

Sessions Action Team
Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2017
10:00-12:00

Present: Carol Zaagsma, Sessions co-leader; Marianne Ozanne, Sessions co-leader; Cindy Gregorson, Director of Ministries; Bishop Bruce Ough; Barb Brower, Director of Finance & Administration; Christa Meland, Director of Communications; Karla Hovde, Communications Specialist; Gail Johnson, Events Coordinator; Dave Nuckols, Co-Lay Leader; Paula Colton, Sessions Worship leader; Guy Sederski, Sessions CONAM chair; Laura Miles, Office and IT Coordinator; Janet Beard, Conference Secretary;

1. Devotions – Carol led devotions related to John 15:1-17 which are the theme verses for 2018 AC session. She talked about what it means to abide with God, using an illustration about Coach Wilkinson. Carol opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Update from Think Tank – Cindy reported that a group met and brainstormed ideas for the 2018 session. The group included Marianne Ozanne, Paula Colton, Kelly McCuaig, Tyler Sit, Racheal Warner, Shawna Horn and Paul Boudwin. Cindy mentioned that the group had similar reflections and ideas for change from the past 2017 session as the sessions team had at the last meeting, and she talked through the ideas and brainstorming that had occurred at the Think Tank. (see attached document) Cindy also walked through a first draft schedule that she put together following the meeting. Suggestions and comments were shared. These included:
 - Need to make videos soon to capture the farming/gardening theme, while plants are still growing.
 - Discipleship workshops scheduled for Tuesday will be practical rather than theoretical.
 - There will be one missional report this year and it will be shortened considerably.
 - Ted style “Wonderings” talks will be held throughout the three day session.
 - Adam Weber may be considered as a resource for the Laity Session.
 - Ideas for food for the Wednesday evening celebration included root beer kegs, coffee bars, popcorn.
 - The teaching sessions will focus on discipleship and Bishop Ough has names of several possible speakers. He will be considering options and exploring possibilities.
 - The idea is that ALL speakers would focus presentations on how abiding with Christ allows them to live deeply, find joy and share God’s love in all aspects of life. This message will permeate the three days.

Cindy will continue to work on the schedule as plans progress.

3. Room Orientation/Space - Discussion occurred, and the consensus seemed to be that meeting and worship would be held in the same space again (Haws A & B), as it was this year, except that the Clergy Session and Celebration of Life and Ministry worship could be held in Carlson Hall. Further consideration of this idea will occur.
4. Discussion concerning the budget occurred. Further research about costs and budgeting will continue to be considered.
5. Paula reported that there will be different musical groups leading different worship services. Bishop mentioned that it is important to have worship leaders who will help engage people in worship/singing. Paula will also be exploring the use of a conference artist.
6. Act of Repentance – Discussion occurred. Bishop Ough will be seeking planning help from leaders of the Dakotas Nation and would like the worship celebration to be indigenous to the Dakotas people. Guy suggested that Anita Phillips and Chaiben Kernell might be asked to help plan and participate as well. Bishop Ough commented that he hopes that the formal relocation of Red Rock would occur in September 2018. People who participate in this celebration who live outside of MN

might need to be compensated – Guy mentioned that gifts are valued by this culture more than monetary compensation.

7. Communications – Christa had sent an updated schedule and will check in again at the November meeting. Karla shared the current ideas for the logo and received comments and suggestions.
8. Joint MN/DAK AC session in 2020 – Discussion occurred. Concerns about this happening right after the 2020 General Conference were raised. Among the questions were: Will there be GC items that will need to be considered by each conference individually? In the midst of potential unrest, will this send an inaccurate message that the two conferences are merging? Does the potential positive energy, etc. outweigh the possible negatives (logistical and psychological)? Cindy suggested that the decision be made by the two Extended Cabinets using input from the two sessions teams. Further research, consideration and discussion will continue. Deadline for a decision may be May 2018, so it can be announced at 2018 AC session.
9. Gail reported the results of her exploration of the percentage of members under age 35 who have attended the most recent AC sessions:
 - 2015: 9%
 - 2016: 13%
 - 2017: 13%

She also mentioned that the median age has probably dropped over that time frame.

Meeting concluded at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Beard
Conference Secretary