

New Church Development Team Minutes
12 September 2009
Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, Illinois

Present: Paul Kohler, Dawn Blackman, Jack Flores, Lois Snyder, Lynda Lubbs DeVore, Kevin Kessler

Absent: Vernon Showalter, Kay Weller

The meeting was convened in the Peru Room at 10:00 AM by chairperson Paul Kohler. The devotion for the meeting was a lecture on the mission of the church and the individual from the teachings of Jesus. It was well received and the summary notes were presented to the group and particularly to Kevin as representing Paul's considered vision of the mission of the church and of the District.

The minutes of the meeting of 1 August were not presented.
There was no financial report

Lynda's activity report was presented and is attached. Lynda reported attendance at a planning meeting with the Praxis Group having the objective of developing a church planter assessment process for the denomination. She reported no progress and suggested that it would be best for us not to depend upon further progress at the denominational level.

Lynda continued to the progress of planning for the 'Meet Your Church Planter' dinners currently being planned for Batavia on October 12th and Virden on October 26th. Jack and Dawn will work on obtaining performing talent for the dinners. It is not intended that any offering or money appeal be asked at the dinners. They are intended to be educational and no charges will be made for the dinner.

Lynda reminded each of us to contact our congregations again to obtain congregational directories from those who have not submitted theirs as yet.

Two persons have been suggested for membership on the NCDT board and they have not given their assent as yet but are approved by the board. Members of the board will follow up with the selected persons and report the results to Paul for action with the Gifts and Discernment Committee.

Pastor and Mrs. Sarpiya reported to the board. They are active and report attendance at their bible study of 75, a corps group of 9, and are working with the devotions of a daily breakfast with average attendance of 110. They showed a video of their activities that was very impressive.

The next meeting of the NCDT Board is 17 October 2009 at Douglas Park.

The reporting materials for district conference are in good order. Lynda requested minor changes to bring the 5 year budget plan into agreement with the current expenditures statement from Vernon.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the mission of the church and the mission of the district. Brother Kevin led the discussion. Good comments were made and the meeting ended with prayer at 3:10 PM.

Submitted with respect by Paul Kohler.

Appendix A

Activity Report from Lynda Devore

Activity Report September 12th 2009

Advertising

We have not engaged in any further advertising for church planters.

Web Sites

No new updates have been made to the websites.

NCD Committee

I participated in a conference call on August 7th with the members of the NCD committee. Conversation centered around our time with the folks coming from the Praxis Center for Church Development and the upcoming 2010 Church Planting Conference. The conversation also included discussion on the names of individuals throughout the denomination that might be invited to participate in the committee's work. (See Notes Attached)

I attended the NCD meeting in Elgin August 18-20th. This meeting featured a presentation by Praxis Center for Church Development on the subject of assessment. Those in attendance were: Ruban Deloleo, Jonathan Shively, Steven Gregory, Don Mitchell and Mary Jo Flory-Steury. Praxis Center offers a wide range of resources for church development including, church planter assessment tools, Pastoral assessment tools, and discipleship development tools. They work with denominations and regional leaders to develop a leadership development program that fits with the culture of the organization. Their resources are fully available to us through their website at a cost of \$75. They can be consulted for an additional charge. Their advice to this committee was that we take a step back before trying to develop our own assessment process and seek God's leading in moving toward an organic missional emphasis lead at the denominational level. They cautioned that those involved in leading the CP movement are not as far along as we may think and need to direct more attention and intention toward foundation building that will sustain a movement of new church development for the denomination.

I participated in another conference call of the NCD committee on Sept. 2nd. This call focused primarily on the 2010 conference. Topics of discussion were worship leadership and workshop leadership for the conference as well as possible workshop topics. Minutes of this meeting are not yet available.

Planter Updates

I conducted a full day People Raising training at my home on Saturday September 5th. Those in attendance were Herman and Betty Ware, Richard Marez, and Samuel and Gretchen Sarpiya. This meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about partner raising and to cultivate a positive attitude toward support raising. It offered an opportunity for discussion around support raising and provided an opportunity for your planters to get to know each other better as they spent time in fellowship.

Rockford

I met with Samuel and Gretchen on August 24th. They have continued to work with their core team and report that regular scheduled meetings are beginning to take

place. Samuel continues to work hard at developing relationships in the community. He was invited to be on a radio talk show to discuss the racial tensions in the Rockford Community. He has organized the International Day of Prayer for Peace for the Rockford Community which will take place Oct. 19th. He continues to serve as Chaplain monthly for the local police department and serves breakfast daily at a local mission. His work at the mission continues to include leadership for the daily devotions and a Sunday service he calls “church of the un-churched”. His small men’s Bible discovery group continues.

Chicago West Side

A Douglas Park Steering Committee meeting took place on August 24th. So far things seem to be going good. The building use agreement has been continued until the next meeting on Oct. 6th. Pastor Herman held an outreach event at the church building (which I attended) on Sept. 4th passing out school supplies to children in the community. He has formed a relationship with some social service workers at the hospital who came to the church to help with the give-a-way. Shirley was at the event and helped to greet people.

The Rugg family of Oswego donated over \$200 of athletic equipment to the Douglas Park ministry. Herman had requested the equipment as a means to reach local youth. I contacted Jeff Rugg who works at Dick’s Sporting Goods to guide me in making the purchase which resulted in the donation.

Follow-up with Potential Planters

I traveled to New York State to visit with Dawn Amankwaa and her family August 10th-13th. This was a very productive trip . It was an opportunity for me to get to know Dawn on a more intimate level, to learn more about her faith and to bond. We discussed questions of theology and I shared with her more about our work and mission as she shared about their experience and heart for mission. I came away from our time together further convinced that this couple has a great deal to offer in partnership with us. I have agreed to co-sponsor Benjamin and have filled out the necessary forms and sent in the required documents.

The next meeting of the South Western Wisconsin group has been scheduled for Sept. 13th from 3:00-5:00 pm. This will be a time of fellowship and further exploring a commitment to become an ongoing group. A few names have been passed along to me of others living in that area. I have passed those names along to Erin Cassidenta to extend an invitation for them to join the group.

Inquires

We have had another inquiry from an individual who googled church planting and found us on the web. His name is Chris Cole and he is near the St. Louis area. He has very good scores from the free on-line assessment and we have talked on the phone. He has checked out the COB website and contacted me back for further discussion. We have missed each other in our communication but I hope to speak to him again soon.

Executive Committee

Has not met. Nothing to report

Church Planting Support Tour

I worshiped with Chicago 1st Church on August 23rd and attended their Leadership Team meeting. I had been invited to do a short presentation about the work of New Church

Development. Time was very limited so there was not much discussion. The men's group did commit to pray for our planters. I still have a promise of an opportunity to bring Samuel to Neighborhood Church, but I am having trouble securing a date.

Planter Partner Support Raising

Our first attempt at Mission Sunday has not produced any further results than last reported that I am aware of. We received our packet of information back from one congregation. We have received 12 directories from churches. 8 have been entered into the data base.

Received:	Viriden	Chicago 1 st	Naperville	Decatur	
	Mt. Morris		Yellow Creek	La Place	York
Center Peoria	Canton		Stanley		
Freeport					

Plans are underway for the two dinners. New Beginnings Fellowship will be hosting the Northern Illinois Dinner on Oct. 11th and Viriden will be hosting the Southern Illinois Dinner on Oct. 25th. Both have decided to make the dinners fund raising projects for their church. Viriden's will be for their youth group. I have developed bulletin inserts for the dinner and sent them to the Northern Pastors for inclusion in their church bulletins. The Southern Pastors will receive their letter and inserts next week. I also developed a reservation form and posted it on our website so we can have a count for the dinner.

Other

I attended the Leadership Team meeting at Cerro Gordo COB on August 15th.

I attended the Pastor's meeting at York Center COB on Sept. 3rd.

I had two more coaching appointments with both of my coachees since we met last. I have two more appointments with them to complete that part of my training.

I had a coaching appointment with Bob Logan. We discussed district conference.

I prepared and sent in the written report for District Conference. I have given thought to and outlined the oral report which will include a short video of planters sharing and a commissioning prayer for Samuel.