

Minutes  
New Church Development Team Meeting  
at The Douglas Park Church of the Brethren  
17 October 2009, 10 AM

Present: Jack Flores, Dawn Blackman, Vernon Showalter, Paul Kohler, Lois Snyder (arrived 11:20), Lynda Devore, Peter Kohler

Paul called the meeting to order at 10 AM

Lynda began the meeting with a discussion on 'Kingdom Impact' quoting and reading from 'Revolution in Missions'.

Lynda referenced and distributed copies of the Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Douglas Park Steering Committee Minutes, reporting on the meeting and the topics covered, stating that progress had been made on the issues surrounding the use of the building. She then distributed the document: 'Douglas Park Proposal', requesting comments and additions or suggested modifications. Several positive and clarifying suggestions were made and incorporated into the proposal.

Vernon inquired about the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were read and approved as read.

The treasurers report was accepted. BBT has recommended changes in our investment pattern. The board felt it good to retain Paul Kohler as advisor for management of resources. Paul received the proposal on modification of the NCDT account and held it under advisement for a later meeting.

Jack reported that he had deposited ~\$1100 for Herman Ware and the Douglas Park Project on the friday instant and had already received additional moneys for both Douglas Park and the Rockford project and Samuel Sarpiya which he would deposit and report on soon.

Lynda reported that the New Church Development Board/Team has received the resignation of our webmaster for NCDB.ORG. The resignation was received with thanks for services performed and our good wishes for the retiring webmaster. Paul will assume the duties temporarily until a new webmaster may be found.

Lynda's activity report was received and is included in these minutes by reference. (see appended report)

Lynda reported that she has received a letter from Benjamin Amankwaa hoping to be planting a new work in Wisconsin. He reports that his wife will finish her nurses training in May of 2011. His letter to the board is included by reference. ( See letter text appended)

Lynda made available preliminary assessment results for three new church planter candidates. Each has completed the process of preliminary assessment with excellent scores and are now seen as candidates for advanced assessment. The board reviewed the vitae of the three candidates and recommended that they all be sent for advanced assessment as the need for their work and support for their projects becomes available. Their names are held as confidential until they have completed advanced placement. After a fine lunch prepared by and served by the folk of the Douglas Park Project, we continued with the business of the day.

After consideration of the proposal for the use of the Douglas Park facility, it was agreed by the board to offer, as NCDT's contribution, skills and personnel for the upkeep of the building as well as sharing half of the cost of maintenance and repair to the building as well as a contribution of \$650 per month plus half of the cost of the utilities in return for the use of one of the apartments on the upper story of the church building and the occasional use of building space as agreed upon. A building floor plan and use schedule was detailed and will be completed by email among the members of the board for presentation to the leadership team at their meeting of October 31st. Lynda will attend the LT meeting to present the proposal. The proposal has the approval of Herman Ware and Shirley Petracek and their associates.

The board then entered a discussion of the upcoming District Annual Meeting and our presentation and displays for the delegates. Lynda informed us that the theme of our presentations will be 'Kingdom Impact 2010' and that the board will present its mission and preparation for the coming year(s). Each of the currently active church planters will also have display space and will show and demonstrate the current status of their work. Copies of 'The Ripple Church' as well as copies of Bob Logan's 'Overcoming Resistance to Change' will be made available to interested persons without charge as will an assortment of references on topics related to church planting.

Paul said he would bring the chocolate.

Lynda announced that the planter dinner originally scheduled for October 11th in the Chicago area has been postponed until Jan 15th, when it will become the Regional Pastor's sponsored event for the month of January. The board expressed their thanks for the cooperation and aid of the regional pastors.

The names and qualifications of the nominees for new board members were discussed and the board expressed its approval for the proposed members. The new members, subject to the approval of The District Annual Conference, are Harold Traugher of the Decatur congregation and Deb Nemanich of Batavia. Both have received their reading material and are preparing themselves for membership on the board.

The board discussed the Meeting schedule for next year but deferred the determination of meeting dates until the new members of the board have been seated.

The next meeting of the NCDT board will be held at the Naperville Church of the Brethren on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, a short meeting at noon. Members, Electees, and all members of the district and guests are invited.

The organizational meeting of the new board will be held Dec 5th, Place to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:30 PM

Minutes taken and submitted by Paul Kohler  
Soli Deo Gloriam

# Appendix A:

## Lynda's activity report for October 2009

### *Activity Report Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 2009*

#### **Advertising**

We are not currently advertising in any media form.

#### **Web Sites**

Several updates have been added to the NCDT web site including information on the Planter Dinners and Wufoo forms to make reservations for the dinners. I have not made any recent updates to the Great Harvest Web Site but as time allows I will make changes before first of the year. I received notification from Eric Volkel-Barno that his schedule will not permit him to continue to manage our web site. We will need to discuss possibilities for a replacement webmaster.

#### **NCD Committee**

I participated in an NCD conference call on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The discussion again centered on the upcoming 2010 Church Planting Conference at Bethany. Most of our work was focused on the break out session and leadership for those sessions. I have agreed to lead one of the sessions on the topic of assessment. Discussion on a Brethren lead assessment center was tabled until Don Mitchell returns from the Green Lake Assessment Center experience he is participating in this month. The next NCD conference call has been scheduled for Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Planter Updates**

##### **Rockford**

I visited with Samuel on September 16<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup> and Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. Samuel participated in the International Day of Peace rally on September 21<sup>st</sup> and I attend in his support. On September 30<sup>th</sup> we met for the primary purpose of starting work on the video he is helping me to produce for our District Conference report. We have further work to do to complete the video which we intend finish up on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Samuel reports that his core team is beginning to build strength. There were 11 adults and 12 children at a recent meeting. The breakfast ministry continues to grow and is now attracting over 100 to the morning worship service held before breakfast. Recently two men were baptized as a result of the work being done there.

Samuel has been asked to serve on a Mayor's committee to work on bringing peace to the racial tensions in the Rockford Community. He has organized a consultation for city leadership with members from On Earth Peace to help in the reconciliation process. That meeting will take place on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. A Moslem religious leader attending one of the clergy meetings on the peace issue expressed interest in engaging in further discussions with Samuel when he heard about Samuel's involvement

with the COB and his heart for peace and reconciliation.

Samuel is continuing to work toward transferring his religious visa to our organization.

### **West Chicago**

I met with Pastor Ware and Richard Marez prior to the Douglas Park Steering committee meeting on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. The three of us completed a review of the work done over the past year and discussed strategy for the upcoming year. Pastor Ware has a group of about 8 people who are ready to start attending services. He has been trying to incorporate them into the existing service at Douglas Park but that is not working out very well. He and Richard report that they have been establishing resource relationships with individuals and agencies in the community. So far they have formed a relationship with a Doctor at Mt. Sini Hospital, some workers at a local Day Care Center, a local mission, a foundation that provides counseling services and AIDS testing, and a thrift shop owner in the area.

They are restarting their Thursday evening group at Douglas Park Church on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are calling it Open House and will offer food and lively conversation for those in attendance. Three hundred door knob hangers advertising the group meeting will be delivered to the community.

Pastor Herman and Pastor Shirley have been involved in frequent discussions concerning theology and beliefs and are working toward a plan for shared ministry at the Douglas Park location with the oversight of the Douglas Park Steering committee.

### **Follow-up with Potential Planters**

All of the necessary work has been completed for the visa approval for Benjamin Amankwaa. Pending approval, it is believed that he will be in the US before the end of November. I received a lengthy report of their expected time line in getting their work started in Wisconsin which I will further report on in our meeting. I expect we will complete our final assessment on this couple in the spring of 2010.

The September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southeast Wisconsin group was canceled. Erin Cassidenta has been experiencing severe morning sickness due to her recent pregnancy. A new date has not yet been set for the meeting. I did contact Erin about a week ago and she indicated she should be able to reschedule in a couple of weeks. The Boshart's have notified me that they are now in the Madison area and are interested in being part of the group when it reconvenes.

### **Inquires**

We have had three new inquires since we last met. Daniel Kellogg of St. Charles, IL, Jeff Foster of Des Plaines, IL and Lawrence Taylor of Vincennes, IN.

Lawrence Taylor is an ordained COB pastor who has experience planting churches. I was given his profile by Kevin Kessler. I spoke with him on the phone and plan to meet with him face to face some time in November.

Jeff Foster recently became a Bethany student. I learned of his interest in church planting through COBEN. He completed the free on line assessment. His results were

marginal. I contacted him by phone and after that conversation decided that we should go ahead and invest the \$79 to finish the rest of his online assessment. After receiving the results of this assessment and I met him and his wife for about 2 hours on Oct 12th. I am very impressed with young man and his wife. He has a sincere heart for mission. I believe he will be a candidate for assessment center in the spring as well.

Daniel Kellogg sent me his resume in the mail. He found us on the web. He also completed the Free on line assessment. His scores were extremely high. I spoke to him on the phone. He is to be a very good possibility but has no Brethren connection. I have also decided to proceed with the balance of the online assessment with him. I plan to arrange a meeting with him and his spouse soon.

### **Executive Committee**

To date, the Executive Committee has not met, however, Kevin and I will be meeting to work out polity considerations for the Douglas Park ministries.

### **Church Planter Support Tour**

We have not had any opportunities to visit congregations since the last meeting of NCDT.

### **Planter Partner Support Raising**

The Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> “Get to know our Planters” dinner was cancelled due to lack of reservations for the event. The Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> event is still scheduled to take place at the Virden COB. We have received 14 reservations so far for this event. The cut off date for reservations is Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.

The North East Region Pastors group has planned a “Get to know our Planters” event at Chicago 1<sup>st</sup> Church on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The evening will include our planters as featured speakers with a meal following. Each participating church will be asked to provide a portion of the meal.

A mailing was sent for the Planter dinners to all members and attendees listed in the directories we currently had in our data base at the time of the mailings. We have received a few more directories since. Below is a list of all that have participated in the full district directory to date.

|           |                |                         |            |             |        |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Received: | Virden         | Chicago 1 <sup>st</sup> | Naperville | Decatur     | Mt.    |
| Morris    |                | Yellow Creek            | La Place   | York Center | Peoria |
|           | Canton         |                         | Stanley    | Freeport    | Polo   |
|           | New Beginnings | Highland Ave.           |            |             |        |

### **Other**

I have had two sessions with my coach mentor since we last met and I have met with each of my coachees one more time. I have one more meeting with my coachees and my evaluation and follow up to complete my coach certification process.

I met with my own coach Bob Logan for my September coaching session.

I attended the Leadership Team meeting held at Chicago 1<sup>st</sup> Church on September 25<sup>th</sup>. We engaged in a short, but good discussion concerning keeping the roots of our

Brethren Heritage alive in our new churches. I posed the question; “What are the core beliefs and practices that need to be present in our new churches to keep the Brethren heritage intact?” Answers included: *Plain people. The spirit of the Brethren in regard to service. Community, making decision in community. Not coming at things doctrinally. Respect is important, a good thing. Jesus – What does it mean to love Jesus? Jesus is deep in our DNA. Jesus’ earthly life as well as his divinity. Love of God embodied in each of us. It is not about whom we are but what we do. Peace tradition is the inherent piece.*

I attended the regional pastors meeting on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>.

I met with the Douglas Park Steering Committee on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> and prepared the minutes from that meeting. I will be providing you with a draft of a proposal to be approved by the Steering committee and sent along to LT for their approval outlining our proposed use of the Douglas Park Church building and our contribution in return for that use.

I designed, printed, stamped and mailed about 600 post card invitations to the two planter dinners. I designed and printed 300 door knob hangers for Pastor Herman. I printed off 240 labels for that ministry as well.

I ordered 30 copies of *The Ripple Church* to hand out to pastors at the District Conference.

I have been working on my presentation for district conference. I will be presenting the theme “Kingdom Impact”.