

Southeast Oakland Cooperative of United Methodist Churches

Feb 28 meeting@ Ferndale

****Minutes are available online, through email, or to be picked up at Berkley 1st UMC.**

****Contact Info. for each member at end of minutes**

Members Present –

Rony Veska, Ferndale; Michael Cadotte, Ferndale; Ken Dowell, Beverly Hills; David Huseltine, Beverly Hills; George Covintree, Berkley; Jane Carvell, Berkley; Jen Butka, Berkley; Nancy Thompson, Berkley; Joan Allison, Clawson; Jean Isaacson, Clawson; Anita and Jim Brown, Clawson; Jim Thompson, Royal Oak St. Johns; Duane Miller, Detroit East District D.S.; Margaret Buccini, Embury

Big Question today: How do we squash fears from individuals at each church to encourage this?

Some members asked for suggestions from others about presenting this cooperative idea to the congregations and individual groups within a church. Discussion centered around presenting this as a positive – making change vs. the risks of not changing; what could happen if...

Talk to each individual group with their interests, trustees: purchasing, education: hire 1-2 directors, multiple Bible study opportunities at various locations, etc. Center the discussions around what matters most to that specific group.

Some shared information about working with a Clergy association (local clergy from different denominations). Berkley 1st shared how their STAGE Youth program got off the ground as a shared ministry by sharing how it worked within the community. Stressed that it was a hard sell to those who didn't have a lot to do with youth to pay for a youth director, but now it's incredibly successful!

It's important to remember there is NO big church in this group. We're not trying to swallow up any one church or congregation. This is a plan to help enhance ministry and let each church still have its own identity while creating a shared identity. St. Johns shared that their congregation needed a lot of reassurance and then eventually came around as this cooperative "thing" happened with Embury.

Carry on word that there is no interest from Dwayne or the conference to eliminate churches. Want to enhance our churches outreach and missions through this cooperative.

WHERE ARE WE IN THIS PROCESS?

We need to decide and make a commitment to try and make this cooperative work.

Looking at the Eastside Cooperative, are there steps we need to follow or things to do from "the powers that be"?

ESCoop. – very informal, but has director to coordinate (clergyperson); They do some events/mission opportunities together.

Conference has cooperative handbook for guidelines, but things change. We are groundbreaking- developing what will work for us and our churches.

****There is a real desire here to do more in this group.** Don't depend on a model and lose sight of what we want to achieve. We can initiate/formalize it and then go to cabinet for approval. Dwayne raised this coop. to cabinet and there were no negative comments. All know the hardships churches are facing, financial, membership, facilities, etc.

People are much more open now to change. Fear is not as prevalent. Our call and mission hasn't changed, but the way it has to happen is different. More are willing to do that. We are not locking anyone in to everything.

Our First Combined Event!!

Chris Schulte, Berkley 1st Education director, is eager to start working together!!

Chris has agreed to be the central person to contact regarding a **Cooperative Vacation Bible School effort!** Berkley 1st and Embury are doing Galactic Blast (Cokesbury). Embury is the 3rd week in June, Berkley is the last week in July. Chris has a contact person from Ferndale, Beverly Hills, and Ferndale. PLEASE get Jen a contact person from your church OR pass on Chris' information.

Chris Schulte, (248) 399-3698 (Berkley 1st phone) discipleship@berkley1stumc.org

Shared Information

- Ferndale – went “green”, with restrooms, paper products, etc. Rep willing to open up for other churches. Saving money.
- Clawson needs boxes – Boxes for layettes, 24x14x4 ½ suit boxes, cake boxes – Do we know anyone with connections to get boxes?
- Haiti – collections, but past deadline. We didn't meet to make kits. There still will be a need later, so now what? Ongoing issue for quite awhile. These are what we need to do on a campus idea. Get them ready for conference, house everything at one place. Further develop idea at next meeting. Jen has original list given for health kits.
- Ferndale and Berkley both shared community concert events with the group. Bring other events you'd like publicized to the next meeting.
- Clawson's SOS – no ministerial assoc. 2 Lutheran churches, 1 catholic come help because they don't want to host their own. Give a church an entire day to do everything. Need management team from host church to be there.

New Ideas

Clawson auto show – church does a community event for free. Bouncy thing, meal, craft, etc. Didn't get people in to churches yet, but planted the seeds.

**Ferndale has an open lot to do something like this for Dream Cruise!! Could be publicized and worked on through all churches. Berkley has an event during Fri. parade, St. Johns church at 14 and Woodward could host something. Multi campus event?

What To Consider

What ministry should we do together? Which activities do you want to focus on? Get feedback from congregations. What gets each church get excited?

**We want others to come to church – we can't offer this program now, but we can bring others to this other campus. Keep the ones you've got to use talents they have.

- Maybe need to start with Bible study to show it doesn't matter where it is, we all have same purpose.
- Programs are more than just kids – Young at Hearts at Berkley is senior program that can include everyone.
- Need an opportunity to do missions from our combined churches. IF PASSION IS THERE, IT WILL HAPPEN! WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT DOING MORE WORK, JUST MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

- Ferndale – Mission trips – Huron camps/ Michael’s parents have giant teepee that does programs. Have trips to do there. Methodist groups too. Sr. High groups.
- Clawson – youth mission trip to UP this year.
- Possible trip to Haiti – for adults at end of year.
- Lenten exchanges, pulpit exchanges, etc. Target areas to reach everyone’s interests.
- Church Women United – all campus events?

Suggested from Dwayne –

Get someone to rep. Christian ed from each church. Do brainstorming, more than this summer, for adults and kids.

Get someone as a Missions person (delegate) from each of the churches to help develop ideas.

What to Do Right Now!

Start a conversation with congregations about what and why we’re doing this, a statement, areas we want to emphasize. “You are a part of something greater.” Our goal is to Combine Mission and Ministry. Share these areas through the UMC community. (then we can share dates and specifics)

Jim Thompson, Elizabeth Hill, and George Covintree will work on development of mission/vision statement and title for our group.

****EVERYONE** – Every church needs to write a newsletter article regarding what this cooperative is doing. This will alleviate fears and get people thinking about this cooperative effort.

Communication, central calendar – block off for big events . SEND NEWSLETTERS TO EACH CHURCH!!

Jen Butka from Berkley and Ken Dowell from Beverly Hills will be communications volunteers; will work on avenues to disburse information. Talk to Ken regarding newsletters from each church possibly linked online.

CALENDER – Ken D. – Wiki concept for this group, anyone can come in, modify webpage. Add own dates, own contact people. Come up with key word/ someway to identify shared activities. Refer to things at “our Ferndale 1st campus” (for example) instead of at “that other church.”

UPDATE: Ken has set up a website for us – <http://se-oakland-cooperative.info/>

Username: praise Password: hisname

This is for information sharing in our outreach. Look for minutes, contact info, google map of churches, etc. If you have input regarding the electronic information and setup, bring it to the next meeting or contact Ken.

Next Meeting – March 28th, 4:00 pm-Beverly Hills – 13 and Evergreen, white church

Please RSVP if coming

Contact Information for Cooperative Members

Berkley 1st UMC - Jen Butka aktubmj@aol.com (248) 231-9421
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Jane Carvell jcarve@wowway.com
George Covintree, pastor georgecovintree@me.com or pastor@berkley1stumc.org

Beverly Hills - David Huseltine, pastor pastor@bhumc.com
Ken Dowell ken@dowell.ws

Clawson - church secretary email - clawsonumchurch@wowway.com
Jim and Anita Brown (248) 645-2493
Joan Allison (248) 646-4305
Jean Isaacson
Pastor?

Embury - Margaret Buccini phil-mar@comcast.net

St. Johns - Jim Thompson jthomp312@myway.com

St. Johns/Embury pastor - Elizabeth Hill elizabethhill@comcast.net

Ferndale 1st - Michael Cadotte mail@mcadotte.com (248) 388-2481
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Pastor?

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