

Key Issues and Decisions from the meeting of Church Development and Planning UPCSA Committee Meeting – 9th Sep 2009 Highveld Community Church

Please note, these are not full minutes, merely a summary of the discussions and decisions.

Order of the Day:

1. Chris J asked Chris M to introduce the Rev Andre van Blydenstein who made a presentation on the work he does in OMS in planting new churches all through Africa and the training that accompanies this work. The committee was very impressed by Andre's presentation and felt that he raised a number of important points with regards training – notably the importance of training in ministry and evaluating those being trained.

Focus Areas:

1. Church Development

1. Website: Website – Theo reported back and a Website Menu Structure was handed to all. The following were discussed:
 1. The minutes or an abstract of the minutes to be placed on the website – this to be put under the heading of news
 2. The different sub-headings still need to be populated and their names and content may also change. Chris and Theo will attend to this.
 3. When it comes to sharing of resources, non-copyrighted resources are best and all were encouraged to start looking for these.
 4. A vetting committee was established: Chris Moore, Moshe Rajuili and Craig Smith.
 5. This committee will vet all documents submitted. i.e. with regards copyright and doctrine.
2. Training for lay leaders with special attention to outstations – Moshe, Mukondi & Vuyo.
 - Moshe handed out the document that he and Vuyo and Mkhondi had worked on – “Equipping key leaders of Outstations/Preaching Stations in the UPCSA. It was recommended that training take place at a Presbytery level with a 2 to 3 day workshop or 5 mornings over a given period of time.
 - The recommended course content includes:
 - Purpose & function of the Church
 - The nature of the Church in a given context
 - Excellence in Church administration
 - A brief history of Presbyterianism
 - The Sacraments
 - Key aspects of reformed beliefs
 - Mission and vision of the UPCSA
 - Positive and negative aspects to the formation and existence of outstations
 - Steps towards overcoming dependency syndrome
 - Lay leaders – they functions, responsibilities and challenges.
 - Sermon preparation and delivery
 - Gender and age issues on leadership development
 - The role of Associations
 - How to move outstations to full status
 - The questions of how the training is to be implemented and by whom will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. Centre for Contextual Ministry @ UP – Chris Moore briefly presented a proposal to set up a Presbyterian Academy with CCM in the Gauteng region that would offer further training for leaders in congregations with accredited courses taught by the Ministers in the region. It was agreed that full attention would be given to this at the next meeting.
4. Young People's Pastor/Director/Co-ordinator/Leader – Vusi handed out a document but there was no time for discussion and so he undertook to address the matter with Chris
5. 2010 Church Growth Conference: Kingsley handed out a document he had worked on, but due to lack of time it was held over for the next meeting.

2. New Church Plants – No discussion

1. Review the current model of congregation categories
 1. Review the definition of a congregation in the UPCSA

2. Review the model of CDE
 3. Review the requirements to being a CDE.
 4. Review the historical/biblical ministry of the Evangelist
 5. Support of 1 or 2 projects per annum in UPCSA – structure, resources, land.
3. **Property, CDE and buyback grants, and assessment deductions**
1. Phalaborwa – Church roof – Presbytery approval received and payment made. .
 2. Grabow – Presbytery approval received and payment made.
 3. Application for funding – Maclay congregation – new hall – Presbytery approval has been received, payment still to happen.
 4. Application for funding – Irvine Njoloza Memorial congregation – new hall – payment made.
 5. Request for funding – Ikageng Congregation in Free State Presbytery, near Kimberley. Chris J to request plans and presbytery approval before a grant can be paid. It was decided that since the special allocation from the Robert Niven Trust had been exhausted that this be the final grant to be given to congregations for buildings
 6. Durbanville Presby – Application for assessment relief. We are waiting for the completed application form from the Session.
 7. Zimbabwe CDEs – No application for grants yet.
 8. Zambian grants – An application for R97 000 for 2010 was received and the committee agreed to place the full amount in the budget.
4. **Church Growth Fund**
1. Proposal for 2010 Assembly – Chris, Steve & Craig are still to meet to finalise the proposal.

Any other business

1. 2010 Budget - Chris J tables a draft budget for the committee's consideration. Although the budget contains specific allocations it was noted that there is flexibility. This is of significance since the committee had not yet finalised its plans with regards training for 2010.
2. East Rand Congregation
An application was received from the East Rand congregation in the Presbytery of Highveld for a buy-out grant. After much discussion it was agreed to refer the matter back to the Presbytery as this was more a matter of pastoral care and reparation than church growth.

Next meeting

21st October 2009 @ 11h00 at Midrand Presbyterian Church. The meeting will last until 15h00 to allow a thorough discussion of the topic of training in the UPCSA.