

## UNOFFICIAL VERSION

*In some unknown way, the file of minutes for this meeting was eaten by Linda's computer. The minutes have been reconstructed as accurately as possible with the help of several people who attended the meeting. Please read your section carefully and send [Linda](#) any corrections.*

### Conference Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2007 – 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Members present:**

*Bishop Bob Hoshibata, Kim Fields, Donna Pritchard, Todd Bartlett, Tom Wogaman, Gerry Hill, Deb Payne, Greg Nelson*

**Members absent:** *Ardis Letey, Jesse Bynum, Jo Japs*

**Vacancy:** *One due to the resignation of Dean Yamamoto*

**Seats Vacant:** *Conference Board of Trustees*

**Ex Officio members present:** *Scott Harkness, Turella Woods, Linda Sullivan, Lisa Jean Hoefner, Joan Collison, Bob Meyers*

**Guests:** *Dean Hollomon (United Methodist Men), Joanne Dobrinski (for Board of Ordained Ministry), Karen Bolin (for Conference Council on Finance and Administration)*

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### **Opening and Welcome—Bob Hoshibata**

Bishop Bob Hoshibata opened the meeting by referring again to the book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, by Paul Nixon. Of the 6 critical choices Nixon enumerates, the bishop stressed that we must “choose life over death.”

He reiterated his offer to help people buy the book if readers will then send him a short, one paragraph to one page response on how it affected their thinking and touched their souls.

In order to lead a vital, energized church, we have to choose life over death—for ourselves, our ministries, our churches and our conferences.

He also talked about a book by Steve Compton, *Rekindling the Mainline*, Alban Institute, available at Cokesbury. Compton claims new churches in an aging organization do not merely make it grow, they make established churches change in ways that make them more effective in mission and ministries. This is one way of choosing life over death.

### **Encouraging Excellence in Lay/Clergy Leadership**

#### **Nominations—Tom Wogaman**

Tom reiterated his comments that the coming nominating and election process is very important because people being elected now will serve for a quadrennium. He said he is trying to encourage as many people as possible to volunteer to serve or to suggest the names of people who might make good leaders.

#### **Task Force to Eliminate Hunger – Bishop Bob Hoshibata**

The bishop reported that the Task Force was continuing its work: naming local church coordinators, finding a new co-chair to work with Jonathan Enz, holding trainings. Trainings have begun in some districts. The Task Force is working toward a successful “Empty Bowl Sunday,” the Sunday before “Souper Bowl Sunday.” He also recognized the excellent leadership that former co-chair Wes Taylor had brought to the Task Force.

### **Practicing Personal and Social Holiness**

#### **“Empty Bowl Sunday” – Linda Sullivan**

Linda handed out a brochure and the beginning of an online kit for CLT perusal. She and Greta Hoshibata will have a brochure ready to go and up on the website in December. The kit will be ready well in advance of Jan. 27, the Sunday before Souper Bowl Sunday.

### **Making New Disciples**

#### **Future of Connecting for Mission Program – Scott Harkness**

There was a lively discussion about the C4M Program. In the end it was decided to continue the program, but that it no longer be mandatory. We will retain an option for local ministries to use the program, but let churches and pastors know that they don't have to use it if they don't wish to.

#### **Capital Campaign – Todd Bartlett**

RSI, the consulting firm hired to do the initial feasibility study, has concluded its work of information gathering in the planning study for the Conference, conducted during October and November.

We are very thankful for the 367 people who participated in the study.

- Fifty-four confidential interviews were conducted with 73 participants. This represents individuals and married couples who participated in interviews with either Joanne Carr or Al Oliver. Helen Ober did an outstanding job of administering the difficult interview scheduling process. She is to be highly commended for her hard work. Only two of the people Helen scheduled either eventually declined to participate or did not show up for their interview. This is a very high percentage of participation by scheduled interviewees and reflects peoples' positive response to Bishop Hoshibata's letter of invitation, Helen's perseverance and peoples' willingness to share in the shaping of the proposed campaign for the future of the Annual Conference.
- Eight focus group meetings were held across the five districts. In each case, there was a good presentation of the Conference's case and insightful discussion that followed. At the end of these meetings 90 people completed focus group questionnaires.
- The online survey was open for 11 days during which 204 people took the time to read the "case for support" and complete the survey questionnaire. This was the final phase of the study, closing on Nov. 20.

The extensive process of analyzing all of the data and writing the report is the next step. In the next couple of weeks the RSI Management Team will receive the report, study it and collaborate in the development of RSI's recommendations for a campaign. This process of engaging six people in the final analysis of study findings and development of recommendations is one in which we desire to bring our collective wisdom and experience, as well as the perspective of differing campaign disciplines, to bear on the design for a Conference-wide campaign.

On Jan. 7, Doug Turner, president of RSI, and Al Oliver will present the study report to a representative gathering of Annual Conference leadership. The published report will include statistical tables and charts of study data, a narrative analysis of study findings and representative quotes from study participants (often the most enlightening element for report readers). Following this extensive reporting of findings and analyses, the published report will present an abbreviated summary of observations, followed by the presentation of our campaign recommendations.

The study group looks forward to continuing its work in the coming weeks in order to bring its very best assessment of the prospects and plan for a campaign designed to greatly enhance the ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

#### **Traveling Training Teams—Ardis Letev**

Ardie was not able to be at the meeting because of bad weather at the coast. **She will be asked to bring the TTT report to the next meeting.**

#### **Developing a Conference Lay Leader Pool—Tom Wogaman**

Tom made a progress report on the Leadership Pool. Response has been somewhat disappointing, but he said we would use the information we had and continue to look for more names. He also said that there had been some misunderstanding of his intentions of building a conference-wide pool. Some folks thought he was trying to steal good and talented workers from local churches. He disclaimed that idea, suggesting that the pool is a way churches can connect with one another, by helping out when there is a need.

#### **Aligning with the Strategic Direction**

##### **Safe Sanctuary – Deb Payne**

Deb Payne explained the next steps in implementing Safe Sanctuary in all our churches:

- 1) Write the Annual Conference action item for approval of the policy. Scott and Deb will write and submit an action item on behalf of CLT by the due date.
- 2) The district superintendents are collecting copies of the policies from some of the local churches who have completed the task of implementing a local policy. The Safe Sanctuary Task Force will review these and select a few as good examples for churches to use in writing their own policies. A template has been completed for churches to use, but many are asking for samples of already established policies from local churches. They will be posted on the website as they are available.
- 3) Deb will speak at the Metro District “Nuts & Bolts” training in January about the need for the policies and answer any questions from those attending the training.

#### **Conference Agency Ministry Review – Scott Harkness**

Scott reported that he is still waiting for most of the ministry review forms to come back. He hopes to have them all in by the end of the year so the CLT can begin reviewing them and assessing their alignment with the strategic direction.

#### **Clergy Wellness Task Force – Gerry Hill**

Gerry brought his work with the Healthy Clergy, Healthy People Task Force to CLT for assistance and input. There was considerable discussion around clergy self-care. Gerry is the lead person for CLT and has held conversations with Gary Powell regarding his doctoral degree work about clergy health. Members stressed that Gerry is not expected to do the work alone, but to lead the effort to put all the pieces of the puzzle together—to learn about the work being done by various Conference groups in this area, and to coordinate efforts on the subject.

Bob Meyers said he would get information for Gerry on HealthFlex options and opportunities. Other suggestions were to visit other annual conference websites to glean new information, and to subscribe to WebMD.

Joanne Dobrinski, Ardis Letey, and Turella Woods volunteered to work with Gerry to gather information from every group in the Conference working on clergy wellness and related areas and get information out to our people. The bishop offered to be a resource person if that was needed.

#### **Clergy Effectiveness – Joanne Dobrinski**

At the last meeting, Brian Shimer, representative from the Board of Ordained Ministry, was asked to check on progress of the group overseeing self-care and healthy practices for clergy. Brian was unable to attend this meeting, so Joanne reported for him.

The Clergy Effectiveness Plan continues to be a work in progress. The Western District is currently using it in a pilot project. Feedback so far has been very good. The plan deals with character, personal growth, and professional life. The district superintendent, Staff Parish Relations Committee and pastor work together to help clergy come to an understanding of personal effectiveness, to covenant with SPRC, and get feedback from SPRC on self-assessment. Originally the BOM task force was given the responsibility of looking at a clergy ineffectiveness policy, but task force members felt it would be better to begin more positively, with a focus on what is effective ministry. The BOM will evaluate the results of the pilot project.

#### **Other/All of the Above**

### **November 2007 Apportionment Report – Bob Meyers**

November's Shared Ministries Apportionment support for 2007 continues to be very positive as we head into the last month of the year. Eighty-two churches have paid at least 11/12ths or 91.67% of their apportionments. All districts are reporting near 70%, with Eastern District reporting almost 79% paid; the overall is 72% being received through November. This is about 3% higher than at the same time last year. If receipts continue to come in as projected, we will end 2007 at about 86% of all Shared Ministries, the best year since 2001 when we received 88%.

### **2008 Spending Plan, 2009 Budgeting Process – Bob Meyers**

The 2008 spending plan will be developed in mid to late January after the books are closed for 2007. The bishop, Jim Monroe, Scott Harkness, and Bob Meyers will develop the plan for adoption by the Council on Finance and Administration. After CF&A adopts the plan, notices will be sent to the appropriate board, agency, and committee chairs.

The 2009 Budget cycle begins now and a due date for these requests will be forthcoming. Boards, agencies, and committees should plan on having their budget requests completed no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Background Checks – Bob Meyers**

Bob also reported that the background screening program, Trak 1, should be ready for use within the next two weeks. Trak 1 is a service sponsored by PACT (the Property and Casualty Trust) and will be available to any church in the Conference whether or not the church is insured by PACT. The cost for a basic report is a bit less than \$10; more extensive reports will be appropriately priced. The Board of Trustees has paid the full set-up fee for the churches so the only cost will be that of the report itself.

### **2008 Special Sundays with Offerings – Scott Harkness**

Scott passed around a document listing all denominational and Conference special Sundays for 2008.

#### **Denominational Sundays:**

- Human Relations Day (Jan. 20)
- One Great Hour of Sharing (Mar. 2)
- Native American Ministries Sunday (Apr. 6)
- Peace with Justice Sunday (May 18)
- World Communion Sunday (Oct. 5)
- United Methodist Student Day (Nov. 30)

#### **Conference Sundays:**

- Willamette University Sunday (Feb. 3)
- Campus Ministry Sunday (May 18 – conflict with Peace with Justice Sunday)
- Christian Education Sunday (Any Sunday in Sept.)
- Golden Cross Sunday (Nov. 9)
- Hispanic Ministries Sunday (To be determined by Hispanic Ministries Council)
- UMVIM Sunday (To be determined by Conference Leadership Team)
- NW House of Theological Studies Sunday (To be determined by CLT)
- Empty Bowl Sunday (Jan. 27)
- Global AIDS Awareness Sunday (To be determined by CLT)

After discussion, the job of going over the schedule to see if any Sundays can be eliminated was given to Scott and Bob Meyers. Once they have completed their review, they will bring back to CLT a recommendation for Annual Conference action.

### **Faith and Mission Fund Grants – Scott Harkness**

The Faith and Mission Fund (FaMF) grows with money from the Collins Foundation and the Benevolence Contingency Fund and is used for small grants to emerging and/or expanding Conference program ministries. Grant applications are received twice a year at the time of the Convocation and are reviewed by the Connectional Ministries Table chairperson and the director of connectional ministries who, in turn, make their recommendations to the Bishop. The Bishop makes the final decision about which grants are made and in what amount. The FaMF grants in this round are: \$2,016.70 to the Conference Young Adult Ministries for the airfare to Nashville, Tennessee for four representatives to attend the Young Adult Summit and \$2,500 to the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) for four “I Want to Eliminate Workshops” offered throughout the Conference.

There were also grant applications from the Youth Ministries Team to maintain a virtual church website, from the UM Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team for district trainings and from the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) for a 2009 event. These groups were invited to reapply next year after doing further research and providing more information. The Council on Racial and Ethnic Leadership (COREL) applied for \$3,000 to sponsor an inter-ethnic gathering next spring. It was decided to recommend to CLT that we fund this event from the Missional Priority Fund (see below).

### **Missional Priority Grants – Bishop Bob Hoshibata**

About three years ago, the management of the standing Missional Priority Fund was transferred to the Conference Leadership Team. This undesignated reserve fund is a hold-over from previous General Conferences which established the Missional Priority Fund for quadrennial emphases. The last known emphasis was ethnic ministries. Bishop Hoshibata requested that the \$3,000 grant application from COREL for an inter-ethnic gathering in the spring be funded from the Missional Priority Fund. **CLT approved this request.**

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Jan. 20; Parkrose UMC.

### **Items Requiring Action by the Next Meeting**

#### **Assignments**

##### ***Linda***

- Linda and Greta Hoshibata will have an “Empty Bowl Sunday” brochure ready to go and up on the website in December. The kit will be ready well in advance of Jan. 27, the Sunday before Souper Bowl Sunday.

##### ***Greta***

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##### ***Deb Payne***

- Write the Annual Conference action item [about Safe Sanctuary] for approval of the policy. Scott and Deb will write and submit an action item on behalf of CLT by the due date.
- The district superintendents are collecting copies of the policies [Safe Sanctuary] from some of the local churches who have completed the task of implementing a local policy. The Safe Sanctuary Task Force will review these and select a few as good

examples for churches to use in writing their own policies. A template has been completed for churches to use, but many are asking for samples of already established policies from local churches. They will be posted on the website as they are available.

### ***Gerry Hill***

- Joanne Dobrinski, Ardis Letey, and Turella Woods volunteered to work with Gerry to gather information from every group in the Conference working on clergy wellness and related areas and get information out to our people. The bishop offered to be a resource person if that was needed.

### ***Joanne Dobrinski***

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- The BOM will evaluate the results of the clergy wellness pilot project in Western District.

### ***Bob Meyers***

- Bob Meyers said he would send information to Gerry on HealthFlex options and opportunities.
- After discussion, the job of going over the schedule [of Special Sundays] to see if any Sundays can be eliminated was given to Scott and Bob Meyers. Once they have completed their review, they will bring back to CLT a recommendation for Annual Conference action.

### ***Turella Woods***

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### ***Ardie Letey***

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#### **Left over items from October 2, 2007 Meeting**

##### ***Bishop Hoshibata***

- The idea of putting Camping staff salaries in the Conference budget needs to go to the “Out of the Box Funding Task Force” that CLT asked the bishop to set up.
- Schedule more conversation about Camping staff salaries at next CLT meeting.

#### **Decisions**

- *In the end it was decided to continue the program [Connecting for Mission], but that it no longer be mandatory. We will retain an option for local ministries to use the program, but let churches and pastors know that they don't have to use it if they don't wish to. (p. 2)*
- *The Council on Racial and Ethnic Leadership (COREL) applied for \$3,000 to sponsor an inter-ethnic gathering next spring. It was decided to recommend to CLT that we fund this event from the Missional Priority Fund (see below). CLT approved this request. (p. 5)*

*Minutes reconstructed by Linda Sullivan, Director of Communications*