

Stewardship & Caring Team Meeting

March 26, 2015

Present: Rev. Dan Busch, Douglas Ricci, Dr. Alan Mikesell, Tom Maurer, Rev. Dave Borden, Rev Steven Voelker.

Douglas Ricci called the team to order.

Devotions: Devotions were given by Douglas Ricci, with reference to Isaiah 64:8, and he referred to the book “Why nobody wants to go to Church”, and was followed by a prayer, lead by Douglas Ricci.

1. Meeting dates, times, location, devotions

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

DATE:

Mar 26, 2015

April 25, 2015

May 21, 2015

TIME:

9:00AM to 11:00AM

Saturday - NWOA Annual Meeting at St. Stephen UCC, Sandusky

9:00AM to 11:00AM

DEVOTIONS BY:

Doug Ricci (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Pastor Bill Kerr (TO BE HELD AT THE ALL-TEAM MEETING)

Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting were reviewed – 2 Typos changes, and the minutes accepted.

Old Business:

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 NOWA does for churches. 1.8% giving is the average giving to the church in the U.C.C. The U.C.C. is a Convenient church not a law church..**
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 - Lake Shore, Pastor Bill Kerr – Algaze. Rev Rick Dorsch - Sandusky) **-No new information.**
3. 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, and we decided to use the same schedule as last year. Joan needs the article by the 1st Tue of the month. The schedule is:

Rev. Rick Dorsch – February, 2015 Article

Stewardship & Caring Team Meeting – March 26, 2015 – Pg 2

Rev. Dave Borden – March, 2015 Article

Rev. Steve Voelker – April, 2015 Article – **may switch with Bill**

Pastor Bill Kerr – May, 2015 Article

Rev Wendy Schindler-Chasney is available as an alternate article writer. **Rev Wendy Schindler-Chasney said she would send an article for the Vine into the office.**

4. 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. 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.**
5. 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.**

New Business:

No new Business

Next Meeting: Thursday, May **21**, 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 Kathleen Lawrence and Becky King of United Church Homes)**
6. Health Ministry/Parish Nursing

Other Topics:

1. **Synod in Cleveland, OH, still looking for volunteers and money for the June 26-30 event.**
2. **New conference position, status of camps, status of the conference.**
3. **EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY PROGRAM – 50% of the pastors involved**

Respectfully submitted by Tom Maurer