

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES

MARCH 15, 2012

PRESENT: Rev. Dan Busch, Rev. Steve Mortach, Madeline Klingensmith, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Rev. Jon Mummert, Bev. Plattner, Kathy Tashima, Mary Court

DEVOTIONS: Mary Court shared excerpt of If Grace Is True by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland.

Minutes from the November 17, 2012 were approved.

EL SALVADOR UPDATE- Madeline reported to the group that the travelers met on March 15 at 1:00 to share pictures and evaluate the trip. A banner with children's hands was shared as well as comments about the effects of the SARA built well on the 191 families it benefitted. Another group from New Bremen will be traveling to El Salvador in June (?). These will be students from that church carrying more supplies and participating in the mission experiences. The group is pondering ways to keep the El Salvador partnership in front of our members in Northwest through Vine inserts and visits to churches by those taking the trip. There will be a forum at the spring meeting in April where the delegation will also share.

GREEN PROJECT: Terry has submitted and will be submitting items for The Vine. No applications have been received as of March 12 (the deadline). It was decided to request that Joan e-mail an announcement that the deadline has been extended to April 12. This will be separate from The Vine. Dan's name needs to be added to the award certificate and Kathy will do this.

MISSION QUESTIONNAIRE- Prior to the meeting only seven had been submitted. Two more were submitted at the meeting. Kathy will add to The Vine additional sharing items gleaned from the submitted questionnaires. It was discussed whether to contact churches that had not turned them in, (perhaps they could not download) but no decision was made.

MISSION 1- Terry shared that to date 9000 food items were contributed along with 60 letters sent and \$4500 from NWOA churches who had reported.

PATTON AWARDS- No applications have been submitted yet, but that award is given in June so a later deadline is possible.

LIFE STRAW PROJECT- Terry shared information on where to purchase them. She mentioned that her church had teamed with the Florida Rotary for shipping them to Haiti. Witness and Proclamation will not pursue this as a committee at this time, but individual churches could do so.

REGIONAL REPORTS- Witness and Proclamation still needs a minister rep from Auglaize. It was shared that the Lakeshore choir fest at Genoa was a success. All in attendance and participating seem to enjoy the music and the fellowship. Sandusky has not met. Auglaize had a regional meeting at Wapakoneta sharing music from the Sing, Prayer, and Praise hymnal.

APRIL 28,2012 SPRING MEETING AT TRINITY UCC, ELLISTON- Dan shared that Elliston is not on the map, but it still exists! He gave directions and shared information on Dr. Alice Hunt, President of Chicago Theological Seminary, and the keynote speaker. He also shared the forum topics including human trafficking, healthy congregations, Jim Henry (OCWM?), electronic funds transfer, and El Salvador. The team will have the Green Poster as well as one detailing the work of Witness and Proclamation Team on display that day. Terry will create (or challenge someone else to create!) the W & P poster since the Green Poster already exists.

The next meeting of Witness and Proclamation will be at 3:30 on May 17, 2012. Terry Kohanski will lead the devotions.

John led the closing prayer.

Mary Court

Substituting for Lynda Weininger

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES
May 17, 2012

Present: Madeline Klingensmith, Rev. John Mummert, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Mrs. Jan Pennington, Kathy Tashima, Mary Court, Ruth Whitten

Devotions: Rev. Terry Kohanski shared a dialogue between God and a person reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Reorganization of the Team: Rev. Dan Busch led the reorganization

Chair: Mrs. Mary Court
Secretary: Rev. Terry Kohanski
Link to Cabinet: Mrs. Mary Court

Regional Link –

- Auglaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team: ___
- Lakeshore Regional Coordinating Team: Ms. Madeline Klingensmith
- Sandusky Regional Coordinating Team: Rev. John Mummert

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from March 15, 2012 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

El Salvador: Eight youth and 5 adults leave 5/31/2012 for El Salvador. They will return 6/6/2012. They are seeking ideas and helping with Vacation Bible School. Another trip from NWOA is being planned for 3/6/2013.

Oct 7, 2012, World Wide Communion Sunday, is an excellent day to promote our partnership with El Salvador. We have been invited by Bishop Gomez to come for a 50th anniversary in 2013.

Green Project: Terry has articles submitted to the Vine through the month of September. She will continue to submit articles. 5 churches received the Green Award at the NWOA Assoc Gathering. An information board was made and placed at the Association Gathering. Small Packets of Green Low Suds Detergent were given away.

Mission Questionnaire: A total of 12 questionnaires were received out of 81 churches

NEW BUSINESS:

Paton Award: St. John's Tiffin made application of the many accessibility changes including Parking, Rails, and Bathroom facilities. Mrs. Kathy Tashima moved. Rev. John Mummert seconded. Passed. Application sent to Conference.

Regional Reports: Lakeshore reported a successful Song Fest with 154 people attending. They plan to repeat it again. February 10, 2013 is the target date. A possible Advent Devotion is under discussion.

Sandusky reports they had a Disaster Kit Assembly on Oct. 14, 2011.

Auglaize had no report.

Grace Community Center: has a new director Elaine Page. She is interested in renewing the Christian roots of Grace Community Center. Mrs. Kathy Tashima will invite her for either the Sept. or November meeting.

All Team Meeting: Will be on August 25, 2012 at First UCC in Findlay. Madeline, Terry and Kathy already have other plans and will be unable to attend.

Meeting Time: A starting time of 3:00pm was approved for the 2012-13 year.

Meeting Dates:

- 9/20/12 (Madeline, Devotions)
- 11/15/12 (John, Devotions)
- 1/17/13 (Ruth, Devotions)
- 3/21/13 (Terry Devotions)
- 5/16/13 (Jan, Devotions)

Next meeting of the Witness and Proclamation Team will be at 3pm on 9/20/2012.

We shared a little information about ourselves and then closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Kohanski, Secretary

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES
September 20, 2012

Present: Madeline Klingensmith, Rev. John Mummert, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Mrs. Jan Pennington, Mary Court, Ruth Whitten, Dan Busch

Devotions: Madeline Klingensmith shared a devotion based on Hebrews 13:1-2, 8 – All creation is beautiful...Christians need to practice peace and love in their own lives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from May 17, 2012 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

We still need an Auglaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team Link.

El Salvador: A trip for about 15 in March, divided between NWOA and Heidelberg Students is being planned. A rough figure of \$1,300 – 1,400 is the anticipated cost per participant.

Mission Questionnaire: No update as to number of questionnaires received. At last meeting it had been 12 churches out of 81.

NEW BUSINESS:

All Team Meeting: Our only representative was Mary Court. She reported that the new Lay Board was announced and that the same three questions were given to each team to look at in regards to structure weakness and strength and challenges that may be ahead that could require changes.

There was discussion that there was not enough time at the Spring Gathering for people to look at the displays. The suggestion was that the day could be lengthened. There is still discussion about adding a Fall Gathering. It was also discussed if there could be a way to shorten the amount of time spent for the ordination candidates at the meeting.

Also discussed was: are clusters of churches close together being used versus the system we now use better?

Paton Award: It has been suggested that we pull together a list of the NWOA churches who have received the Paton Award. Then we confer with Dan Busch about churches he feels can not make adequate changes because of architectural design or financial constraints because of the architecture. Take the churches that are left and have members of this team send personal letters, with an application that provides the outline of what is needed to receive the award, and invite the pastors of these churches to bring it to their congregation. Maybe there are those out there that have forgotten about the award or are newer and are not aware of it.

Green Project: Terry Kohanski will write a monthly, small article about being Green for the Vine. She will also gather more information regarding Mission 4/1 Earth Day for our group to publicize.

El Salvador: A trip for about 15 in March, divided between NWOA and Heidelberg Students is being planned. A rough figure of \$1,300 – 1,400 is the anticipated cost per participant.

Bishop Gomez will be here for the Annual Gatherings in April, as well as the author of Child of Promise, Child of Blessing, and Ronald Cole-Turner. Two wonderful speakers to have.

Oct 7, 2012, World Wide Communion Sunday, is an excellent day to promote our partnership with El Salvador. Mary Court will email a litany that has been prepared for use in UCC churches to celebrate our partnership with El Salvador Iglesias Luterana.

Mission Questionnaire: The question was raised if we should do the survey again this year. We received at least 12 replies out of the 81 that were sent out last year.

Regional Reports: no reports were given,

Clean up & Personal care kits: A reminder that these kits are needed year round.

We reviewed the description of the Witness & Proclamation Team duties and mission.

Brainstorming of what we could do in the future to fulfill the mission of the team was done. As a result:

- a) John Mummert will write a Peace Liturgy and present it in November.
- b) Peace Poles could be brought up to the churches with the idea that it can include languages that reflect your surrounding neighborhood, as well as the traditional languages. They come in 4 or 6 sided, in wood, plastic etc.
- c) Mission 4/1 will be promoted by our team as information comes in.
- d) The Islamic Center Spring Dinner and Summer International Festival (Sept 13 & 14, 2013) will be promoted.
- e) Promote understanding the LGBT groups as a step towards peace. Vince Lavieri will be asked to write an informative, short article for the Vine regarding this issue. Only a paragraph or two is needed.
- f) Question is WHO promotes CUE. It was decided that there was already good promotion of OCWM, OGHS and the rest of the Five for Five by other resources.

<u>Meeting Dates:</u>	11/15/12 (John, Devotions)	3/21/13 (Terry Devotions)
	1/17/13 (Ruth, Devotions)	5/16/13 (Jan, Devotions)

Elaine Page from Grace Community Center will give a 15-25minute presentation at our next meeting which is November 15, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Kohanski, Secretary

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION MINUTES

November 15, 2012

Present: Madeline Klingensmith, Rev. John Mummert, Rev. Terry Kohanski, Mrs. Jan Pennington, Mary Court, Kathy Tashima, Ruth Whitten, Rev. Dan Busch

Devotions: John Mummert shared a devotion reminding us we should remember the peacemakers who were active during the wars.

GUEST Elaine Paige, director of the Grace Community Center in the Toledo inner city area presented her vision of what Grace is and hopes to be in the future. They are looking to begin a Baby University, are currently working with Family Services on 10 week sessions for the education of young parents of children 0-3yrs of age(critical development age) and Leadership Toledo.

The only way out of poverty is through education because as it is said often “you don’t know what you don’t know.” This requires a lot of support. The NWOA UCC churches have been involved since it began. Elaine is looking for the support to be renewed. Dan Busch will be on the board and attend meetings when he is available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from Sept 20, 2012 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

We still need an AuGlaize Valley Regional Coordinating Team Link.

El Salvador: A trip, Feb 28 – March 6, divided between NWOA and Heidleberg Students/Supervisors is being planned. A rough figure of \$1,300 – 1.400 is the anticipated cost per participant. Asking help to start a suitcase.

Mission Questionnaire: 12 churches out of 81 had replied. Nothing new at this time.

Green Project: Articles for the Vine through March 2013 have been submitted. Information sheets for KYeP: Growing Faith in, Small Business Saturday and MISSION 4/1 EARTH were passed out.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH begins Easter Monday, April 1. It is asking that **we green up, power down, and shout out for the environment.** National is hoping to have all UCC Church report in and be able to total 1 million hours of engaged earth care, 100,000 tree plantings around the globe and 100,000 advocacy letters written regarding environmental concerns during this 50 day campaign.

KYeP “Growing Faith in” information is available at www.FaithinProject.com . You can register yourself and then create a community. Here you can share your stories, photos and videos of the great work that you already to. Show off how you’re living your faith and loving your community.

Paton Award: A list of all churches who have received this award should be ready soon. Then we can target churches who have made or are willing to make changes that

make it possible for people with a varieties of disabilities to worship in community with the church.

Clean up kits: With Super Storm Sandy many more Disaster Kits are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Peace Litany John Mummert brought us a “Litany of Resistance” by CPTer Jim Loney. It is a wonderful spiritual tool to use in reaction to violence.

El Salvador We received a beautiful note from Bishop Gomez in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Islamic Spring Dinner Due to the horrible hate crime, the burning of the Islamic Temple on Schreir Rd., Perrysburg, OH we are unable to reach the Center. The clean up and rebuilding of the school, kitchen area, and great hall will determine if it can be held. The International Festival in August 2013 will still be held.

We looked at the booklet that was passed out at the Multi Faith Prayer Service held the Sunday after the fire. Over 600 people came out in support.

LGBT Article We have not heard from Vince yet.

WHO is CUE

Information about who is responsible for CUE and who is the famous “MR CUE” who flew through the meetings was discussed.

Regional Reports: Lakeshore has scheduled a Choir Fest Feb 10, 2013 in Elmore, OH

Cabinet – Discussion of a May or June date for the All Team Event. Our Association Anniversary Meeting will be in Tiffin. Ronald Cole Turner, author of ‘Child of Blessing’ will be there. Science/Faith together will be studied.

Fall (Meeting) Celebration ‘Joy Continues’ may possibly happen.

In 2015 Cleveland will host the UCC Synod. Ohio will have to raise \$200,000 to put this event on.

Think about Church, Growth, Transformation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Kohanski, Secretary

Meeting Dates: 1/17/13 (Ruth, Devotions)
5/16/13 (Jan, Devotions)

3/21/13 (Terry Devotions)