

**Compassionate Neighbors in Cooperative Ministry**  
**Southeast Oakland Cooperative Parish**  
**Minutes**  
**6-6-10**

Meeting was hosted by Madison Heights UMC

**Attendees:** Nancy Thompson, Jane Carvell , Rev George Covintree (Berkley 1<sup>st</sup>), Rony Veska, Michael Cadotte (Ferndale 1<sup>st</sup>) Jim Thompson (RO St. John's) Jean Isaacson (Clawson) Deliza Lee, Rev Thomas Taylor (Madison Heights) Duane Miller (DS), Ken Dowell (Beverly Hills) Rev Elizabeth Hill (Embury/St Johns)

**George Covintree** opened the meeting at 4:10 by having those present introduce themselves. New to the group were Reverend Thomas Taylor and Deliza Lee, both from Madison Heights. George told a story about tower of Babel and Pentecost. In the presence of the Holy Spirit, people were able to understand each other even though they spoke different languages. He compared our experience as a cooperative - although we are made up of different churches, we are still able to understand each other and work together.

Review of April minutes

Ken passed out a contact list of participants that reflected changes in pastoral leadership as known so far.

Password to website:

praise  
hIsname

Ken talked about a way to access church calendar, and linking other church's events to your own newsletters. Email addresses, phone numbers are password protected for privacy. When you edit your contact information, it will send a password to your email.

Discussed name of group – advantage of keeping parish in title to differentiate from secular groups. Duane affirmed, suggesting we made need that to stay consistent with other conference cooperatives in getting funding, etc. Large, main name will be Compassionate Neighbors in Cooperative Ministry with Southeast Oakland Cooperative Parish as subtitle in smaller print.

Since George is leaving district, Rony Veska has volunteered to step up as chair of this group. Everyone approved.

Ken gave an update on Madison Heights Habitat build: should have finished up this week except for minor things. There should be a dedication within the next two weeks. Ken will distribute information when he gets it. There was extra food on first work day for cooperative, so food was delivered to neighbors on the street which was appreciated. Then some of those neighbors came to work site to find out how to sign up. Ken says there is a plan to build two more houses in Madison Heights probably in late August/September.

## VBS

Clawson, Beverly Hills and Berkley First are cooperating in their VBS program this year. 7/25-29. Adult program?

Ferndale also having an evening program, starting with a meal 6/28 – 7/1 6:30-8 pm. Will have an adult component.

Embury 6/21 - 23 5:30 – 8pm

St Johns 8/1-5 evening program with a meal

Madison Heights has not chosen their curriculum or dates yet, but are meeting next week to discuss. It was suggested they may want to use a curriculum that another church has used and is willing to share.

Discussed making an effort to help publicize each other's events and each of us making a concerted effort to attend and bring people from your congregation to help change attitudes about the opportunities the cooperative offers.

George began a discussion about a future coop event, possibly in conjunction with Dream Cruise or a fall event.

- Rony - Ferndale Clergy Assoc. sponsoring an extension of school lunch program at First Baptist. Need volunteers (need at least 2 people 5 days a week). Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA). Begins June 21 thru August 23.
- Mike talked about press releases and an email tree that he can share with us.
- Clawson kids have started a garden, Madison Heights starting a 1000 sq foot community garden to help meet food needs in community. Plan to expand to 7000 sq ft within 3-4 yrs.
- George Covintree reminded us that SOS has a new director. Suggested we invite him to a future meeting. Suggested working out a schedule between churches so geographically makes sense. Mike suggested the possibility of one church hosting for several weeks at a time so guests don't have to move so frequently. Other churches would come in to help.
- St John's community dinner – maybe another church can come in and offer it a second night in same location.
- Dream Cruise ideas: Ferndale has large lawn that they try to rent out, but if not, maybe cooperative can do something in that space. Trying to get away from fundraising mentality – giving away stuff for free
- .Madison Heights has talked about hosting a kid oriented Hot Wheel Fest
- Jim suggested big potluck kickoff for the cooperative – program, calendar. Put on agenda for August meeting to plan. Jane suggested a large map locating each church and average drive times between them.

- Duane: as you plan Bible studies for fall – make sure you advertise topics and meeting time within the coop and start talking about “this is happening at our Madison Heights campus”, etc.
- Decals for our church windows (cling) identifying us as members of the cooperative.
- George suggested we all choose the same advent curriculum this year and have studies at various times and locations for flexibility.
- Jim talked about a Bible study at a coffee shop - other neutral sites.
- Movie nights at Ferndale. Now have the technology. Cooperative activity: field trip, car pool. Madison Heights currently hosts a movie night – every other week.

Make sure all new pastors are brought up to speed about the activities of the cooperative. Bring calendar items to August meeting.

Ferndale has an in-house designer who may be willing to do a map, mission statement etc. for a joint event.

- Rony: semi regular party/potluck informal gets to know each other events.
- Deliza: newsletter – Christmas dates and fundraisers to get on calendars.
- Nancy: living nativity?

Rony offered up thanks to George for spearheading cooperative and inspiring us to “rethink church”

Duane: 10/9/10 Metropolitan 8:30- noon District conference Choir event – worship experience. Possibly 2 districts meeting together. Budgeting, open house for new union offices.

DS from Liberia coming here 7/17-7-26. Available for meeting groups at times other than Sunday mornings. Staying with Duane. A Leader in his conference already. His conference needs him to complete his education (masters degree) Raising money for his education. Could be a Cooperative event.

Closed in prayer by Elizabeth.

Next meeting: St John’s in RO August 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00