

Mission Action Council, South  
California-Nevada-Hawaii District  
7 May 2005

The Mission Action Council, Southern Region, met at St. Paul Lutheran, Merced, CA on 7 May 2005 at 10:00 a.m., Rev. Richard Rice, presiding. Members present: Mr. John Whaley, Rev. Richard Rice, Rev. Jonathan Lange, Rev. Herb Burch, Mr. Bruce Hindenburg, Ms. Jan Sorge, Mr. Guillermo Melgar, Mr. Walt Harris, Mr. Ken Goebel. Rev. Michael Lange joined the meeting later.

Rev. Jonathan Lange opened with a devotional from Acts 1 (Ascension). MAC members introduced themselves. Rev. Rick Rice distributed the agenda (Encl 1), directory (Encl 2), and minutes of the meeting from March 5 (Encl 3).

Mr. John Whaley reviewed the purposes for MAC.(Encl 4). Ken Goebel asked for a list of all pastors/congregations in his circuit for whom he has responsibility. Rev. Rice indicated he could provide that information. Through discussion, members clarified how funding will be determined and distributed. There followed a discussion of the need to communicate how the MACs work in our circuits. Concerning communication and exchange of ideas, Herb Burch mentioned the value of interchange of ideas: Jan Sorge from St. Paul, Merced will present a workshop "VBS in the Park" at Peace Lutheran, Arroyo Grande for Circuit 9 on 14 May. Ken asked further about the nature of the mission societies. (What they are, and how they relate)

Discussion of our working together...

How we interface with circuits. Several lay and rostered members have already communicated with their circuits or plan to do so in the near future. Thus far this communication has been on an ad-hoc basis, and members realized a need to standardize the presentation. Since missions don't come natural to most congregations, we need to communicate Bob Newton's vision and mission to the pastors and congregations so they begin to develop a sense of mission that projects beyond the confines of congregational life. To this end, a PowerPoint presentation that captures the purposes for the MAC will be developed and distributed to all members of the MAC. (Action, Ken) This will allow MAC members to communicate uniformly to their circuits and congregations.

Communication back to the region. Members received copies of the Pacific MAC (PacMac) letter to the region.(Encl 5) They discussed the strengths of the letter and made suggestions for additional information that will be useful for congregations and circuits as they form their requests for grant applications and missions. Suggestions included amplification of mission definition, visits to on-going supported efforts, grants that are currently supported, and dates for application grants. To this end, Rick Rice will prepare and send a letter to all church councils, presidents and pastors within the next 10 days. (Action, Rick Rice)

Grant review process. The joint MAC meeting will convene at Livermore on Oct 25 and 26, 2005. All grant requests must be reviewed and prioritized within the Southern region prior to that date. Members concurred that although a mechanism for sharing region requests with all MAC regions had not been established, such sharing prior to the October 25-26 meeting would be helpful. The SOMAC thus encourages the other MACs to share their corpus of requests prior to this meeting.

Grant requests need to conform to C-N-H District priorities for mission, and to that end, must also be communicated throughout the region. Members agreed the MAC representative should help guide the grant applicant through the application process to insure compliance with priorities. Representatives should prioritize projects prior to meeting to discuss their merits. Ken Goebel offered to share an evaluation tool that helps evaluate project submissions objectively, rather than subjectively. John Whaley must receive grant requests for 2006 by 1 September 2005 at his office in Paso Robles or electronically to meet distribution deadlines. His address and this date will be included in the PowerPoint presentation. The SOMAC will meet to review grant requests on 24 September 2004, at St. Paul, Merced from 09:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Representation: We still need a CEF representative and lay delegate from Circuit 5 (Bakersfield). The rostered representative Rev. Jim Tyler, has been identified, but was unable to attend.

Current Mission Support:

John Whaley reviewed the list of presently funded(2005) projects. He fielded questions regarding the mechanics of how this functions. He also emphasized that projects connected with specific congregations must also be supported by the congregation(s). Members discussed support to campus ministry; whether such ministry fits within the concept of missions and what specifically entails mission and mission starts. The group looked to the guidance within the documents that define the MACs, quoting, "Connecting people to Jesus Christ.(Gathering all the peoples of the world into the one Kingdom of God through the proclamation to them that they have been justified (declared right before God) by faith in the person and redeeming work of Jesus. This should not be aimed just at different cultures, but should be aimed at how we grow new Christians." We concluded that we need to develop leaders who can go out and start other groups(Train the trainers through workshops, discussion groups, etc.). The MAC must also review the current project within our region that has been funded, the Cambodian ministry in Stockton (Peter Sok). Rev. Jonathan Lange volunteered to make that visit and report back to the MAC.

Demographics and "hot spots: John Whaley provided a map of California that shows the SoMAC area.(Encl ) He suggested we work on forming a group of people interested in church planting in our region.

Project proposals and submissions: John Whaley distributed a concept paper from Delano and grant request from St. John, Bakersfield, which they submitted in the belief

our meeting would consider requests for approval. St. John will be informed their request has been received and will be reviewed at the appropriate time.

The next meeting of the SoMAC will be held on 20 July, 10:00-2:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran, Monterey, to discuss further the questions of what constitutes mission, subsidy and good mission starts.

Actions: Talk to Pastors and Lay leaders in circuits (All)

PowerPoint presentation to be finalized by Ken Goebel, Rick Rice)

Letter to Pastors, Presidents, Elders, Councils, LWML leaders regarding the SoMAC. (Rick Rice).

Visit to Cambodian ministry in Stockton (Rev Jonathan Lange).

Adjournment: Rev. Rick Rice closed with a devotional from Phil Bickel. 2:45 p.m.

Soli Deo Gloria