

Sessions Action Team
Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (MAC)

Minnesota Church Center
122 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

February 2, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sessions Action Team

Meeting commence @ 10:07 am

Present: Rev. Marianne Ozanne, Sessions co-leader; Rev. Carol Zaagsma, Sessions co-leader; Bishop Bruce Ough; Rev. Cindy Gregorson, MAC Director of Ministries; Barb Brower MAC Treasurer and Finance Gail Johnson, MAC Director of Communications; Robert Kutter, MAC Co-Lay Leader; , Rev. Paula Colten, Worship Leader; Janet Beard, MAC Conference Secretary; Laura Miles, MAC Office and IT Coordinator; and Deltry Coles, MAC Administrative Assistant. Michelle Behsma Administrative Assistant, Guy Sederski

Special Guest: Chuck Bell- Worship Leader (Annual Conference participator)

Absent- MAC Communications Associate; Christa Meland and Sheilia Kyburz

I. Devotions and Introductions

- Marianne Ozanne open with Devotions and Introductions – **Chuck Bell**

II. 2016 Annual Conference Planning

Schedule and Flow

- Gail, Paula and Cindy: Reviewed handout
 - Floor plan- 1 room with Stage in middle is where we will be most of the time. Not a cost saving move but a way to facilitate an overall worship experience.
 - Worship and work together-we want to create a bigger platform stage that has a worshipful feel .
 - Michelle Behsma will manage the schedule for the moves and the space.
 - Chuck will need time and space for sound check Worship is at the beginning and end of day.
 - Thinking the 1st gathering start w/ banquet (sit down meal) that will be served which will reduce traffic and walking. We will have worship during this time and a little bit of preaching.
 - Missional report will follow after dinner to go over what God has done in our midst
 - Come out of that time with a celebration of communion and worship and take up offering that has to take place between 11 am- 2:00 pm time slot.
 - Hoping Bishop will be preach, however he is sloted for Wednesday.
 - Last year communion took place while seated but we can play around with how we want to do that this year.
 - Laity session will take place in the same room We are looking for Clergy to possibly be in Haws C.
 - Do the clergy session have to be behind closed doors? Bob Kutter wants Chuck Bell to be apart of the laity session so they are ok with being in AB
 - We want to make sure that the other session is not interrupted by music if they are discussing business in the other room. So we will need further discussion on this.

- Ballroom is optional 3-5pm- discussion for Haws C and what that floor plan will look like.

Program in the Park-possible start time 5:30p and program start at 6:30p

- Camp revival worship experience. This would be a great opportunity to bring in other choirs so that we can create the Pentecost experience of the different languages.
- Junius Dotson will be preaching about the WHY! Why we want to be evangelistic as disciples. We want to think about adding in some awards during this time Possibly the “One matters awards” and the “Denman Award “
- We are doing this program in a Band shell type area and we have to bring a portable sound system. David Wood GNTV set up last year and he can work with you Chuck Bell about the technical side of that. We want a variety of music with a revival type experience Junius may preach about 30 minutes, but we want this experience to be free flowing.
Our back-up if it rains we could possibly use the Carlton room. But we can discuss this further. Also, Thrivent sponsored last year water and popcorn, Gail will check to see if they can sponsor again this year. Instead of Popcorn and water we can have rootbeer and make rootbeer floats just a thought. The choirs flow should be tied to the theme, and at some point and time we can have sing along w/ hymn style. Perhaps at the beginning of the program to pull the crowd in closer.
- Paula suggest that the Normandale children choir sing during the program in the park Karaoke style/ or Hymn songs and we can possibly start with this around 5:30P.

Wednesday Worship

- Morning Worship is for 1 hour. Worship with episcopal address starting at 8 am and going until noon. We want a portion of time allotted for Remembering of our baptism, and we can have active prayer stations. There is some freedom to design the worship piece for Wednesday with the inclusion of the episcopal address. We possibly need ½ coffee break before going into session. Junius is on after that and the budget presentation can possibly come after lunch.
- For Ted Talk-we want to do a type of open recruitment of who can bring the most provocative picture of the Acts church and we are asking individuals to submit something for that and we will choose the best 3 out of 10 to present. Our deadline for submission is April 5th and we will choose the 3 on May 19th who will be included in the Ted Talks. The budget presentation will follow shortly after Junius (Lunch in between) and we may possibly hear an update from Board of Pensions.
- We also need 2-3 break out groups possibly 20 minutes in length with 10 minutes movement from each. We will need to find space for that. We have 6 rooms available in the hotel at no cost. But that distance might be to far for individuals, and although we don't have the Carlson space reserved. We have to keep in mind if we don't use it we may be sharing that space with another outside group. Cindy is pretty clear she wants the 2-3 workshops. During movement from the break- out sessions we can have some instrumental music to help usher in the people coming from different activities. We need to send something out to the teams to see who will participate.

Service in Life Ministry-

- The Circle of Life-We want this to come to life .We have done this for 4 years where we honor the deceased, retired and newly ordained. It is the most traditional service

with the robing assembly. Possibly the Chamber choir to lead this. This portion of the service will be long as we have 22 being ordained. We need to get sophisticated about the move, as it could take some time with ushering everyone on and off the stage. Possible suggestion is for licensed local pastors to gather around the stage, rather than come on the stage. There will be theater style seating for this event

Thursday Worship-

- Greg Strunk is the preacher for this day. Greg has the flexibility on shaping his message. He will move along our theme, but it is a day where we can have fun with this worship session and it is about 1 hour to 1 ½ hours long. We will come out of that day with another Ted talk, then meet for legislation, Afternoon will consist of another Ted talk and finish up legislation and then we will wrap it up with brief worship and a bold send off everyone into the mission fields. We need to be totally done by 4 pm.
- Gail Johnson is managing space and already has a locked space for Chuck Bell. We do not have an organ and Chuck you will need to rent a Piano/organ.
- We will have different prayer stations and we will encourage people to gather and pray but it will not be 24/7 and Chuck Bell is not responsible for that.
- Cindy will work with Christa on the Ted Talks

Considerations:

- Janet Beard and Cindy Gregorson-General Conference Delegate elections
 - They would like to write legislation and it needs to come from the Sessions Action team.
 - How to handle the election of delegates for 2020. The main concern is they do not want to hold 2 sets of delegate election as they are costly and time consuming. We would like you to endorse that we elect delegates 2020 general session in 2019 and that the delegates elected in 2016 would be the delegates would attend any called sessions held in 2019.
- i) Carol Zaagsma and Paula Colton Recuse themselves from helping with the decision of the Session group to endorse the election of the 2020 delegates
- Extended Bench –has reached a consensus.

Legislation submission-Cindy and Janet has created guidelines to put out to people. This is what we want to do at Annual Conference and the spirit of using this time we invite you to explore a few things before writing the legislation.

Is legislation the best format to accomplish my goals? Is there a better way to get it done than writing to legislation?

Does this goal pertain to the work of the whole annual conference?

Its not our practice to receive a late legislation but there are times we 're presented with that.

We have not quite come to term with that but it would be wise that we do- it should be a clear process for that.

Thank you Note:

Bill Bonkowski sent a letter of thanks for honoring his mother Florence Bonkowski.

Communication:

Love Offering ready to go out when she gets back from vacation

They are waiting on Bishop O letter
Repository- for Notes & Agenda's on the UMC website- We will need to have our Agenda out there a week prior to the meeting and our Minutes out there a week after the meeting.

III. Meeting Schedule:

- Thursday, May 11 from 10am-noon in Suite 508
- Marianne will lead the May Meeting as Carol will be in Hawaii

Review assignments:

- Chuck will be copied on agenda/ he is at a retreat the day of the May meeting and may participate for a few minutes but not the whole meeting.
- Debrief Meeting date-Thursday, August 3, 2017 9:00 am Tentative
- Marianne will work with Shielia for following year meeting dates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deltry Coles, Recorder