

PACIFIC MISSION ACTION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 1, 2008

Meeting called to order by Gloria Edwards, Chairman at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes of the February 1 meeting were accepted as printed. H. Freeman was appointed secretary pro tem for today's meeting.

Present: G. Edwards, T. Chan, T. Hartmann, Chuck and Jean Brophy, G. Mohr, D. Reese, H. Freeman, P. Hoffmann, Jessica Lee, E. Vallejo, President Newton and special guest Pr. Tom Norris.

Gloria offered an opening prayer. Pr. David Reese prefaced Mission Fair plans and introduced Jessica Lee, who is taking Chris Fenske's place on the committee. Discussion on setting goals and objectives for the Mission Fair; adopted mission budget. 96 hats are left from last year, as well as some bracelets. Jan Sorge will be contacted re: any bracelets left from LWML Mite walk. Congregations will be asked to contribute \$50 each to Mission Fair expenses. Contact will be mostly by email via District Web Site, to cut down on printing and mailing costs. Further ideas will be flushed out at June meeting. Mission groups not funded at present time will be identified. Mission Festivals to now have been primarily ethnic, but Caucasians are also an ethnic mission group. Additional goal: increase youth involvement. Youth drama and music group; Enrique will work on this. Specifically invite John Whaley, who is responsible for all Ethnic Ministries for the District. Hayward will do mass mailing for people in the neighborhood; Good Shepherd will do booth for neighbors and follow up. Discussed kind of questions to be asked of other congregations visiting fair.

Identify: "Where do we go from here" versus only "What we have done to date." "Network 153" can get that info out also. Raise awareness of what we are and are doing. Get more use out of District web site. Letters are being sent to every mission group, especially in Region as well as District.

Special guest Pr. Tom Norris gave an update on phone call with committee in January. The web site is now operational. Network 153, with link to PodCast, offers Psalms and prayers. They are continuing to work on contacts with Lay Missionaries and House Groups. Obstacles are time and funding. Training will not be free. In response to: "How can PAC MAC help?" he asked to direct interested people and funding. Funding right now is enough to pay one person now helping. Looking forward – operation needs if future workers/helpers are needed. President Newton asked "What is the minimum amount of investment? What do you see as minimum to make this succeed?" Pr. Norris said that \$50 – 70 thousand per year would be needed for three years. In response to question would he be able to pull this off while still working in the congregation, he said that he would have to leave Faith congregation.

Gloria asked if he has funding plans. Pr. Norris said the goal of the website is connecting with one another and then planning connection in growth with plans to train 50 this year. Ted asked "How do you see funding?" Norris replied that there will probably always be funding needs, hopefully other sources of income will surface. The hope is that this is a part of what the church is becoming. President Newton noted that this is looked at as foundation; more people will be needed to administer as house groups grow – one person cannot do it all.

Chuck Brophy reported on problems in Green Valley and Greenhaven attempt to combine congregations. Both congregations are scheduled to vote on Sunday, agreeing that a paper ballot is needed. He is afraid of the fallout. They are deciding about the transformation process.

Is there a role for MACs? More requests for monies are being received. Funding via synod is coming to an end. Different set of realities must be built. The concept of “build a church and people will come” is changing. Look realistically at where all this is going. The church today is not capable of answering the questions from within of how this is developing. Pr. Hoffmann asked if any other groups alike are into these links. Pr. Norris said there is one in our area, others outside.

Pr. Hartmann gave details of having 150 churches in revitalization. Pres. Newton said we are battling with “hope-lessness.” Mission investment is the hope in our community. If we want to build mission-minded District, we have to start with building one mission-minded church. Pr. Mohr noted that Assembly of God, Hayward, grew from 500 worshipers to 1500. Pres. Newton noted that Synod’s changing structure not changing anything. There is resistance not because we don’t get it – really not wanting to get it. Tom’s mission is equipping leaders; how do we fund it?

MAC’s future is to be helpful and to help create hope; transformation of churches is critical. The Mission Fair is valuable in generating awareness of cross-cultural ministry. “We are mission minded, but someone changed the rules. We are a different world where church is not in charge.” We need to change – not ask for who wants grant funds; we need to be beside those missions where it is working. Pr. Reese noted the article, “Who Owns the Church,” stressing our fiduciary responsibilities, define clearly what mission is.

Pres. Newton stated that \$350,000 or \$400,000 is money set aside for 2009. This is designated in the budget for new and existing requests. Gloria questioned if we send out letters asking for applications and/or keep funding present projects. Gloria and Pres. Newton and Pr. Hartman will work on a letter informing congregations about the granting process and, especially, to encourage participation in the transformation process. He wants to dedicate next few years to feed congregations willing to change and be accountable. Gloria said we appreciate that Pres. Newton accepts that we don’t have all the answers yet but are willing to keep working on it.

Terry Chan offered the closing devotion, noting that this was Ascension Day. Acts 1 says to “Wait for the gift my Father promised. It is not for you to know the time.” Upcoming Pentecost is the birthday of the church, and Jesus reminds us “You will be my witnesses.” We think of ourselves under witness protection – a safe house!

The next meeting will be scheduled after a letter goes out.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Helen Freeman, Secretary Pro tem