

March 28, 2010 Cooperative Mtg.

Attendance:

David Huseltine

Ken Dowell

George Covintree

Michael Cadotte

Rony Veska

Jim and Anita Brown

Jean Isaacson

Joan Allison

Jen Butka

Jane Carvell

Nancy Thompson

Open prayer by George Covintree

News:

- George moving to St. Matthews in Livonia; Berkley getting a new pastor.
- Clawson – getting new pastor or sharing, finances dictating this; Expressed concern with membership; asking input on formal conversation with congregation about cooperative

Old Business:

1. Ferndale shared info on green purchasing, catalogues available.
2. Discussion around sharing info. with congregations regarding this group.
 - Clawson – shared resistance from congregants and committees; They are not on board. Respect the feelings of resistance, but people giving no feedback; strong sense of apathy. George met with pastor from Clawson for discussion.
 - Ferndale – shared with their members that there were no specifics worked out yet. Reassured others that this is not to close the church, talked to council, trustees, groups
 - Ken talked about document “We need to pray” – gives big picture options. www.bhumc.com/WeNeedToPray.pdf may offer suggestions, so refer to this article.

It’s important to continue discussion; What this cooperative effort could mean. We are taking baby steps, while others are concerned about details.

- Berkley – UMW: George presented to the group. They expressed fear at first of closing church; As discussion continues, they began to see how this could lead to wonderful expansion of what UMW could do. Positive feeling as to what they could do as a unit.

Ministry team was open to possibilities; Trustees wondering if \$ would be saved.

****GOOD DISCUSSION POINT** - Maybe instead of presenting it, tell groups what our concept is and that we’re excited, but we don’t know what those ideas are yet. Need help to see the big picture and find all the possibilities. Let other groups come up with how it will look. Go about it backwards.

Another suggestion was to maybe trade around, let others from this group go to other congregations and share what we’re doing and what we’re about. Maybe have Duane there to lead discussion.

- Margaret and Jim, in an earlier meeting, said their churches (Embury and St. Johns) were excited about this cooperative. Both are willing to come speak to churches about their experiences with two churches working together. Discussion centered around their shared pastoral leadership and this cooperative group. Jim said this is now just a bigger congregation to work with. Duane shared that part of process was slow and fearful, but fire forced them to do things together. Both realized both churches had a mission to do and they can rely on each other.
- Jane related the situation to the high schools in Royal Oak. When merging, the district put a team together to help make the transition. Changed everything to make it their own and started with little cooperative things. Way before they merged, small things were done cooperatively (sports teams, for example). Kind of like us and our baby steps!

New Business:

1. Mission/Vision statements

George, Margaret and Jim worked on Mission statement and vision for this group.

Draft statement is on website and our agenda.

- Mission – “We are called to be compassionate neighbors joined together in cooperative ministry.”
 - simple; information from rethink church, but not churchy language. Compassionate neighbors rings true for everyone and leads to lots of ministry opportunities.
- Vision –
 - Recognize and draw strength from the diversity of our churches and our communities.
 - Maintain, develop, and resource outreach ministries.
 - Collaborate and design Christian education, mission and spiritual development opportunities.
 - Ensure the strength and vitality of all our ministries through prayer and action.
 - Always be rethinking church.
 - doing things together, not UMC, but wide open. 5 parts of vision; Different gifts and graces, based on prayer, try new things and not tied to any specific area.

Reaction? – all liked mission statement; commented that neighbors is a great word to use. We are neighboring churches, but there are “human” neighbors who need to be church-ed. Mission statement can work into a great slogan.

Vision, too wordy? All based on spiritual development, should it be reworked? Vision is more indepth description of mission. Discussion on 2 and 3 bullet points. Some wondered on direction of the vision and if some could be unified. Shared Internal and Outreach differences; #2 develop and resource ministries that reach out in response to the needs of others. Take mission out of #3

Mission – agreed and accepted. Name/slogan of our cooperative - Compassionate Neighbors in Cooperative Ministry.

Vision – Changed #2

Maintain, develop and resource ministries that reach out to others.

Changed #3

Collaborate and design Christian education and spiritual development opportunities.

Decision was made to get mission/vision info to each church and in the newsletters – Ken emailed articles to use as template for anyone who wanted it.

2. Ferndale – Ministry opportunities - water ministry – handing out during dream cruise; possible monthly dinner; The big thing is not looking for a return. It's done for the sake of reaching out. Rony and Michael shared that there's excitement, energy just for having people in the pews, whether it's every week or not. But there was a case of multiple groups overlapping, this is a good problem! People need to remember sharing, and letting go – building usage, is it \$ or reaching out?
3. Are we really happening? Go big or go home. ☺ We are out of the if stage. Now it's the how. Oak Park, Madison Hgts, not present, both interested in participating; Hazel Park – only at first mtg., don't know if they are still interested.
4. April 24, 25 – UMC communities that are looking for opportunities for “changing the world”, emphasis on outreach, work in communities; Ken shared the need for Habitat workers in Madison Heights, \$285 thousand to build 3 houses; 1 in April and 2 in fall. Need workers!! No \$ involved. This is a great opportunity to get together with groups that want to be involved. Work now and/or fall. Site is ½ mile from MH church. Radio and TV advertising on this country wide endeavor. Advertising, press release, increase community awareness – meals for workers, water. Ken will send information via email this week. Discussed possibility of 25th worship to kick off, with banners advertising our cooperative.

*NOTE – Ken emailed info – Construction round 1 starts April 26. Group of 10-12 for a work day either 29, 30 or May 1. Could use people to work on organizing and executing lunch for workers on 29th and/or 30th. Construction round 2 is May 17-22nd. Beginning of that week for trim work, painting, finishing, etc. GET WORKERS, Contact info and send them to Ken?

Notes for the Good of the Order:

- VIM – mission, training for leaders to mission trips @Brighton First. Passed out at Bishops day. Please pass on information to anyone interested in doing this. Coordinator needs to go through training for their own trip.
- Clawson – Jean shared that there's a young lady interested in missions and outreach – wants to talk to someone to work together!

- George passed out resources for office staff personnel to know where to refer people if others need help – Katrina from Berkley First has one, all Berkley church secretaries met to develop this. We could expand upon this.
- FYI – Lutheran churches in South Oakland Co doing the same thing as cooperative mtgs.

FUN EVENTS –

Coffeehouse ConcertFundraiser! Sunday, Apr. 18th at 6:30 at Temple Emmanu-el, Oak Park 14450 W. 10 mile rd, between Coolidge and Greenfield.

This is a concert of many praise bands from the area, with goodies to buy, and great music! Suggested donation is \$15. All proceeds go to the Welcome Inn Homeless Shelter and South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (SOCH) Advertise to anyone who'd like to attend!

Next mtg. – Apr. 25 at 4:00 Clawson – invite others from your congregation to come!
205 N. Main, N.of 14.