

Minutes New Church Development Team
August 1, 2009
Decatur Church of the Brethren

Present: Paul Kohler, Dawn Blackman, Jack Flores, Lois Snyder, Vernon Showalter, Kay Weller, Apostle Lynda Lubbs-DeVore

Guests: Herman and Betty Ware

Vernon Showalter gave a devotion using as his text verses from 1st Peter: Chapter 4 and reading from **Planting Fast Growing Churches**

Minutes from the June 20th meeting were approved.

The treasurer's quarterly report was approved.

There will be 3 slots on the NCDT that will need to be filled at District Conference.. Dawn Blackman has agreed to serve a second term which leaves 2 vacancies. Also, it was suggested that we consider having the secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and financial secretary be selected from non-team members. If these individuals served for a year and became familiar with the church planting vision it would be great preparation for new team prospects.

The team agreed that each church planter will need to have a budget that will be reflected in the treasurer's report each month..

Pages 1&2 plus 7-11 of Vernon's report is to go into the District Conference Book.

A motion was made by Jack Flores to purchase a prepaid postage stamp. The benefit is that any stamped envelopes will not need to be paid for until it is used. Dawn Blackman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

Lynda DeVore gave her monthly report.

Advertising

We are not currently advertising for church planters.

Web Sites

The July issue of Harvest Happenings has been posted on the Web site along with the past two sets of meeting minutes and the financial report. The Great Harvest Church Planting site has been updated with monthly prayer focus requests for the balance of the year in keeping with the denominations prayer focus for church planting in 2009.

NCD Committee

NCD has not met since Annual Conference. Plans have been finalized for a meeting with Parxis center to explore the formation of a Church of the Brethren assessment center for church planters. The meeting will be held in Elgin August 18th-21st. Those in attendance will include the NCD Committee, Mary Jo Flory Steury, and others with gifts that the assessment center will require. I will be in attendance all four days of the meeting.

Planter up Dates

Rockford –I met with Samuel on July 9th, July 17th and on July 29th. Samuel has sent out letters to a number of the names in the data base supplied by Paul of district leadership. He is in the process of making follow up phone calls to request individual meetings. He reports that he has received very little encouragement from the process and has not been successful in getting appointments.

In our meeting on July 17th he shared his written discipleship plan with me. He continues to make good progress in thinking through the steps in developing his plan. I have purchased Bob Logan's Beyond Church Planting resource for his use.

In our meeting on July 29th Samuel and Gretchen shared their excitement at having their first core team meeting. They had a cookout at their home with the 5 team members they have recruited from the Rockford community. Samuel also reports that he is conducting a regular Bible study with 6 men he has met through his evangelism work in Rockford. The five core team members are Christians he is disciplining and the 6 men in the Bible study are seekers.

A good portion of our time on the 29th was spent in discussion of their concerns over the lack of support from the district body. Gretchen's concern over their finances is causing her great emotional stress. She mentioned returning to South Africa to live with her mother as a solution she has considered to their financial distress.

I have invited Samuel and Gretchen to attend our next NCDT meeting and am suggesting we ask Rockford First Church of the Brethren to be our host for the meeting.

West side Chicago-I met with Pastor Ware on July 16th as a follow up to our meeting with the Douglas Park Steering Committee on July 7th. Our discussion centered around the issues raised in the steering committee meeting, continued concerns over meeting space, issues arising out of ending use of the apartment in Chicago and partner raising concerns.

A second Steering Committee meeting was held on July 28th at Douglas Park. An agreement was reached during this meeting for a 30 day trial run of shared space at the Douglas Park Church location. During this 30 day trial period, Pastor Herman and Pastor Shirley are to invest time discussing and working through issues related to their differing approaches to ministry and their common ministry values to build a stronger relationship in which they can work together and build mutual trust. It was agreed that during this trial period of 30 days, Pastor Shirley would attend one of the worship services at Pastor Ware's church in Joliet to get a feel for his approach to worship. It was further agreed that Kevin and I would work out an agreement for building use during this trial period.

Betty and Herman are attending the August 1st meeting, at my request, to discuss the continuing need for living space in Chicago. Herman will be sharing at the Decatur Church on Sunday August 2nd.

Follow-up with Potential Planters

The Amankwaa's are still seeking a co-sponsor for Benjamin. I have scheduled a trip to meet with Dawn on August 10th -12th. Kay has also been in contact with Dawn and Benjamin and may have some thoughts to share.

Inquires

The meeting in Racine was held July 26th. Those in attendance were Erin Cassidente, Ron and Carolyn Cassidente, Scott and Marilyn Mandernack, Jack and Chris Flores and me. They (with the exception of the Flores's and myself) are a group of displaced Brethren with a longing to share in fellowship and worship with likeminded individuals. The group has agreed to meet monthly to form a deeper relationship through fellowship and prayer. Ron challenged the group that each person brings a person to the next meeting. Erin agreed to set the date and make the arrangements for that next meeting.

Executive Committee

Nothing to Report.

Church Planting Support Tour

I have an invitation for Samuel and me to share with the Neighborhood Church of the Brethren congregation. A date has not yet been set, however. I am still planning to be at Chicago First in August.

Planter Partner Support Raising

Two letters were written and sent to each congregation (copies have been sent to each of you) regarding the Local Mission Sundays and the District Member Directory. Local Mission Sunday envelopes were printed and included in the mailing. So far, we have received \$245 in funds from the offering, most of which was designated for the NCDT General Fund. We have received directories from York Center, Peoria, Decatur and Naperville so far. The data from these directories has been entered into a data base.

I have scheduled a partner raising training for our planter couples at my home on August 14th. The training will cover the materials I purchased by Dillon call People Raising. We will meet from 9 am to 3:30 pm, listen to the CD training, go through the workbook exercises and share a time of fellowship over lunch. My expectation from this time together is that our planters will be encouraged in the attempts to raise support partners,

that they will gain some good tools to use in forming relationships that will lead to support partners. This will also be a time when our planter couples can get to know one another better and hopefully encourage one another.

Other

I am continuing in my coach training. I had my second appointment with my coachees and my second follow-up appointment with my coach mentor.

All the arrangements were completed for my coaching to begin with Bob Logan. My first appointment with him was July 28th our discussion mostly focused around navigating the Douglas Park issues and building relationship bridges with LT.

I went through the People Raising materials.

I attended the Leadership Team meeting in Polo on July 11th.

Need to Discuss

Changing Oct. 24th meeting date.

Herman and Betty Ware shared some of their plans for a back to school fair and job fair to be held at Douglas Park. They are very committed to the people in the neighborhood and to sharing Christ's love to all who are in need.

We will be having a phone conference on August 29 to discuss the progress Herman and Betty's ministry.

We are to keep the Sarpiya family and their ministry in Rockford in our prayers as they are needing financial support and encouragement.

September 12 we are to meet at Starved Rock. Samuel and Gretchen will be joining us and Lynda will be finding child care for their children.

October 17 we will be meeting at Douglas Park.

A delicious meal was prepared for us by the Decatur Church Family..

Kay Weller, Secretary