



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

SESSIONS ACTION TEAM

Minutes for February 14, 2019, 10 a.m.

In attendance: Carol Zaagsma, Barb Brower, Karla Hovde, Gail Johnson, Rachael Warner, Janet Beard, Laura Miles, Bishop Bruce Ough; Cindy Gregorson, Marianne Ozanne, Christa Meland

1. **Devotions:** Carol shared an inspiring reading of “Important Things”, a poem by Mattie Stepanek, age three.
2. **2019 Annual Conference Session Prep (Dare to Reach: Love Boldly, June 18-20)**
 - a. Detailed Schedule Review
 - i. Review overall flow – Cindy reviewed the entire schedule.
 1. A ten-minute Corporate Session will be added Wednesday afternoon following the plenary session.
 2. There was discussion, idea sharing and clarification around the details of the Networking Meet-ups Wednesday Evening. This event will not be workshop oriented, but more a time for relationship building and conversation. There will be a host assigned for each group to lead a somewhat structured discussion. Food will be available, the resource fair open and a mission project may be offered. It will be a free-flowing time, however, Seminary groups could meet for 45 minutes at the end of the time (5:45-6:30).
 - ii. Worship plan
 1. Band and worship decor can be set up on Monday, and other timing was reviewed.
 2. Rachael and Erica hope to have outlines of all the worship services for review by Cindy and also Christa and the A/V providers in March. Different styles of worship and types of music will be planned; modeling good worship will be the goal.
 3. Discussed details around the closing worship – it will be important for this to feel like a sending forth as people bound together, rather than as individuals going separate ways.
 4. Details of CLM worship were also discussed. It was decided to change the time of worship from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30.
 5. The love offering will include both the typical monetary offering, and cards which individual members will complete with names of people as well, so a plan will be needed for moving people through this.
 6. A suggestion was made to have the worship leader, Matt Reeves, begin each session with music, as well as providing worship leadership.
 - iii. Pre-Conference Events – These will happen from 10:00-12:00 on Tuesday morning. The rooms are currently full. Gail can reserve more rooms, however there will be an additional fee, and she will need to know ASAP if there are any to add.

- b. Upcoming Communications deadlines – Everything is on track at this point. Love Offering materials are going to the printer soon. The call for award nominations and legislation will be happening later this month. It was decided that bios for anyone interested in being elected for the General Conference 2020 delegation would be included in that call later this month, and would have the same deadline for submission, April 1. Christa will update the online form for this.

3. Joint MN/Dak Conference 2020 Update (June 10-12, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD)

- a. Brief outline of the schedule includes:
 - i. Wednesday: 3:00 MN Opening worship (Bishop Sally Dyck preaching, and honoring of retirees, LLPs, etc.); Dinner; 6:30-9:30 MN Plenary including all legislation.
 - ii. Thursday: Joint teaching time, themed around 200 years of Global Mission.
 - iii. Thursday evening: Joint commissioning and ordination worship
 - iv. Friday: Joint gathering including the episcopal address, missional report, and awards; Lunch; Bishop ‘bash’ celebration; 3:00 closing for MN.
 - v. It was noted that the Clergy session will be held in May at a separate gathering, and there may be a joint Laity Session on Wednesday at 1:00, or no laity session in 2020.
 - vi. DAK will complete their plenary and other business on Friday evening and Saturday.
- b. There are three separate spaces reserved for the event: one for joint meetings, one for food, and one for plenary session for each conference.
- c. It was suggested that it might be helpful to have registration and other basic info about AC 2020, available by AC 2019.
- d. Carol suggested Brian Andreas (FlyingEdna.com) as a resource.
- e. Sessions team will have a more limited scope in leadership for this conference. There may be one or two joint meetings with DAK sessions, otherwise small groups from each conference are working together to plan.
- f. Registration will be independent for each conference. There was some discussion about providing the opportunity for folks from both conferences to attend the whole event.

4. Closing

- a. Meeting Schedule:
 - i. CHANGE: Friday, May 3 10am-12noon
 - ii. Thursday, July 25 10am – 12noon

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Beard, Conference Secretary & Registrar