

RTMJ Team meeting -Lincoln St. Paul Church- August 8, 2009

Those in attendance were: Charlotte Abram, Roger Gillming, Carol Windrum, Fred Richart, Lyle Schoen, as a representative from Global Ministries, Susan Schoen, Tom Black, Andrea Paret, Tim Shaw, Rebecca Hjelle, Sandy Sypherd, Secundino Morales, Pauletta Lehn and Susan Perry.

The first agenda item was to discuss the team's representatives' meetings with each district (remembering that the district superintendents asked for these meetings in the phone conference in February).

The purpose of meeting with the districts is for RTMJ to hear from the districts. Specific questions to be asked include: What are you currently doing? How can RTMJ resource the district? How can the team spread the word? What message do you want us to take back to the Common Table? The 2010 ministry plan should be presented at the district meetings. An agenda for each meeting should be sent to the DS so that it can be disseminated prior to the session. Multiple copies of the seed money grants should be taken to each meeting also. RTMJ is asking the districts to split the cost of these meetings. Districts that have set dates for these meetings are:

Blue River for 9/15 in the evening (Pauletta and Tim); Elkhorn on 9/12 at 1PM (Tim, Secundino and Andrea); Missouri River on 8/27 at 1PM (Charlotte and Carol) and Gateway on 11/7 at 9:30 AM (Susan, Susan and Secundino). *Note: Rebecca will compile the agenda items and mail them out to us. Andrea will follow up with Randy Sailors (Missouri River District) to see if the meeting should be at another time since he only allocated 30 – 45 minutes.*

Fred updated us on the scholarships to attend the Bible and the American Future conference October 18-20 at St Marks in Lincoln. He is sending out another reminder e-mail to the D.S.

The RTMJ web page is up and features several resources. The 2010 ministry plan and the power point are on this website. To access the site, go to umcneb.org. On this conference website, in the upper left corner hit on "Ministries in Action". Scroll to RTMJ. Any additional information for this portion of the website can be sent to Carol and she will see it gets up.

Sabrina reported to the group on her summer internship. Evaluations from all Micah Corps personnel will be used to better and alter the program for another year. Her comments included a thank you to the team for their support as well as to tell of her experiences presenting the health care issue throughout the conference.

From Kathryn--Every program needs a communication plan.

Significant Step Out. Plan will develop leadership in young people and will use new technologies addressing hot button issues. This information is available through the conference. The question now is: How does the conference advertise all this available information? The promotion video geared to young people will be available for next year.

Carol will gather materials, as will Sabrina, from districts and the cabinet so districts will share about interns and vice versa as plans are formulated for another year.

Pauletta had been asked at the June meeting to bring a proposal for internships for Nebraska Wesleyan students for this fall semester. The proposal was discussed. Both leadership development and RTMJ would be goals to be achieved and measured. She has six students already interested. Suggestions were made that in the future a further application might be developed for non-college young adults and that other teams be invited to participate and fund the initiative.

The team decided to allocate \$20000 of unused monies to the following entities or projects. IMN-GAIN-\$5000, Wesleyan interns-\$8000, Nebraskans for Peace-\$3000, Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty-\$1000, and Interfaith Power and Light-\$1000. Approximately \$2000 will be held and may be allocated later. A decision will be made on the Bread for the World Booklets at year end.

Interfaith Power and Light is represented for our denomination by Galen Wray. He is asking for someone to join him on the board as it is a time consuming responsibility. This board takes stands on environmental topics, so a representative would need to be well versed in this area. This person would also speak for the United Methodists and would represent the church at meetings and throughout the year, educating and advocating on environmental issues.

Meetings are once a month, usually on the 4th Monday of the month from 10 – 12. *Team members will prayerfully consider it and also look for other contacts they have to find someone passionate in this area.*

Five young adults attended the UMW Christian School of Missions on scholarships provided by RTMJ. Their comments on the experience were reviewed. They have produced a video Faith and Food.

Global Aids Fund- There is a proposal for a AIDS Task Force for Nebraska. A December special offering has been approved, with 25% of the

funds to remain here in Nebraska. Maureen Vetter will chair and coordinate her committee. Local churches will be able to apply to this committee for funds. Information will go up on the website.

UMCOR has asked for a contact person as Immigration/Refugee Coordinator for our conference. The churches active in this area plus JFON and CLIA will be asked to provide names to fill this spot (Andrea will follow up).

Carol offered a proposal on art work for the new offices. If this is supported by the Common Table, she will ask Jeanette Fagerberg to head a coordinating team which would develop policies and strategies so that the art presented throughout the public office area would be artistically chosen and hung. At a later date the RTMJ team would consider backing this effort with some dollars (\$1,000).

Time was spent on the proposed structure of the RTMJ team. Discussion and questions followed. The structure is to be presented to the Common Table in November (if we are able to get that far) so will be worked through and decided at the retreat. Some comments were: Where does staff input fit? Is RTMJ a visioning group or responding to need group? Common tasks are continue to work with districts on communicating well and on resourcing. Generative thinking --committees guided by the vision of RTMJ. It was suggested that young adults (interns, YAN) be represented on the team. Carol's job description, as all the other conference staff job descriptions, is being reworked. Chad said he would get us the draft. Her job position will change from half time to three-quarter time on January 1, 2010.

Next meeting dates: October 2nd, 1PM at Camp Comeca through October 3rd, 3PM. Pauletta is making the arrangements for accommodations and meals. Meeting in Lincoln: Nov 21st.