

SEGA AREA BOARD

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes September 24, 2008

The Executive Committee met at the Southeast Gateway Area office on September 24, 2008.

Present: Jacque Foster, Presiding Michael Dixon
 Norma Ellington-Twitty Melissa Feldhaus
 Joy Faires Brian Kirk
 Doug Cripe Larry A. Thomas
 Penny Ross-Corona

Jacque Foster called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and provided the opening prayer.

Scheduling of January Board Meeting

The regularly scheduled January 10, 2009 meeting would make it difficult for staff to prepare the year end report. Therefore, by consensus, the meeting date was rescheduled for January 17, 2009 at Dover Place Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Financing SEGA Ministry

At the August 9th SEGA Board meeting it was recommended that the Executive Committee address the issue of stabilizing funding for the ministry of SEGA in light of recent financial challenges.

Jacque Foster provided a brief overview of the funding process for SEGA. Under the current structure, congregations in the Area provide funding for SEGA. There is a mistaken notion by some that Disciples' mission funds go to Areas; however these funds go to the Region. There are three areas in addition to SEGA. Our Area has the smallest number of congregations (43). Northwest and Southwest Areas have 60+ congregations and Northeast has 90. The Northwest Area is also experiencing financial challenges.

Penny Ross-Corona reported that the 2007 audit is almost complete. Currently all bills are paid and there is a projected \$4000.00 cash balance after the next payroll. At the August 9th meeting, the board voted to close out the Parker fund and we have applied for the funds. We will also apply for additional funding from the Raney Farm Board.

At the August 9th Board Meeting, it was recommended that an appeal be made to congregations for support in light of significant Area budget shortfalls. Melissa Feldhaus distributed a report that indicated \$22,339.08 has come in from 18 congregations from August 20, 2008 through September 24, 2008.

The following ideas were discussed in terms of enhancing the funding base for SEGA:

1. Request that congregations indicate the estimated amount of annual giving to SEGA and the time frame for submission, i.e., monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. This in no way would be considered an apportionment.
2. Currently quarterly statements and thank-yous are mailed to congregations. It is

recommended that we ask for a contact person within the congregation to receive these mailings. In addition an electronic copy will be sent to pastors. Penny and Susan are considering a Secretary's Day workshop in the near future. It was suggested that we think of using teleconferencing or repeat the workshop in the southern portion of the Area to be more inclusive.

3. With our newly updated financial accounting and reporting procedures in place, we are in a better position to create accurate and timely financial reports that will enable the staff and board to more effectively monitor and forecast our position.
4. Some congregations struggle to determine an appropriate amount to give to SEGA. It was recommended that we suggest an amount per averaging worshipper for each congregation. In other words, we divide the \$132,000 budgeted amount by the average number of worshippers in SEGA. Each congregation would multiply that amount by their own average. We will make it clear that many congregations give more than this amount and their generosity enhances the financial viability of the ministry.

It was moved by Larry Thomas and seconded by Michael Dixon that these recommendations be implemented by staff. The motion passed.

Camp Task Force

At the August 9th Board Meeting it was recommended that Doug Cripe name a Task Force to take a look at the Camp. The past season had an all time low number of campers and expenses were up. In terms of direction the Task Force will collect data to determine where congregations are with respect to using the camping program. In light of the graying of the church, we will particularly want to know the number of young people in the pipeline who might be going to camp. It was suggested that the Task Force might also look at creative ways to promote Christian education and outdoor ministry in settings other than the camp. The physical state of the camp and what it would take to update the facility will also need to be considered. Although senior persons like the programs at the camp, the facility amenities are lacking for many of them.

Next Meeting

SEGA directories were distributed to members. One copy is for the pastor and the other for the church office.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be November 19, 2008 at the SEGA office.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Ellington-Twitty, Ph.D., Secretary/Parliamentarian