

SoMAC, 5 May 2006

The meeting was called to order by president Rev. Rick Rice at the Hilton, Sacramento at 12:10 p.m. Rev. James Beilstein, Rev. Herb Burch, Rev. Clarence Eisberg, Deacon Bruce Hindenburg, Rev. Mike Lange, Mr. Guillermo Melgar, Mrs. Jan Sorge, and Mr. John Whaley were present. Rev. James Mackereth, Bethany, Lompoc, CA, also visited a portion of the meeting.

Members approved the agenda for the meeting.

Self Assessment Document: Bruce Hindenburg presented the self-assessment document to be submitted by grant recipients. Members agreed the document reflected sound thinking and commended Bruce for the document. Members discussed the July 7, 2006 deadline for grant recipient input. Members agreed the July 7 date was unusual and would serve well. Mike added he would send out postcard reminders to grant recipients ahead of the deadline to remind them their reports are needed.

Delay in Cambodian mission cutback: Rev. Rice polled members regarding their level of comfort with the way the decision to delay the mission cutback was made (Through E-mail notification and polling). Some expressed concern over discussing some of the issues via e-mail as opposed to face to face. Pastor Jim Mackereth (invited guest) expressed concern over the effect this might have on Pastor Sok's retirement. He also enquired about coaching and help Pr. Sok has received. John Whaley indicated Pastor Kou has been asked to coach Peter. They are also working on forming a mission society to support his ministry. The time schedule for mission cutback was postponed from April to June because of the delay in connecting him with Pastor Kou. John also indicated a new candidate, Pon (Laotian) will soon fill the vacancy at Trinity, Stockton. This might help the situation for Pr. Sok also. After considerable discussion, members agreed the procedure for ad-hoc approval of specific issues will be changed a bit in the future so the issue is described in greater depth so every one can study it, then take a vote a few days later.

Update on Campus ministry, Monterey Bay. The SoMAC had placed the funding on hold because the interim worker on-site was a female Presbyterian pastor, who was being overseen by a retired LCMS Pastor (Rev. Anton Prange--who till this convention was the circuit counselor)." In February, Messiah, Santa Cruz, approved splitting a worker's time between Messiah and CSU Monterey Bay. A DCE intern Inese Pukste from Concordia, Seward has been designated and will come to the position in August. This will provide the worker for campus ministry for the next school year.

Grant Process. Rev. Jonathan Lange had previously proposed submission of a concept paper before going through the work to put together a full grant proposal. As follow-up he contacted his friends who had been using this idea in a similar secular organization. They have dropped the concept paper idea as they found it was not as effective as anticipated.

Members discussed advancing the application process to an earlier date. Deacon Hindenburg voiced the need to have face to face conversations with people who want to make grant requests to help them communicate their needs well. Members discussed moving the deadline date for applications to August 1. This will allow us to review grant requests sooner, and if needed, provide assistance in revision if needed. Additionally, if project proposals don't fit our criteria, we may be able to recommend they apply to LWML or some other organization. Rev. Rice suggested the call for grant requests go out this month. Mike Lange suggested the application forms also be posted on the District website. We elected to forego the postcard reminders we used last year, and place reminders in the "In touch" newsletter. John Whaley suggested we also have circuit counselors remind pastors at their monthly winks.

Possible new mission work: Guillermo Melgar spoke of the possibility of opening Spanish work in Merced. Rev. Beilstein mentioned the possibility of doing work among Punjab people in the Bakersfield area. John Whaley mentioned the outreach to Muslims in Trinity, Sacramento through George Naeem. This work has been rather inconsistent, as he comes from Colorado and is not training lay leaders. Rev. Burch indicated a sizable number of Blue Lao have been gathering at Peace, Arroyo Grande. Mountain House (outside of Tracy) holds some potential for outreach to the Indian(India) community. The area outside Modesto in Riverbank also has potential. Members also mentioned Santa Clarita and Madeira. Rev. Eisberg suggested the need to be more pro-active in doing church planting, especially in planned communities. The MACs would be an appropriate vehicle for doing this. *Board members agreed to discuss future work sites in the July meeting.*

Small Groups Ablaze Dwight Marable's program has been endorsed by Synod and adopted by several districts. Since it was first presented in the district, it has had an extensive make-over. The five series each have six lessons with the aim of getting people together, and after six weeks forming small groups (not cell groups) and becoming evangelistic in nature. One training session in the valley was cancelled. MAC Members encouraged John Whaley to get the one that was cancelled rescheduled, as several people were pumped up to go to the training before cancellation. Members discussed the district program and suggested the marketing for the program needs to be more informative or attractive.

MAC Structure Bill Northend sees an opportunity to restructure to be more efficient. He shared his paper at the PACMAC and would like us to consider it. He sees the need for more accountability. Although we have the vision as cast by President Bob Newton, the MACs we have limited commonality, and decisions are being made differently for different reasons. Therein lies the potential for broad divergence. *Members are to read the white paper and be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.*

Rev. Rice voiced the need to post our minutes to Chris Fenske at district. Her email is [chris@cnh-lcms.org](mailto:chris@cnh-lcms.org).

Members are reminded we will use Yahoo messenger or MSN messenger and web cam for our 22 July 2006 teleconference.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Clarence Eisberg.