

## Communications Covenanted Ministry

October 11, 2016

Present: Laura Mignerone, Mona Herberg, Nia Chandler, Linda Stenger, Ginny Brown Daniel, Rick Oberle, Bob Atkinson, Renee Cordes and Cherie Stolze.

Carole Barner and Ken Ulmer sent their regrets.

The CCM met via WebEx on October 11. Nia opened the meeting with a prayer.

Rick emailed several documents prior to the meeting including Nia Chandler's resume, our Proposed Charter, Notes from CAPE and the Proposed Covenant for tele-video equipment; along with an agenda for today's meeting, minutes from our meeting August 2, and a "request for access to communications center".

Ginny started us off with news about Conference Life. She told us that she is speaking in many places about Stewardship and Generosity, and would like to have us brainstorm a way to communicate her message to local churches; perhaps in the form of a TED talk type forum. She has had one video chat with 20/30 clergy with 3 participants and 5 more interested in the next one. She talked about General Synod next year and CAG- perhaps the CCM can work on ways to communicate these events to the Missouri Mid South congregations. She talked a bit about her videos in the e-courier and has been a bit (pleasantly) surprised that the audience tends to be older than she thought for these.

We went over the minutes from our last meeting and approved them by common consent.

Rick introduced Nia as our new Conference Communications Consultant. Her position is currently for 18 months and will help us put into place the dreams that we are envisioning about communicating as a Conference. She talked about her vision and possibilities for communication, and how she will work with us. She has met with some of the Conference stakeholders, and has plans to meet with more. Her goals for this quarter are:

- Connect with every key stakeholder, Covenanted Ministry leaders, etc.
- Work with Renee to accomplish goals regarding web, etc.
- Work with Miller Group for tech support
- Assess our two video centers and make sure they are working well
- Begin developing a strategy for resourcing the entire Conference; ie, giving Covenanted Ministries access to "landing page" on our website to post their materials (permission based access)
- Develop Covenanted Ministry "landing pages" on the web
- Assist the Youth Leaders Covenanted Ministry with advertising and recruitment

- Provide staff support to this Covenanted Ministry (along with Renee)

Covenanted Ministry Team members asked questions of Nia:

Bob: We are having problems with WebEx; will we look at other platforms?

Nia: Yes, we will evaluate go to meeting and others to determine what is best for us

Ginny: Has had good experiences with go to meeting; we can afford it if it works best

Rick: We are by no means devoted to WebEx; we will use whatever suits our purposes

Bob: Should we be focusing so much energy on Communications Centers?

Nia: Not necessarily. We will evaluate and see if this is the direction we want to head

Rick: We will re-evaluate priorities constantly; what was best then may not be best now

Ginny: Can we offer online training courses for local church officers?

Nia: Absolutely; there are many platforms for this.

Rick: We must always be thinking outside the box in this ministry, trying new ideas.

Nia: will be focusing on Covenanted Ministries as the Conference community

CAPE Report: Rick presented the CAPE report that was emailed earlier. Andy Mockridge and Scott Alvestead from Mayview were integral parts of this discussion, as was Laura Mignerone, who has joined this Covenanted Ministry and Debby Harness, who sat in on the meeting for a bit. Information is contained in the document. One item of note that Rick lifted up was the sense of dis-ease since the demise of the print Courier. Everyone in the room has felt a great separation in their churches from the Conference, attributed to the loss of this print publication. By ending this publication, Scott stated that we “shot ourselves in the foot.” Rick has heard this echoed many times in the Conference.

We went thru the agenda, discussing each item. We will leave the next three Communications Centers on the table for 2017 for now; we can reevaluate and reassess the importance of these once the two we have are running well. Rick complimented Ken for coming in “under budget” for the Jackson Center. We had budgeted \$2500 for this center, and he only spent \$1700. Much cheaper than we thought. Great work, Ken!

Rick introduced the revised Covenant for tele-video equipment. This removes all references to “WebEx Center” since it is not a “WebEx Center” it is a “Conference Communications Center”. He removed the line that was in bold type that did not apply to this agreement, and added a line (#9) that prohibits the equipment from being used for personal, profiteering, or partisan political purposes. The agreement was approved unanimously; Rick will forward it to David Mehl to be approved at the Conference Council’s next meeting (October 15).

We discussed the Communications Covenanted Ministry Charter. Rick presented the charter we approved in February, with a few simple changes to make it fit into the

“Covenanted Ministry Template” that was presented to us. Our purpose bullet points remain, our membership structure, allowing ad-hoc and ecumenical members remains, and our accountability to Local Church Ministries, in accordance to the Conference By-Laws, remains. Linda Stenger will remain on this Covenanted Ministry, whether she is on LCM or not; her worth is far greater than the standing committee on which she sits. The Charter was approved unanimously. Rick will forward it to David Mehl to be approved at the Conference Council’s next meeting (October 15).

We discussed the next mailing. The gathering at CAPE affirmed the worth of these mailings, and the desire to have more such communication across the Conference. Nia is committed to helping ensure that these mailings happen quarterly, as is Rick. They will work with Renee to get another mailing out in November advertising Conference events coming up in the first quarter of 2017.

Our next meeting will be November 15 at 11:00am; Rick will send out a WebEx invitation.

Cherie Stolze closed the meeting with a prayer.