

Minutes New Church Development Team
February 21, 2009
Conference Call

Participating: Paul Kohler, Dawn Blackman, Lois Snyder, Jack Flores, Vernon Showalter, Kay Weller, and Lynda Lubbs DeVore

The New Church Development Team met via conference call from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2009.

Jack Flores led us in prayer.

The minutes from the January 10, 2009 meeting were approved.
The financial report presented by Vernon Showalter was approved.

Vernon reported that the bank needs a member of the team to pick up a signature card for our designated signers. These designated signers are to be Vernon Showalter, Paul Kohler, and Dawn Blackman. Our Bank is National City Bank. There is a branch in Champaign, so Dawn agreed to pick up the card.

Vernon is in the process of setting up different funds within the account to which money for the various plants can be placed. These funds will be known as Chicago West, Rockford Planting, and Wisconsin North.

Vernon will be sending us copies of the 2008 financial record sheets.

Lynda and Lois will be going to Dixon on March 7 for a NCDT presentation.

Lynda gave her apostle's report next.

* The Sarpyas are settled in an apartment in Rockford. The Rockford church has been doing a good job in supporting them. The family is in need of a vehicle that will accommodate 2 adults and 3 children. For the time being, they are using public transportation and some volunteer transportation from the church.

* The Chicago West planters are very pre-occupied by funding concerns. Herman and Richard have been very busy meeting and witnessing to people in the neighborhood. However, they have not received funds to cover the basic needs for their outreach. Herman comes from a denomination that provides substantial support up front. He is being coached in fund raising strategies.

Discussion around the proposal for a Brethren Heritage Retreat followed. Since our present 3 church planters do not come from a Brethren Background, the team believes that there needs to be some basics provided. It was suggested that this retreat would include viewing the video Journey in Jesus' Way from the Brethren Press and reading and discussing the book To Follow in Jesus' Steps by C Wayne Zunkel. Dawn suggested that we develop a set of resources including Brethren books, videos, tracts, and history.

Next item of discussion was training and coaching. Lynda has met with Samuel and Herman to initially go through the church planting manual, the Parmalee power point, and the vision binder.

Lynda told us that she has been contacted by someone from the greater denomination who is interested in planting with us. That person is going through the assessment process at this time. The name will be shared later

A coach for Herman Ware has been secured. Lynda is proposing that Carrie Cesar be selected as Samuel's coach. The team agreed by consensus to give Lynda permission to contact and negotiate with her.

Samuel will be attending the First Steps conference in Grays Lake on March 17-19. He is given permission to rent an economy car and purchase insurance for that time. He will be able to travel back and forth from his home to the site.

Lynda will be in contact with Kevin Kessler and ask him to encourage the Leadership Team to send Brenda Beck to this conference.

The Rockford Church of the Brethren has prepared a Participant Agreement between the Rockford Church and Samuel Sarpiya (NCDT?) They wish to receive \$800 per month as well as several other requests. The NCDT believes that this amount is too high for this early stage. We propose to offer \$200 for the first month, \$400 from the second month until the time at which he is holding worship services for over 50. At that point, an \$800 monthly fee/rent would be reconsidered. Also it is important that Samuel have a designated private space within the building to be used as his office.

Lynda requested funds to take Samuel and Herman to an Exponential/Cross Cultural Conference in Florida April 20-25. The cost of this conference is \$229. The team seemed to think that this was a good thing for us to do and the request was approved by consensus.

Fund Raising:

Dawn Paul and Lynda have formed a short term (ad hoc) committee for folks in the district interested in helping fund raise for New Church Development. The group will be meeting at the Starved Rock Lodge on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

The team agreed that a one time payment of the electric bill for the apartment for Chicago West be paid. This is to be a one time assist.

Vernon will be in contact with National City Bank to set up a debit card for Lynda to use for administrative needs. There is a 30 day \$3,000 limit to be placed on this card and activity will be reported at each meeting.

The denominations New Church Development Team is working towards developing their own Assessment Process/Center by 2010. Until then, we will be using the services at Green Lake WI. Richard_____, Benjamin Amankwaa and an unnamed prospect will be attending April 27-30 Lynda has signed her contract and Vernon has the copy.

Lynda also would like for us to continue thinking about individuals in congregations who might have a desire to support church planting if they are approached individually. Some churches may not feel called to be active in the process but individuals within those congregations may feel the need.

March 28, 2009 we will be meeting in Elgin April 18, 2009 Champaign May 30, 2009
Naperville

The conference call meeting was deemed a success and may be utilized again soon.

Kay Weller, Secretary.