

Minutes, New Church Development Team
Starved Rock
September 13, 2008

Present: Dawn Blackman, Paul Kohler, Jack Flores, Kay Weller, Lynda deVore Jerry Sales

Absent: Lois Snyder, Terry Link

Dawn Blackman gave a reflection and prayer.

Minutes of the August 16, 2008 meeting were approved with corrections. Dawn will send corrected minute to all via internet.

There was no report available from Brethren Benefit Trust. The investment report will be present quarterly by Vernon Showalter.

Lois Snyder has agreed to be the replacement for Lisa Fike, who resigned her position on the NCDT.

Discussion of responsibilities of NCDT for District Conference occurred. Lynda will provide a 3 sided display board. We plan to have some type of "take away items" at the booth. Suggestions include seeds, candy, granola, wheat related items, crackers. Dawn and Kay are to work on decorations. No other specific assignments were given at this time, but will finalize at the October meeting.

There was discussion about the goals and effectiveness of the meetings between our Apostle and Chair with the Leadership Chair and District Executive. We continue to seek a cordial working relationship while working towards a mutual statement of faith. Also, there appears to have been differing opinions about what role, if any, the NCDT has in the restart of existing congregations. The District Conference directed the four individuals filling those positions to meet, clarify roles and responsibilities assigned to each team, and to work in the best interest of the district. As the two entities exist they are separate but equal entities under the direction of District Conference. At present, Paul and Lynda believe that there had been consensus at the meetings, but later misunderstandings or change of direction have occurred.

Lynda deVore presented the Apostle's report. She said that Herman Ware, church planter with West Chicago as his field for mission, has recruited a Hispanic partner to help him as he meets folks in the area. Jack Flores has been asked to work with Herman to support and provide Brethren foundation. Lynda and Herman are planning a trip to Allison Prairie later today and will be presenting a program on Sunday morning.

Lynda also gave an update on the following:

Dawn and Benjamin Amankwaa: Dawn is in NY now. Benjamin is still in Ghana but is trying to get a 5 year missionary visa. The area around Eau Claire, WI has been designated as a mission field for them. The Stanley congregation is reported to be excited about working with the couple and be a support in ministry. They hope to attend Green Lake assessment center. .

Samuel and Gretchen Sarpiya have previously been affiliated with YWAM (Youth with a Mission.) They live in Hawaii.

Jack Flores will be attending the Green Lake Assessment center as an assessor..

There were also brief updates on a few other prospective planters. Lynda believes that we have had enough inquiries now and plans on pulling our ads until we have 2-3 church planters in place.

Lynda has accepted an invitation from Jonathan Shively to work with the denominational new church development team. They are planning for some type of mini conference in '09. She is taking part in monthly conference calls for this group.

We were reminded that each of us had a group of churches to contact concerning aspects of New Church Planting. We are to ascertain their receptiveness to visits from the Apostle to present a program and answer questions.

Paul Kohler will be attending a Parmalee conference on fund raising later this month and Dawn Blackman plans to attend in November. The value of having members of the team be professionally trained in fund raising was discussed. The costs for such a program were also debated and no decision was made.

Lynda and Paul are scheduled to attend a joint executive committee meeting on October 7. The previous two meetings were held in Polo and the NCDT brought the agenda items for discussion.. The NCDT will host the October 7 meeting and the Leadership team shall bring the agenda items for this meeting. Lynda will be seeing Kevin Kessler, DE, on Tuesday and they will discuss the details

The next regular meeting will be held at Starved Rock on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00.

Kay Weller
Acting Secretary