

Oregon/Washington Cluster Gathering

5th Quorum of Seventy

November 21st, 2009

Minutes

Participants

Kathy Sharp – GPNW Mission Center President
Gina Norton – 5th Quorum of Seventy Presidents
Ron Benedict – Seventy (Eugene, Oregon)
Dee Robino – Seventy (Medford, Oregon)
Steve Sauve – Seventy (Selah, Washington)
Sandy Slover – Seventy (Albany, Oregon)
John Smallwood – Seventy (Redmond, Oregon)
Karen Sundstrom – Seventy (Gresham, Oregon)
Kent Wheeler – Seventy (Portland, Oregon)

Unable To Attend (Work or Prior Commitments)

Mary Richardson – Seventy (Puyallup, Washington)
Jerome Simpson – Seventy (Oregon City, Oregon)
Rick Taylor – Seventy (Portland, Oregon)

Acknowledgements

1. Karen Sundstrom for coordinating the gathering, providing food and communications.
2. Kathy Sharp for attending the event and providing support to the Seventy cluster.
3. Gina Norton for going above and beyond by attending this event (we pray for a speedy diagnosis and a treatment that provides stability to your health).
4. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend this event, you made it a success.

Opening Worship

1. Presider for the worship was Karen Sundstrom.
2. Communion was taken as a part of the opening worship.

Welcome and Opening Comments

1. Gina Norton provided welcoming comments and set the stage for the remainder of the day's activities.
2. Gina shared that she will be going on a 3 month medical leave to address her health concerns. She shared that Bob Kyser (President, Quorum of Presidents of Seventy) would be handling her responsibilities as president of the 5th Quorum until she returns.
3. Kathy Sharp provided welcoming comments to the Seventy.
4. Kathy provided a brief PowerPoint presentation "Congregations as Signal Communities – Transforming the World." (**See attached file**). This presentation was an abbreviated presentation given by Andrew Bolton at the Community of Christ seminary. This is an excellent presentation about "mission."

Mission Ministries Review

1. John Smallwood stepped through a PowerPoint presentation (**See attached file**).
2. D&C 163:5b was reviewed and various aspects of the call to provide wholistic evangelistic ministries were discussed. The participants also discussed what it means to be the "forerunners to Christ's peace."
3. The four functional ministry areas of the Seventy were reviewed and discussed.
4. As the Mission Coordinator for the GPNW Mission Center, John asked the Seventy cluster if they approve adding an additional function to the charter of the cluster. The cluster charter is to (1) provide educational support for the Seventy in the cluster, and (2) provide ministry support to the Seventy. John asked that the cluster also accept the role of (3) providing mission support and leadership to the mission center. In this role, the cluster Seventy would partner with the Mission Coordinator in identifying key mission ministries within the mission center that the Seventy could support and provide leadership to. The cluster members accepted this additional responsibility for the cluster.
5. John proposed that there are four challenges that face the Seventy in our mission center. (1) Helping new mission ministries to take root and become healthy, (2) supporting and modeling the bridging of mission ministry with sharing the Peace of Jesus Christ, (3) Young adult ministry that is relevant and allows for the development of leadership and spiritual skills, and (4) Your personal calling, skills and bandwidth.

Work Session: Mission Ministries

1. The participants were asked to brainstorm activities the mission center could be involved in that could part of a "wholistic evangelistic ministries."
2. The following is a brainstorm list of mission ministries or aspects of mission ministries the mission center and the Seventy should consider. The list is recorded here as a future reference and are listed as they were recorded on the newsprint sheets.
3. Mission ministries brainstorm list:
 - Things that make a difference in people's lives (i.e. community gardens....)

- Getting our hands dirty (people to people)
- Fostering fun
- Coordinated personal ministry (collectively as part of a congregation effort)
- Transition shelter
- Partnered ministry (ecumenical and/or social services, etc...)
- Hard living ministry
- Church plants
- Church re-plants
- Wraparound ministry
- Hispanic/ethnic ministries
- Teach (i.e vibrant workshops)
- Peace pavilion (i.e. Bridges to Peace, Gospel Wagon)
- Young adult groups/plants
- Bible school in box
- Resource coordination (speaking, etc...)
- Percept data use (life skills training....)
- Needs ministry
- Small groups / bible study
- Seeker ministry
- Prebaptismal ministry
- Priesthood calls
- Missionary tool kit training and use

Work Session: Barriers to Mission/Missionary Work

1. The participants were asked to brainstorm barriers to mission/missionary work.
2. Barriers to mission/missionary work:
 - You can't do that!
 - Self-doubt and church community doubt
 - Not enough time (self, pastor or other leaders)
 - Where to start?
 - Fear of offending
 - Fences or physical barriers
 - Society pace is so hectic for individuals and families
 - Lack of "mission" focus
 - Inward focus
 - Not knowing what the skills are that are available in the mission center
 - Don't want to change
 - Recreating the past
 - History
 - Older material with the old church name

- Book of Mormon
- Nervousapprehensive
- Afraid of taking a risk

Work Session: Structure & Communication

1. The participants were asked to brainstorm how we (Seventy cluster and mission center staff) should be structured and communicate.
2. Brainstorm of structure and communication:
 - We need a way of knowing what others are doing.
 - Want to work with /for the apostle and quorum president
 - Partnering with other ministers (Elders, Evangelists, High Priests)
 - Congregation missionary ministers
 - Cluster concept for ministry assignments
 - Evangelist blessing – team approach
 - Connect through web-site and Chinook
 - Seventy communication quarterly
 - Calls to Seventy (always looking)\

Work Session: Seventy Cluster Agreement

1. Meeting Frequency:
 - 1 day meeting in the Spring (May...John to schedule)
 - 1 day meeting in the Fall (September or October...John to schedule)
 - Lunch gathering at the mission center Fall conference
2. Meeting Agendas:
 - Education, worship, check-in ministry support
 - Share mission/missionary experiences
 - Coordinate mission ministry efforts, address help needed, etc.
3. Communication/Coordination:
 - Mission center web-site (John will check to see if the Seventy can have a link on this web-site).
 - Chinook articles – the Seventy provide information articles on some established frequency (John to coordinate what our commitment should be with the editor)
4. Mission Coordination:
 - The Seventy will be a part of the mission center resource matrix that is being established.
 - Will coordinate ministry clustering with congregations requesting this support and the assigned mission center CSM(s). (John to help get started)
 - Seventy will encourage the establishment of mission/missionary teams in congregations they work with.

Kathy Sharp Closing Information

1. Kathy provided some information on books that may be of interest to the Seventy to obtain and read.
 - The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity (Douglas John Hall)
 - The Upside-Down Kingdom (Donald b. Kraybill)
 - The Missional Leader (Alan J. Roxburgh, Fred Romanuk)
 - Caught in the Crossfire (Sally B. Geis, Donald E. Messer)
 - Homosexual Saints to Community of Christ Experience
 - Homosexuality and the Bible
2. The mission center will be hosting some pre-world conference events. The intent of these events will be to help prepare the MC delegates for the conference and to engage the MC membership in dialog on some key issues that will be addressed during the conference. Kathy asked the Seventy to provide as much support for these events as they are able and encourage other to do so as well. After the world conference, there may be response teams formed if there are any controversial outcomes from world conference. The Seventy may be asked to provide some type of support with these in some cases.

Gina Norton Closing Comments/Information

1. Gina held up the “Healthy Congregation Model” as a model for the Seventy when working with congregations (**See the attached model**).
2. The letter from church president Steve Veazey to all priesthood was reviewed. Gina encouraged the Seventy to read again the letter and the questions that were attached to the letter as they reflect on their call as Seventy.
3. The “My Ministry Covenant” was reviewed and all Seventy are encouraged to review and complete this plan. (**See the attached ministry covenant**). John will provide help and support as these covenants are developed.
4. Gina emphasized the need for each Seventy to identify and develop a Spiritual Partner relationship with an Evangelist.
5. Gina concluded with some testimonies of the need for mission/missionary focus in our congregations and individual ministry. Gina shared some exciting and transforming examples of congregations and individuals.

Closing Worship

1. Presider for the worship was Ron Benedict.
2. During this service the ordinance of Administration was given to Gina Norton.