

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

September 12, 2004

Minutes

Dr. Steve Breon, District Superintendent opened the meeting with prayer. Dr. Breon then proceeded to elect a secretary for the meeting. Bev Rhodes was nominated, all approved.

Next order of business:

Steve Lewandowski, site director for Blue Mountain Camp, shared with the members of the conference about the growing concern of funding. Steve offered a proposal; if 1000 people gave \$100 each, that would give ample monies to make up for the decrease in apportionments. He also asked the pastors if they would care to invite Steve down to share the video presentation with the local congregation. Through this effort Steve hopes to generate more funding. He also emphasized the need for yearly donations.

Martha Ellen Black, director of the Susanne Wesley Family Learning Center, spoke of the needs of the center to “help keep children safe”. She shared a few stories of real life situations where parents had been arrested for various offenses. Martha also told of the programs in which the Center took part. They have the Batterer Intervention Program, Safe Visitation, After School programs, etc. This facility is utilized and somewhat funded by 3 different counties. This year they took a huge hit when they lost funding through the Title 5 program. Mary also encouraged people to visit their location so they can see for themselves how their program works. Mary wanted to encourage the paying of the Vital Ministries portion of the Conference Apportionments. Through this funding the Center is able to take care of things like Liability Insurance, etc.

Lori Smith, Administrative Assistant of the Southeast District shared a brief course in understanding clergy compensation. She used a color coded Pastoral Support sheet to help explain some of the “why’s” of the support process. She encouraged pastors to have their treasurers & finance chairs attend the training sessions she has developed for the District. Lori went through the major points of compensation, emphasizing the need to follow IRS regulations related to allowances.

Jose Zamora, pastor of *Jesus Es El Camino*, spoke about the growing ministries within the Hispanic Church with an average number of 90 people participating. Suzy Cardenas has started a music ministry. Nohemi Zamora is working with the youth. There has been many classes started, GED, Spanish, English, etc. Jose was happy to report that the church was able to start renting the upstairs of the building allowing for more classroom space. Pastor Zamora helps people with; their driver’s license, license plates, housing issues, getting back and forth for doctors appointments, Social Services, and filling out applications for jobs. In June 8 people were baptized at Lake Wappapello. In July 11 people were confirmed. Nohemi Zamora read the Mission Statement of *Jesus Es El Camino*.

Dr. Steve Breon spoke of the District regarding doing a project after the first of the year to help fund the Hispanic Ministry.

Rev Ron Watts, District Council on Ministries chair, shared the proposed District budget for 2005. He explained the increases in areas and the decreases in others. Over the entire budget increased 20% in 2004, 20% in 2005 and 12% in 2006. Ron presented the conference with the budget in the form of a motion and with no other questions the budget was seconded and passed unanimously. District Apportionment figures will be given to the churches as soon as they are received.

Steve Breon presented the Leadership and Work Teams for the District. Nominations were opened to the floor and none were made. The Leadership for the District was seconded and all approved.

Steve shared the following District announcements:

- Children's Defense Fund books available
- Conference Apportionments were given out
- Festival of Sharing information was passed out
- Upcoming Bishop Schnase Welcoming Event September 19, 2004
- Old McKendree Day, September 26, 2004 at 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned and refreshments were provided by Sikeston 1st UMC.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Rhodes, District secretary