

**Pacific Mission Action Council Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2008**

Present: T. Chan, G. Edwards, H. Freeman, T. Hartman, J. Hillmann, P. Hoffmann,
G. Mohr, D. Reese, E. Vallejo

1. Meeting called to order by G. Edwards, Chairman at 1310.
2. Pastor Hartman gave the opening devotion, reading from Romans 12:1-2. The focus of his devotion was offering our bodies as sacrifices to God and transforming our minds for how we can look at things. Regarding change, he provided the following changes that needed to occur:
 - a. Changing from a "self-focused" to an "others focused." A self-focused will lead to a dwindling congregation while an "others focused will allow for growth." We need to think about what we can do congregationally for others, not just ourselves. This is very difficult for most congregations to do.
 - b. Changing from "internally closed" to "externally open."
 - c. Changing from "others directed" to "self-directed." Others directed normally is to please others; to do what others want us to do, while self-directed we make the choice, not others for us.
 - d. Changing from "comfort driven" to "purpose driven."

Pastor Hartman believes these changes are necessary in both people and their congregations to expand Christ's ministry. It was also noted that any transformation is challenging.

3. The October 19, 2007 minutes were approved as written.
4. G. Edwards gave the council greetings from C. Fenske who has moved on to a new role with the district and will no longer be directly supporting the PAC MAC. G. Edwards further noted that C. Fenske will not be able to be on the Mission Festival Committee due to her new obligations.
5. G. Edwards opened the discussions on the Network 153 grant request that we received after our last meeting (Oct 19, 2007) and provided some history on how it occurred, including a meeting with Jon Coyne and Pastor Norris.. She began by reminding the council as to which grant requests were approved and the amounts. They are:
 - a. Good Shepherd, Hayward (Hispanic): \$28,000
 - b. Our Savior, Fremont: \$20,000
 - c. Mosaic, San Jose: \$46,000
 - d. St. Paul, Mountain View (Hispanic): \$20,000
 - e. Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Ministries – Northern California: \$9,000
 - f. First Immanuel, San Jose (Hispanic): \$6,000
 - g. Network 153, Pleasant Hill: \$60,000
6. G. Edwards informed the council that Pastor Norris would be calling at 1345 to provide input and to answer our questions on Network 153. Prior to his call, their

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was general discussion on Network 153, with the following highlighting those discussion:

- a. P. Hoffmann noted that President Newton had been requested by the District Board of Directors to have a balanced budget.
 - b. Due to this request, mission grant request dollars may require reductions to allow a balanced budget.
 - c. Based on comments by P. Hoffmann, T. Chan and J. Hillmann, there was a voiced concern on grant proposal due process being circumvented for the Network 153 proposal. There was not an objection to the request, just concern over how and when it was done.
 - d. Again, as at prior meetings, the question of "what is the councils role?" was asked, especially in light of how the Network 153 grant was handled. The council was also concerned as to whether this would happen again and/or how it should be prevented so that the current grant review process would continue.
7. Pastor Norris then joined the meeting via telephone, providing the following background and status information:
- a. Network 153 continues to worship and other content podcasts from their website.
 - b. The Network 153 website continues to grow.
 - c. There have been 10-12 interested in training.
 - d. Pastors Tesema and Coyne are becoming involved.

Following the opening, the telecon was primarily a question and answer session with the council, as documented below:

Question: How much funding has already been provided from the district?

Answer: Network 153 has not received any funding. In fact, Pastor Norris reported he has not received any notification from the district to the grant funding.

Question: Based on the grant request, how much funding has been received to date to fund the documented costs?

Answer: \$75,000 has been received and Network 153 is working with F. Spiva at district to gain other funding. They have also received \$15,000 from their sponsoring congregation.

Question: What is their largest challenge?

Answer: Finances was not considered the largest, but recruiting people and support, along with their training.

Question: Regarding the internet portion of Network 153, will outreach go beyond English only?

Answer: Yes. Although it is only English now, they are already working with Pastor Tesfai Tesema and others to develop non-English programs.

Question: How are they recruiting for alternative language ministries?

Answer: Pastor Norris will be meeting with Tesema on February 7th?

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Question: What are some of the means to reach people?

Answer: Currently, they are providing “podcasts” using their website with future methods being planned, including podcasts in other languages.

Question: What is the status of the 501c3?

Answer: The 501c3 was established at the beginning of the Network 153 organization period and it is not known how it will be used in the long run or whether it is necessary based on relationships with the district.

Question: What sources of income do they currently have or will have in the future?

Answer: Some opportunities could be online stores on their website, sales of materials and contributions from house churches.

Question: What is Pastor Norris’ long term vision?

Answer: Some potential areas are: 1) expansion of the internet using audio and video to reach people globally; 2) having house churches that are globally located linked through the internet so that like churches can work with each other regardless of their location; 3) development of a “best practices” website where ideas can be exchanged between house churches and others (within next 3 years); and 4) social network to connect Christians with each other (within 5 years).

Question: What is his current relationship with his home congregation?

Answer: Pastor Norris will remain the pastor at his church with the potential to become less of an active role there as Network 153 grows.

Question: How will the training be performed?

Answer: He believes there are two ways, including: face-to-face training of the house leaders and through the internet linking people together. Pastor Norris will train the trainer, who will then train others.

Question: Is there anything that would prevent him from working for the district (staff position) to meet his Network 153 vision?

Answer: No.

Prior to concluding the telecon, a prayer was said by Pastor Hartman for the Network 153 ministry.

8. After speaking with Pastor Norris, the council continued discussions on Network 153, including:
 - a. Regarding oversight of the grant funds, it was noted that district policy states funds cannot be placed in a fund that is not controlled by the district.
 - b. Several people commented on the need for close district oversight of this mission, especially due to the large amount of funding being provided.
 - c. H. Freeman, who is a member of Pastor Norris’ church, noted she was unaware of some of the relationships Pastor Norris currently had with

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- their church regarding time to be spent on this mission and with their church.
- d. D. Reese made the following comments based on his working with Pastor Norris:
 - 1) Pastor Norris is the fulltime pastor at Faith Church, with their governing body releasing him to spend part of his time working on this mission project.
 - 2) An assistant was brought on to help cover what Pastor Norris could not.
 - 3) Network 153 is a Faith Church sponsored ministry.
 - 4) Cell groups or house churches have been around for many years
 - e. The internet allows house churches in different locations to connect with each other.
 - f. The council ask the question, "Where does the \$60,000 grant money go to?" No one had a clear answer on how or if it went directly to Faith Church or to someone other place. Again, it was noted that the district really needs to connect, i.e., have oversight over this mission.
 - g. There was continued concern over Pastor Norris having split roles, that as Faith's pastor and as coordinator for Network 153. The council did not know what his time split was or how he would transition from one to the other or under what criteria those decisions would be made.
 - h. The council agreed to generate a list of questions that would be sent to Pastor Norris and President Newton. J. Hillmann will initially generate the list from the minutes for review by the council. In addition, the council has been asked to provide J. Hillmann with any other questions they may think of in the next week and he would compile the final list.
 - i. Pastor Hartman noted Network 153 is a good example of the "change model" he presented earlier and how we need to change how we do things. He also noted this is an example of "laying the tracks in front of us", not building all the track then moving the train. Finally, he noted that accountability is still important.
 - j. The council agreed that we need to help Pastor Norris do the best job possible, i.e., we need to remain involved with his efforts.
 - k. G. Edwards suggested we contact the Houston LINC [Lutheran Inner-city Network of Churches] leader, Mark Junkans, to see if he would be interested in coming to our MAC to discuss their mission outreach program.
9. The council discussed the upcoming MAC conference, scheduled for March 8th. Comments included:
- a. The question was asked about whether a "What the MACs are supposed to be doing?" session would be held. The answer was this was not currently scheduled.
 - b. It was noted that currently only three MACs are operating: the Northern MAC, Southern California MAC and the Pacific MAC.
 - c. To the thought of what we are to be doing, Pastor Hartman noted that all three of the noted MACs have different focuses, with none being the only correct way. Some are focusing on the grant process while others on how to work with the local church on mission outreach.

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10. Based on the last PAC MAC meeting's festival discussion to have more educational opportunities, Pastor Reese gave a report on the education planning, including:
 - a. We need to reclaim the tool of the internet from those that have used it for a myriad of non-Christian reasons.
 - b. He noted how there are two potters that can shape us, and we must chose God to be ours.
 - c. The worship part of the festival will be cut in half to allow more time for education presentations.
 - d. He believed shorter educations sessions on multiple topics that could be repeated would be the best format.
 - e. We should not limit our education to the PAC MAC only, but share resources across the MACS.

11. Pastor Hartman asked if the Mission Festival could be combined with a MAC Conference. In general, the council thought that this could be a good idea to further communications between the respective organizations and leadership. Additional comments:
 - a. The various missions could share their mission story at breakout sessions.
 - b. The MAC conference could be in the morning with the Festival being in the afternoon.
 - c. Pastor Reese and Chan would work on the education and training.

12. Pastor Hartman spoke on the district's church revitalization efforts, including a handout he provided and the following:
 - a. On April 2nd through 6th, a two day training session and three day consulting effort would be conducted in Sacramento for several churches that have already been chosen to send leaders.
 - b. Other congregations, who would like to identify themselves as future candidates for this program, can send their request to the district office.
 - c. This revitalization effort would not conflict with prior re-focusing efforts a church may have participated in.
 - d. Current programs affect the pastor not the congregation whereas this new program affects the congregation.
 - e. The goal is have 150 congregations in the next five years participate in this program, with the anticipation that 75 will actively use it after they have been trained.
 - f. The comment was made that contemporary services are no more effective with the unchurched than traditional services. Therefore, if a congregation believes a contemporary service will bring in the unchurched, it most likely will not happen.

13. A short discussion was held on current grant sponsored missions, including:
 - a. G. Edwards stated she has only received a couple reports for all the missions. Nominally, they should be providing multiple reports a year to status their objectives as stated in their grant requests.
 - b. The question, "What do we want?" in the reports was discussed. It was agreed that a restating of their objectives and their progress would be

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- great. Stated differently, it would be good to receive their Progress, any Problems (so we could help, if possible) and future Plans.
- c. The question, "Should we visit their missions, sitting down with them to discuss their status?"
 - d. The council agreed visits would be good and that assignments would be given at the MAC Conference in March.
14. President Newton joined the meeting and was asked, "What are the MACs roles?" He responded that the post-church is new to everyone, that there is not much to read or study on this as it is so new. Therefore, a good answer does not exist. He did offer the following:
- a. The process of unlearning how we have always done our mission work and learning new methods is difficult. He asked, "How can the MAC have a role in this unlearning/learning process?"
 - b. A lot of us just "don't get it " when we go through the unlearning/learning process.
 - c. This a time we "get a chance to fail under the grace of Jesus Christ."
 - d. We need to include both "mission heartedness" and "mission headness."
 - e. Mission are not about "churches in charge."
15. G. Edwards closed the meeting at 1635. The next scheduled PAC MAC was not scheduled, noting the MAC Conference is March 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Hillmann