

Reformed Church in America Classis of the Southwest Leadership Team

Minutes of Leadership Team Meetings at Longview Community Church, Phoenix, AZ on November 15, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jim Poit, Dr. Randy Wieland, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Lynn Fischer, Wayne Ribbens, and Pastor Richard Caballero, and Dr. Gene James.

President Jim Poit called the meeting to order, led devotion "Seeking God's Face" followed by a circle of prayer.

Approval of minutes: 07/11/2012 and e-mail meeting minutes dated 07/30/2012, 08/17/2012, 09/04/2012, 09/28/2012 and 11/03/2012 were submitted for approval:

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2012/24

Regional strategist report:

Rev. Jarvis commented on and led a discussion on the Classis Mission, Vision and Values statement.

Leadership Team Items:

Items from the Stated Clerk:

Covenant of Care Discussion with the Board of Benefit Services are at an impasse.

The BOBS representative was informed that Classis of the Southwest position continues to be that all Classis churches are in compliance with the intent of the BCO on the health care issue.

Treasurers report: Income, expense, balance sheet and Hope church statements were distributed and review. In the discussion that followed it was noted that Rosemont and Desert Haven were significantly behind in payments and the Desert Haven assessments would end at the end of calendar year 2013.

Reported the lease payments Hope property have been received throughout 2012 from Freedom Center worship group.

Reported the lease payments for the Desert Haven property have been received on schedule from Harvest Church.

M/S/C to receive the report for information 2012/25

Desert Haven/Harvest Church.

Dr. Poit and Lynn Fischer reported they had attended a recent Mission Arizona luncheon where they were approached by Harvest leadership concerning possible purchase of the Desert Haven facility.

Recommendation: Dr. Poit, Rev. Jarvis and Lynn Fischer enter into dialog with Harvest Leadership to further understand their position on purchase.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2012/26

March 2013 Classis meetings:

In discussion it was agreed the focus of the 2013 Spring regular session of classis would be to celebrate the ministry of Rev. Schut at Mescalero as he prepares for retirement in August and the major RCA Book of Church Order issues from the 2012 General Synod meeting.

The Team discussed the need to continue to dialog with the CRC on ways to build the RCA/CRC relationship at the classis level and recognizes that holding joint meetings, with all delegates present from each of the classis is an excellent format for relationship building.

2013 classis goals.

1. Host a Classis-wide (CRC/RCA) Leadership Retreat.
 - Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team
 - Who: All pastors, Staff, consistory/counsel members, ministry leaders.
 - Location: Franciscan Renewal Center or similar
 - When: A Friday night and Saturday.
 - Purpose: To build relationships.
 - Proposed Schedule: Friday night will be a time of worship, prayer, and celebration. On Saturday morning, have best-practice workshops for various aspects of ministry and church administration. After lunch have each consistory/council work as a group to set goals for their church and then present those goals to the larger group.
2. Assign a "Classis Coach" to each consistory/council who will meet with the consistory/council quarterly.
 - Why: to help each consistory/council follow through with their goals.
 - Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team.
 - When This can be set-up at the retreat.
3. Establish RCA/CRC "Coaching Clusters" for every pastor in RCA/CRC Classis.
 - Why: We should have each pastor in a coached network so that they can be disciplined and supported by others.
 - Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team.
 - January 2013.

M/S/C The proposed goals were approved by voice vote 2012/27

Newbegin House, Proposal:

Proposal for Classis of the Southwest support the work of Dr. Michael Goheen, Professor of Missionology at Calvin Seminary in his work in the Phoenix area. Background: Dr. Goheen will be working with the Newbegin House, an RCA seminary in San Francisco on the development of a missional seminary curriculum. Concurrently Dr. Goheen will be leading a cohort in the Phoenix, AZ area, comprised mainly of nondenominational pastors, to help develop this curriculum in a real world setting.

Recommendation: The Classis of the Southwest support the project with \$5000.00 contribution from the Southwest Mission Fund.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2012/28

Church Multiplication Team report

Prescott Proposal to retool the church for the baby-boomer generation:

Communications received from the Prescott CC leadership indicated the ministry launched on schedule in October. Rev. Corinn Ellis is serving as lead pastor. Formalizing the pastor role, coaching and ministry oversight were discussed. The Leadership Team will follow up.

The Garden Hispanic Ministry Proposal.

This proposal is in a holding pattern pending finalization of KEZ and the \$20K Church/ Classis support. Dr. James reported a group of about 20 people are starting a small group. Dr. James to pursue and report.

Orangewood Hispanic Ministry.

Richard Caballero reported the oversight and coaching of this ministry has been turned over to the Orangewood consistory.

New Hope – Nueva Esperanza.

Reported the Ministry is going well at it's facility in Mesa, worship attendance continues to increase and Bible studies are well attended.

West Glendale Hispanic Ministry Pastor Caballero reported that he is leading a bible study with a Hispanic group in West Glendale on a regular basis and indicated there is potential as the group increases in attendance to hold meetings at the Christ's Community facility.

Combined RCA/CRC Multiplication. Rev. Jarvis reported he had attended the initial meeting of the Combined RCA/CRC Multiplication Team and distributed minutes of the meeting which set forth the organizational structure.

M/S/C concept was approved by voice vote 2012/29

Church Health Team report

The Journey. Wayne Ribbens, Vice President, reported Pastoral contract with Pastor Brent Bailey was not renewed. Worship services continue with 35 to 50 in attendance. Focus is on Worship, the Word and Fellowship.

Rosemont: Dr. Vandenberg reported that growth has been minimal, three focus events are scheduled, the first event had 17 in attendance.

Mescalero: Rev. Schut has indicated he will retire in August 2013. Rev. Gary Jarvis, Rev. William DeBoer, and Dr. Ted Vandenberg have agree the serve on the Supervision Team. Their first planning meeting was held in October, 2012 in Mescalero.

New Business:

Next Leadership meeting – to be determined.

M/S/C to adjourn 2012/30

Closing circle of prayer by the Team

Respectfully submitted

Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk