

ADMIN TEAM MEETING
April 6, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
Peace Reformed, Sioux City, IA

Present: Iris Shaffer, Lori Walber, Denny Brand, Seth Sundstrom, Bob Rook, Rick Timmer, Ivan Wiersema, Charlotte Foreman, John Buseman, Evan Vermeer, John Sikkink, and Alicia Beaver.

Introductions of new members: Rick Timmer, Minnesota Representative, and Seth Sundstrom, Dakota Representative.

Mission/Vision/Values Statement was reviewed.

President Report – Iris Shaffer.

The evening news is filled with horrific happenings in our world. Shootings, child abuse, disasters, robberies, to name a few. Yes, the world needs the Gospel of Christ now more than ever. As the Synod of the Heartland we are trying to meet this need. According to our mission statement, our Synod is a fellowship of congregations called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in the world.

The churches are seeing the need to reach beyond their front doors and are trying to make an impact on their communities. Some of our churches are struggling to find “their community”. I am sure God through the Holy Spirit will lead them in their quest.

The new church starts are striving to reach people who look “different” than themselves. Reaching the poor, the down trodden, those who have never heard the word of God or who have never experienced the love of others, those who have had a bad experience with the church in the past, those who are struggling with addictions, and across cultural barriers. Reaching out to help them come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

As we share the Gospel of Jesus we need to ask ourselves “What am I willing to give up that others might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?” It might be something as insufficient as what pew we usually sit in or where we usually park in the parking lot. Many are caught up in the type of service “traditional or contemporary”. Many of you have heard me say many times: “It’s not about me”. This is what we have to remember.

The Synod is providing many activities to reach our young people: Middle School Retreat, HIS Work Camps, Power Connection Work Camp, LOH Retreat, Youth Clusters, and Rocky Mountain High. As the Youth Director for our Synod states in his annual report “We are building a foundation of individuals committed to God and His desire to bless the Church through them”.

Our regional ministers are providing leadership by working with the various classes to assist in casting the vision for revitalization, assisting churches that are vacant, and working with the classis commissions

to provide assistance in the rapid response to churches that experience crisis. They are helping to develop measurement tools consistent with classis measurement tools, in order to assist churches in their response to the “Our Call” ten year goals. Also, they work with pastor networks training facilitators and assisting churches and regions to host prayer events challenging churches to become Houses of Prayer.

As with anything in life, we have faced disappointments. It has been necessary to close some of our churches. This is a very painful process for all those involved. As it is said, when God closes a door he opens a window. We must pray and trust that he in fact will open a window.

With the advancement of technology our world changes daily. The cell phone, TV or computer you purchase just a few short months ago is already outdated. We have something to offer that is never outdated – the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The scripture tells us that the “harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”. As a Synod we must continue to find ways to encourage people to become more than “pew warmers”. We must seek and train workers for the harvest.

On the cover of a recent RCA Today magazine the following scripture was quoted: “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up.” Paul in these words challenged the Galatians and he is challenging us to keep on doing good and to trust God for the results.

Even with our struggles to live out our mission, we can take comfort in the fact that God is in charge and as the scripture says we will reap the harvest if we do not give up.

Iris Shaffer
Synod of the Heartland President

Staff Reports – Staff Reports were discussed.

Salary Guidelines – Staff salaries were adjusted by 2% January 1, 2011. Performance adjustment of 1% available July 1, 2011, after the completion of reviews by steering teams.

GSC Report – John Buseman and Evan Vermeer reported.

GSC approved the recommendation of the General Synod Secretary Search Committee to appoint Rev. Tom DeVries as the next General Secretary. They looked at the assessment issue. General Synod in June will be a celebration of Wes’ finish and the start of a new General Secretary. The meeting is being done jointly with the Christian Reformed Church to save money. There will be a one-day overlap. There are three staff openings at this time. GSC is leading a denomination-wide discernment process that will culminate at an event, February 10-11, 2012, in Orlando, FL. They are asking each church to do the Discernment Process and then send a representative to report what is happening in their local church.

GSC is then going to take what comes out of this event and use it to shape staff and funding around the findings.

Finance Team Report

The 2010 Finance Team minutes and 2011 Finance Team minutes were reviewed and discussed, along with documents to support the data.

MMSC to approve the minutes of the Finance Team which includes the approval of the 2012 Proposed Program Budget and 2012 Proposed Partners In Possibilities Budget.

MMSC to have the Finance Team come back with a minimum surplus plan including what reserves are needed for a future staffing model and Synod operational budget.

Salary Guidelines Transition to RCA Guidelines

John Sikkink has been working with Sharon Hayes, the RCA Personnel Director, on developing guidelines for Synod staff according to levels of responsibility, tasks, and supervision. The document was reviewed and discussed.

MMSC to table the staff salary structure guidelines for future discussion.

Synod Coordinator's Evaluation – Executive Session

MMSC that the Admin Team affirms and thanks John and Betty Sikkink for their continued devotion and service to the Synod of the Heartland. They are commended for a job well done.

Nominations Report:

2011 NOMINATIONS REPORT

President: Iris Shaffer

Vice President Nomination: Ivan Wiersema

Past President: Bob Rook

Heartland Judicial Business Committee:

Randy Blumer	2011
Stan Vandersall	2012
Van Rathbun	2013
Wayne Van Heuvelen	2014
Nelson Hymans	2015

The Heartland Judicial Business Committee meets only upon request. The committee is constituted of three ministers and two elders. The membership needs to be from elders and ministers of the congregations or the regional synod members of the Synod of the Heartland.

2011 General Synod Delegate from the Synod of the Heartland: Iris Shaffer

Nomination to the RCA Commission on Judicial Business – John Terpstra

Administration Team 2011*

Central Iowa	Denny Brand – 2012 eligible for a second term
Central Plains	Charlotte Foreman – 2011 eligible for a second term
Dakota	Seth Sundstrom – 2013 eligible for a second term
East Sioux	Ivan Wiersema – 2012 eligible for a second term
Minnesota	Rick Timmer – 2014 eligible for a second term
Pleasant Prairie	Iris Shaffer – 2013 eligible for a second term
West Sioux	Bob Rook – 2011 finishes at the spring 2012 meeting

*Representatives finish their term at the spring meeting following the year they are stated to go off.

Finance Team 2011

Wayne Van Heuvelen
Dale Vander Wilt
Ivan Wiersema
Iris Shaffer
John Sikkink
Alicia Beaver
Dale Assink

MMSC to approve the nomination report with the change of Iris Shaffer as the Synod of the Heartland Representative to General Synod in 2011.

This was the last Admin Team meeting for Lori Walber. John Sikkink thanked her for her years of service and gave her a certificate of appreciation.

John Sikkink and Iris Shaffer closed the meeting with prayer.