegates and will be advertising on the patio after Sunday services. The applications need to be in by February

20th. The team is also conducting classes for the GA study issue, Moral Issues in a Pluralistic Society.

Worship and Program: Arvid announced that the team will be creating a calendar for the 2006-2007 church year soon. More advanced planning is needed for coordinating activities during the church year. Ken spoke about the Worship Resource Team, which has resulted in more lay leaders being involved in Sunday services.

Generosity: Iris read the mission statement for the Generosity Ministry Team. It emphasizes development of the financial and spiritual resources of the church. She would like the pledge drive to become something that is a year round effort.

John then launched a discussion about communication. There is a perception among some in the church that nothing is happening with Ministry Teams in the church. He asked for input as to ways we could demonstrate what the Teams are doing. Some suggestions were:

A newsletter article about this meeting

An article that had an overview of the ministry teams – then separate articles from each team

Mission statements from each team, and a current project or goal

Sharing the minutes from each meeting

Repeat the summaries and precepts of the Empowered Organization Plan

Suzette shared that she could create a booklet that would describe the ministry teams, provide a contact and the mission statements that would be available in magazine format in the office. She also volunteered to revise the bulletin boards in Bard Hall to include space for each ministry team-Dan Heiserman volunteered to assist her. It was also suggested that a schematic showing the co-chairs for each team and the groups affiliated with each team posted at the church and on the website would be helpful.

Finally, Suzette would like to hold a Ministry Team Fair that would be centered on the activities and volunteer opportunities of each team. The next question was "Which team is handling my concern?" Some common concerns/answers were:

Facilities use and upkeep - Is no longer a volunteer function, it is a staff function. Staff may still call on volunteers for special projects. It was explained that this new arrangement will result in the most efficient use of staff resources with the best results possible for the buildings and grounds. People with concerns, ideas or wanting to volunteer should go directly to the staff.

Fund management - Is now under the Generosity Ministry Team.

Parking lot policy - A draft of a revised parking lot policy has been distributed to the Council and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Kitchen - See facilities use and upkeep. A task force on the renovation of Bard Hall has been created by the staff and will probably include plans for updating the kitchen.

Calendaring - There is a Master Calendar on the website. It has live data and the latest information on which programs have been scheduled and the rooms being used. Abby and Kate are available during the week for additional help with the Calendar.

Sound systems - The Worship and Programs Ministry Team is taking care of this. Ken described the communications and training they have received from the company that installed the new equipment.

Board Policies - The Board policies from the Empowered Organization Plan that apply to the ministry teams are the Outcomes, once the Outcomes are written by the Board. These will be the vision statements of the congregation that guide the Lead Minister, staff, and ministry teams to create a Strategic Plan which will reflect the specific goals of the church for the next 3-5 years. The Staff Limitations of the Empowered Organization Plan are also useful for determining what guidelines the staff is following in carrying out their duties and influencing the actions of ministry teams.

Other business: It was pointed out that the Ministry Team Council should create a mission statement of its own, to guide its work. A correction was made to the newsletter article that appeared recently about the Ministry Teams. The covenant groups are under the Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning Ministry Team, not the Caring Ministry Team. There was some discussion about the Ministry Team Council's function. The details will be worked out at another meeting. A final summation of the Empowered Organization plan: It allows the members to concentrate on ministry, while the staff runs the business of operating the church and supports the ministry being done by volunteers in ministry teams.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Bard Hall.

Submitted by,
Nancy Fisk