

Sessions Action Team
Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2018
10:00-12:00

Present: Marianne Ozanne, Sessions co-leader; Cindy Gregorson, Director of Ministries; Bishop Bruce Ough; Barb Brower, Director of Finance & Administration; Karla Hovde, Communications Specialist; Gail Johnson, Events Coordinator; Dave Nuckols, Co-Lay Leader; Paula Colton, Sessions Worship leader; Janet Beard, Conference Secretary;

1. Devotions – Marianne opened the meeting with prayer.

2. 2018 Annual Conference Session

a. Communications

- i. Logo – Karla distributed copies of the official logo and described the look of the larger graphic.
- ii. Upcoming deadlines – Karla sent a revised copy of the Communications Deadlines document. Changes were made by Janet Beard on the legislation deadlines to comply with our policy and procedures manual guidelines.
- iii. Love Offering – Bishop will be providing his letter to Karla soon. Information is available on the website and materials will be prepared in February.

b. Schedule

- i. Reviewed overall schedule and flow – highlights and changes noted below.

TUESDAY:

- Ideas for Pre-conference workshops focused on Discipleship are: Generosity-Diane Owen; Small Groups-Stacey Vanderwerf; Evangelistic Task-?; Children's Ministry-Cindy Yanchury; HCI practical topics: Breakthrough Prayer/Guest Readiness/Radical Hospitality or panel of pastors HCI sharing their experience (short presentation, Q&A); Hard Conversations – Susan Nienaber. (Gail will check on childcare availability)
- Childcare will be available for children up to age 10; there will be no camp since most children are still in school during this week.
- The Celebration Dinner will include all those being honored during the worship on Friday afternoon (including LLPs). All gifts will be distributed during the dinner instead of during the worship, except for the LLP crosses and the Ordinand stoles. Pictures will be taken this evening – LLPs will be encouraged to wear robes for pictures. Rehearsal for Friday's worship will immediately follow the dinner.

WEDNESDAY:

- Marianne and Carol will plan the Maximizing Conference workshop at 9:00.
- Paula talked about music for all the worship services – the band from Rochester: Christ UMC will provide music throughout AC, and the band from Mpls: Park Ave UMC will provide music for the Celebration of Life in Ministry worship. (Bishop mentioned that Park Ave has a young singer who offers inspiring solos.) Paula will also be working on visuals using a similar process/format as last year.
- Gail will be setting up one of the District lunches at the Marriott.
- Joelle Anderson is helping plan the Carrie Newcomer celebration night. Ideas include many family fun events like ice cream floats, slime, lawn bean

bag toss, board games, etc. Suggestion was made to have video presentations highlighting the three Love Offering recipients be shown, along with table displays of these missions during the event. Gail will be asking St. Cloud: Grace UMC to help host this event, and 'advertise' in the community.

THURSDAY:

- Morning worship (conference preacher, Tyler Sit) may include celebration of the UMC 50th Anniversary of the Methodist/United Brethren merger which occurred in 1968. (This might kick off the 'unity' theme for the day.) Paula will explore this idea. Karla and Christa may do an article series on the 50th Anniversary as well.
- After much discussion, it was decided that the Conversation on a Way Forward will remain in the schedule at 10:30am Thursday morning and will be planned/organized by the Delegation to GC, the Human Sexuality Task Force and Bishop Ough. The theme would advocate unity; would avoid debate and encourage healthy discussion; may include TED type talks related to the Commission goals of unity, contextualization and mission to encourage discussion. Information about the process the Commission used, the recommendation which resulted, and the next steps (GC Special Session) would be included as well.
- It was also decided that the clergy/laity sessions would be moved to Thursday evening, 7:00-8:30pm.

FRIDAY

- After much discussion, it was decided that the Act of Reconciliation worship would move to Friday morning, 8:00-9:00am and would be a worshipful teaching time around Native American reconciliation. (Red Rock return is not ready to happen and leadership and time for planning a meaningful reconciling worship are not available this year.) Cindy will contact CONAM about helping to plan this hour. Ideas included Native American storytelling, coffee and muffins available on the tables.
- Appointments will be read in the Wesleyan tradition immediately before closing motions. Closing motions should include language about being adjourned FOLLOWING the Service of Life in Ministry Worship (SLMW).
- Gail will provide sponsors (Seminaries, etc.) with opportunity to gather for lunch on Friday if they so choose.
- The SLMW booklet will include less liturgy and no song words, since it's difficult to read in the dark, and projections are working well. Basic order of worship, lists of all honorees, retiree biographies, and worship participants will be included in the booklet. Deadline for all information going into the booklet is May 1 (including LLP appointments, deaths, etc.)
- More 'Guides/Shepherds' will be assigned to the various groups being honored during the SLMW in order to create smoother transitions and movement during worship.

3. Joint MN/Dak Conference 2020 update – Cindy reported that the Extended Cabinets from both conferences have voted to go ahead with this plan. The dates include the week of June 9-June 13, with the following schedule:

June 9 – Loading day

June 10 – MN only

June 11-12 – MN/Dak Joint

June 13 – Dak only

The conference will be held in Sioux Falls. The Bishop will set the dates, and the MN AC will vote on location this year.

4. Closing
 - a. Meeting Schedule – 10:00am at the conference office:
 - i. Wed April 4
 - ii. Mon June 18
 - b. Updates for next meeting:
 - i. Review/approve legislation
 - ii. Review/approve/plan plenary sessions

Meeting concluded at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Beard
Conference Secretary