

## **CORR Meeting Minutes – 1/29/2020**

Present: Bill Konrardy, Dana Neuhauser, Fred Reuning, Gail Johnson, Morning Kimborough, Shawn Moore, Steve Reiser

MN Mosaics is the cross-cultural, cross-racial advocacy group that emerged from Annual Conference. Led by Woojae Im, the other key leaders are Nancy Victorin Vangerud, Malachi, Dawn Houser and Dana Neuhauser. They are institutionally focused working with the Cabinet, Clergy and SPRCs. This is a wonderful adjunct to our work as CORR is focused on congregations and individuals. Dana will watch for ways we can support each other's efforts.

Morning presented five potential goals for CORR (appended at the end of the minutes). Some progress is being made, especially in conversations with the Bishop.

We recommitted to promoting the Racial Reconciliation Movement. We will have and staff a table at AC2020 in Sioux Falls

Bill asked for a process sheet that would lay out the steps for churches. Gail made a quick list:

1. An individual feels conviction
2. Talk with clergy
3. Talk with church council
4. Talk with congregation
5. Create a group of interested people (form CORR group)
6. Take the assessment
7. Connect with someone from CORR to review
8. Commit to moving forward – sign the covenant
9. Offer opportunities to congregations/seek resources
10. Connect with a coach.

### Action Items:

- Shawn and Fred will write an article for the Conference News regarding the Racial Reconciliation Movement and the work being done.
- Steve will update the CORR web page (including the process list and article)
- Shawn will visit Living Spirit to promote process
- Dana will work with Bill to visit Lake Harriet
- SOMEONE (we did not identify who) will write a letter that can be sent to all the churches regarding the Racial Reconciliation Movement and the process for moving forward
- Gail will look into creating a classified ad that can be included in the e-bulletin board promoting RRM
- Gail will get buttons made that say "ask me about" with logo for folks to wear at Annual Conference.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 4, at noon. Remote participation will be arranged.

GA Everyone,

There are items that would move our conference forward from passive to aggressive. I truly believe the initiative stated below will have Bishop Ough leaving the episcopacy as a roaring lion, even more so.

1. GCORR needs to be a mandate for every church in the Dakota/Minnesota Conference, through the introduction and implementation of Vital Conversations, sermons, etc., This mandate would require/ inform all UM churches of white supremacy racism, while some parishioners believe WSR does not exist and that they do not have “privilege” because for some reason they relate privilege to bank accounts, and to zeroes, behind the comma.
2. Clergy should be held accountable for the implementation of Vital Conversations, within their congregations.
3. Training should be given to CORR and BMCR for implicit bias, racial reconciliation, and hands-on courses, to name a few to address/ assist congregations, moving forward, as has Starbucks who recently addressed its company’s etiquette and profiling towards African Americans, through training, via the of sharing videos produced by Stanley Nelson:(<https://time.com/5294343/Starbucks-employees-racial-bias-training/>), and exercises via workbooks, and journaling etc.,
4. Also this group should begin the Integration process with others doing the work of dismantling racism, within the church, such as Christ Rochester, etc., and creating through a partnership or an agenda of some sort, to view their models/perspectives, to dialog, to have conversations, and to Skype, etc.
5. MN/SD/ND, should be having those hard conversations across the conference until the shouting and the yelling matches quiet down, until the “church” of white America begins to truly see the color and the legitimacy of all people but particularly those people who are black and brown. This work will not be completed overnight, but we should not sleep, because we have work to do, we have a mission.

But more importantly to dialog with the Bishop to discuss mandate initiatives and the enforcement of policy across the Midwest Conference (MN, SD, and ND) article 5 BOD. FYI-The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964; that was fifty-five years ago, and in 2019 and beyond the church should be leading the charge towards civility in America, let’s put Minnesota and the Dakotas on the map, towards Racial Reconciliation.