

## **Stewardship & Caring Team Meeting May 21, 2015 - NOTES**

**Present:** Rev. Dan Busch, Rev Jerry Fenske (17), Rev Steven Voelker (17), Sharon Fiely (18), Rev Adrian Sunday (16), Tom Maurer (16), Rev. Dave Borden (16), Pastor Bill Kerr (18)

Moderator Rev. David Voll (St. Paul UCC, Oak Harbor) welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Devotions:** Devotions were given by Rev. Dan Busch, with reference to Pentecost and Acts 2:43-47 and that it is a Holy Day that is an affirmation of Easter and our faith, and was followed by a prayer, lead by Rev Busch

### **ALL TEAM DISCUSSION:**

Rev Voll then explained that the tables we were seated around were by region. We then went around the room introducing ourselves, and what committee we were on.

We have discussion on meeting schedule of the various teams for the coming year. It was agreed to keep the schedule the same as this past year, with the dates being the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of November (11-19-2015); January (1-21-2016); March (3-17-2016)' and May (5-19-2016), with the time for each team as follows:

Stewardship and Caring Team from 9:00AM to 11:00AM  
El Salvador Coordinating Team from 11:00AM to 1:00 PM  
Witness and Proclamation Team 1:00PM to 2:30PM  
Faith Formation Team 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Rev. Dan Busch reviewed:

The NWOA Mission Statement – Proclaim the Gospel, public witness, and building the church for the future.

The NWOA Vision Statement – Need to be more involved in community. A stumbling block is how do we do it. Evangelism and needs of individuals

The NWOA Organization – Reviewed the chart and noted the changes.

We had a break and were also given an update on the plans and needs for the General Synod in Cleveland this summer.

We then broke up into our regional coordinating team meeting. The Sandusky Valley Region discussion included the project at Fairhaven and raising money for the project. Planning a regional meeting in September or October. Thinking of a prayer service before Ash Wed. at Sycamore on 2-7-16.

After the individual regional coordinating team meetings, we had a general discussion about the plans and ideas of each coordinating team. We then broke up in the various ministry teams, with non-team members from the regional coordinating team and cabinet members setting in with the ministry team of their choice..

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Pastor Bill Kerr lead the meeting with the following actions:

1. Fill Team Positions:

CHAIRMAN Pastor Bill Kerr

VICE CHAIRMAN Rev. Steven Voelker

SECRETARY Tom Maurer

REPRESENTATIVE TO LAKESHORE RCT Rev Dave Borden

REPRESENTATIVE TO AUGLAIZE VALLEY RCT Pastor Bill Kerr

REPRESENTATIVE TO SANDUSKY VALLEY RCT Rev. Steve Voelker

REPRESENTATIVE TO CABINET Rev David Borden

2. Meeting dates, times, location, devotions

All meetings to be held at the NWOA Association office in Tiffin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

**DEVOTIONS BY:**

Sept 17, 2015      9:00AM to 11:00AM      Pastor Bill Kerr

Nov 19, 2015      9:00AM to 11:00AM      Rev Adrian Sunday

Jan 21, 2016      9:00AM to 11:00AM      Rev Jerry Fenske

Mar 17, 2016      9:00AM to 11:00AM      Tom Maurer

May 19, 2016      9:00AM to 11:00AM      ALL TEAM EVENT

**Old Business:**

**We had general discussion on the status of the following business of the committee and possible direction.**

1. General discussion on the purpose and goals of the Stewardship and Caring Team. Hard to define the mission of this team. Each church operates differently. We cannot wait for ministers, but we need to offer programs. Send letter to Pastors. Stewardship is taking care of what God gives us. Choose something and work on it. Rev Rick Dorsch and Pastor Bill Kerr to work on this. We will continue to work on this item during the coming year. Consider expanding on what the NWOA does for churches. 1.8% giving is the average giving to the church in the U.C.C. The U.C.C. is a covenant church not a law church.

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2. Need to touch base with our churches to receive input on how we can help them. Additional thoughts included a survey or discussion with the churches. Consider having stewardship moments during the church service. Stewardship is a year around process, reaching out and caring. It is more than just money, it is time and talents. The church needs to communicate what the church is doing in the way of stewardship. The church has low expectations of what membership involves. Stewardship is a form of worship. Programs of caring about people, not money – Topics could be helping prevent strokes and heart attacks. Pastor Bill Kerr to draft letter, Doug Ricci to put together list of churches. Reviewed letter, important to establish active communications with churches, we need to establish focus on coming year. Key People for regions from this committee are: We changed the people responsible for establishing active communications with the churches to the links to the coordinating teams (Rev Dave Borden - Lakeshore, Pastor Bill Kerr – Auglaize Valley, Rev Rick Dorsch - Sandusky Valley) -No new information.
  
3. Rev. Busch informed us that the NWOA had used OCWM money to have access to the UCC Faith Practices resource and have it available to the churches. The only requirement is that we give credit to where we got the information from and we do not sell the data. The web site is [www.ucc.org/faith-practices/fp-secure](http://www.ucc.org/faith-practices/fp-secure) . We are asked to review the “Living Stewardship” area before the next meeting. Reviewed the “Living Stewardship” web site as part of the meeting. Rev. Busch suggested that it would be something someone could write an overall article on all the resource material available on this site. Tom Maurer did an overview of this web site and how much is there to choice from. Douglas Ricci to write an article for the Vine on the web site.
  
4. Thoughts on the 2015 NWOA Annual Meeting at St Stephen UCC in Sandusky on Saturday April 25, 2015. The theme is “Unexpected Places”. Considering asking Cathy Hunter about setting up a session, and asking Margaret Mills about finance. Other topics could include a session on the new web available resource, drugs, and a session on Marriage – God’s Design. Rev Wendy Schindler-Chasney said she will coordinate with Margaret Mills about a program on finance at the annual meeting. (This item move to old business for the March meeting). Connections were not made in time for meeting. Ideal for future planning. Reviewed the list of Forums to be at the Annual Meeting. **Great Annual Meeting – This item closed**

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### New Business:

1. **Articles on Stewardship for the Vine.** All at this meeting thought that the articles during the past year were varied and very good. It was agreed to continue the articles. Joan needs the article by the 1<sup>st</sup> Tue of the month. The schedule is:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tom Maurer** – June, 2015 Article (did not submit)

\_\_\_\_\_ – July, 2015 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ – August, 2015 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ – September, 2015 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ – October, 2015 article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pastor Bill Kerr** – November, 2015 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tom Maurer** – December, 2015 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rev Jerry Fenske** – January, 2016 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rev. Dave Borden** – February, 2016 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pastor Bill Kerr** – March, 2016 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rev. Steve Voelker** – April, 2016 Article

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rev Adrian Sunday** – May, 2016 Article

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2015**

**Devotions by Pastor Bill Kerr**

#### **Possible Future Action Items:**

1. Budgeting Workshop
2. Estate planning workshop – (Name from Bellevue UCC given)
3. Writing expanded details of guidelines for the committee.
4. Commitment – (to serve on committee and your church)
5. Caring for the caregiver –(for reference Catherine Lawrence and Becky King of United Church Homes)
6. Health Ministry/Parish Nursing

#### **Other Topics:**

1. New conference position, status of camps, status of the conference.
2. **EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY PROGRAM – 50% of the pastors involved**

**Respectfully submitted by Tom Maurer**