

Annual Conference Planning Committee meeting in Ames, Iowa

October 9, 2010

Attending: Stan Nichol (PSD Program Co-chair), Gina Dugan (PSD Program Co-chair), Milo (woof woof), Curt Simmons (children's programming), Xenda Lindel (Local Arrangements Chair), Sally Boeckholt (\$), Ginny Malcomson (exhibits and space use coordinator), Robin Taylor (PSD Ann Conf Program Committee), Rev Phil Lund (PSD LifeSpan Faith Development Director), Sherry Warren (record keeper for meeting and PSD YaYA Specialist), Sam Wormley (PSD Program Area Coordinator), Laura Shennum (Program planning committee)

Intros and check in.

reviewed July meeting minutes. Xenda moved to accept, Sally seconded. Ayes have it.

Reviewed agenda. Looked at additions to Conference Contacts - Rev Lisa Schwartz joined team. Looking for new members for planning committee. Could use a DRE. June 2011 – Laura, Gina, and Stan will go off committee.

Stan and Gina met with White Bear UU about Ann Conf 2012. Dick Haskett is their local chair and he was with MN Dept of Tourism. He is working on site selection and realizes that they are already somewhat behind. Mahtomedhi is not as conveniently located for hosting a conference given the location of the hotels in the area. They are being cc'd on many documents. Their theme came from one of Victoria Safford's sermons – Lessons from War and Peace, Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage. Later in agenda we will talk about speakers for 2012.

District Update – Phil and Sherry

Phil talked about regionalization of 3 districts and what the Youth and YA person would do – a youth workshop and a YA workshop at each of the three District Annual Conferences. Annual Conferences would be a priority for this person. Still looking at how much crossing over staff and board members would cross over into each other's districts for these events – like Lisa and Ian giving workshops at PSD. In time, there could be joint conferences – waaaaayyyy down the road.

We are still looking for volunteers for the PSD Program Planning Committee.

Sherry will contact Sara K about con name and age of youth. PSD considers Youth to be in grades 7-12. for the conference, children are K-Grade 6. and talk to her about This I Believe.

Thanks were given to staff for attending meeting, and MANY THANKS TO SARAH GREENE for all her work!!

2012 Conf. We discussed switching the theme of 1012 to Stories of War and Peace: Lessons of Hope, Faith, and Courage or something like that. Which is more important... lessons or stories? The theme gets “approved” by the PSD board at Nov budget meeting. Ginny said we should talk to Victoria since it came from her sermon as a collective experience. We definitely think the comma should be replaced by a colon. We will advertise after the board's Nov meeting.

Possible Speakers:

Cynthia Kane is a military chaplain who was in UU World.

Caesar Smith – military museum person from Des Moines – see Xenda

Stan – suggested having youth read some of their written works about war
Ginny - Story Corps... could we get them to be there? <http://storycorps.org/your-community/>
David Isay – founder of story corps
All: there are several projects for recording the stories of vets. Check with local VA
This I believe for 2011: <http://thisibelieve.org/>
Peacemaking from GA
cornerchisel@yahoo.com is Tom Starkey, a UU in Duluth who does Creating Peace workshops
Conscientious Objectors could speak – like at Iowa City a few years back.
Tinker case in Des Moines – arm bands against Vietnam in public school, went to supreme court.
Victoria said new Skinner – Bless All Who Serve
<http://www.uua.org/publications/skinnerhouse/authorfeatures/166992.shtml>
Old Turtle written by Minnesotan and artist is from Duluth.
Church of Larger Fellowship Military Ministry <http://www.uumm.blogspot.com/>
Angel Flight <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpYVfHTajOg>
Gina – Playing for Change - <http://www.playingforchange.com/>

Sherry brought up quilt that was made at Camp StarTrail and that it is to be raffled off at 2011 Conf in Des Moines. \$ will go to schol fund for the camp. The quilt will be on display at the camp exhibit. Sherry should have not said anything ;) We will figure out later how to deal with it.

So... Des Moines

Agenda – Xenda says that one person is bugged by “Worship” word and prefers “Service”

Review of Conference Schedule:

No exhibits on Friday night – hard to secure, people are busy.

Banner parade has a trumpeter playing, so let's make a PP that has the cong names in alpha order and then line them up in that order. We should have all of their names from registrations. Xenda will contact Victor Tinelli to create the PP for this.

Gina is recording all of the changes that are being made to the Conf Schedule.

Local arrangements “speech” is Rev Mark Stringer and Susan Jellinger

No Friday night worship; replaced by Social Time

Saturday – Rev Lisa Freidman will be asked to introduce Kendyl – **Gina** contacting Lisa about this and she will also get her credentials, etc that will go with her name for the website. There will be live streaming of this.

Xenda says childcare for preschoolers will be from 7:45-4:45ish – biz mtg at 8 am, workshop C ends at 4:30.

8-9:30 Activities for K-6 children will be available for the biz meeting. - Curt. Laura asked for it to be very clear who is accountable for the children at the time and to make sure that there are enough childcare providers. Gina suggested a special mailer for parents clearly listing expectations.

Children's Programming will begin at 9:30 and go til 12:30

Awards – Nuts and Bolts... We are a spiritual group, so we should have spiritual elements – such as a

grace for meals, and opening words, chalice lightings, etc. Sam will introduce the MC (someone from the awards committee) for the awards ceremony. Sam will take responsibility to acknowledge the committees that make the annual conference happen. Local Arrangements will be last in case they want to embellish on it. **Xenda** will give Sam a list of any particulars. Xenda will give any announcements. Somewhere in there we will recognize the Workshop Presenters.

Gina will ask Nancy?Sarah to explain what the ribbons on people's nametags mean and/or get it in the PSD exhibit.

Workshop B – Ministers not to be facilitators during this because they are having a meeting during that time.

Workshop C – No church tour
Choir rehearsal during this time
No family activity

Supper – Sherry and Sara will manage the announcements, awards, etc.
Dishes need to be cleared and tables need to be cleared.

Local Arrangement folks will look into an child-friendly entertainer for that hour or so between supper and Bruce. Sally says we can afford it.

7-9 Entertainment – Bruce Martin local entertainment – in same space as supper

9:15 Youth Led Worship – in same space as supper and entertainment, with chairs set up at one end and the meal tables at the other if possible.

Bookstore open until 7 pm Saturday.

Sam wondered if someone would arrange for table topics for Saturday breakfast.

Sunday – 9:30 worship is at the Ballroom in the hotel.

11- Debrief - Ginny figuring out where we will meet for this.

LUNCH TIME :)

Budget

Sally went over the budget that she submitted. Assumes least amount of revenue and highest expenses. \$1400 from Davenport has not been received, but that will go back out to White Bear UU. \$20 for children was initial reg cost, which does not cover their true expenses. Sally will work with Sara K and Sherry to make a youth budget. Profit is split 50/50 and PSD covers losses. Rooms are \$88 per night, so meals are more costly. Youth dinner on Saturday is \$30 per youth and is being absorbed by conference expense and not passed on to youth reg fee for Youth Con. Any youth who wants to attend the Ann Conference can pay the YA fee.

Sam – the estimates that Sally made with attendance by 200 and 300 adults looks good. Sarah G will take a good long look and let it be known if anything is out of line.

Home hospitality will be offered and DM is working on it. Discussion about recommending a donation to any home hospitality hosts. **Sally** will check with Sarah G about what this will look like on the website.

Sam said that Sarah G is more involved in the Ann Conf process and we send huge thanks to her thru Phil. Sarah Greene ROCKS!!!

We bless this budget and she will get it to Sarah for perusal.

Sam on structure: Site selection committee is functioning at <100%.

Program Planning – speakers and workshops

Archivist – Sharon Carter

Awards Committee - mostly autonomous

Local Arrangements – the host cong's folks and the next year's host folks as much as possible

Sam – coordinates all these groups and cheerleads!! and he's fabulous!!

Past local arrangement folks are welcome to attend to help with institutional memory.

Future meetings will likely be in DM or Ames since Rev Lisa Schwartz from Topeka will be joining the team. We need 2 more members to start in the Summer. Judy Sasser (Topeka) or Sarah Moulton (Davenport) or Andre Heier (Minnetonka in Wayzata) would be good choices for a DRE to join the team. How about Ginny Malcomson (who is right here)? Ginny said YES YES YES!! Hurrah!!! And Xenda – woot!! Sally and Phil will ask Nancy to make it official with the District Volunteer Recruitment Committee.

There are 3 meetings a year – July, October, May. There are a few phone meetings and a debrief after the conference.

Workshop Applications – Robin

Robin broke the apps into categories of her designation:

Principles/Values

- permaculture

- appreciative inquiry

Social Justice

- advocacy for survivors of domestic violence

- PSD reads – stories of immigration

- compassionate communication – creating peace

Writing for spirituality/literature

- theo poetics

- Twilight

- open page – exercises

- a frame is worth a thousand words (same as above presenter)

Family

- roundtable on adult and family learning

- asking and telling – LGBT

Strengthening Congregations

- It matters how we communicate – how to “market” - a panel

Sustained giving/stewardship
Got Middle Management – church council examined
Stonetree live -
breakthru congregation
Multigenerational congregational – how to

UUA/PSD

Social witness process
Who needs PSD – what's up with the district
Lost voices of our heritage

Music

conference choir
teal hymnal – Singing the Journey, a journey that matters
Let's Sing the Journey together

Spirituality

Shared ministry: leading with spirituality – growing spirituality in lay leadership

Christian the Lion – being read by Robin

<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/campaigns/big-cats/about/christian-the-lion/>

Workshops were split into piles and recorded by the Program group. Sherry left.