

Campus Ministry Committee

Presbytery of Mackinac

Meeting, October 18, 2008

Minutes

Attending

By conference call: Andrea Sarto, Dean Peterson, Scott White, Phyllis Aurich, Alice Halsey.

Scott offered prayer.

A quorum was declared.

Scott volunteered and was elected to be recording secretary.

The previously distributed minutes of the September 13th meeting was approved.

We welcomed Alice Halsey to the committee (class of 2011) and introduced ourselves. Andrea Sarto was kind to join us and we welcome any continuing involvement she can have with the committee, but she has been elected to one or more other presbytery committees.

The Ministry

We heard from Dean Peterson, who is researching campus ministry in the bounds of the presbytery from the ELCA perspective, that formal, judicatory-based campus ministry is somewhat flagging. Lately it has been done more as outreach of individual churches. One of the more active ELCA campus ministries is that done by Messiah and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, NMU/Marquette.

Andrea Sarto reported that not much campus ministry is known about--with inference that probably not much is going on--at Alpena Community College, and North Central Michigan College, Petoskey. Andrea will try to contact local Presbyterian pastors for more information.

Phyllis reported that it has been difficult to find out the situation at Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City. Elliot Morrison reports that there is a Student Christian Ministry organization on campus, that the remains of the NMC Campus Ministries board is interested in supporting.

Scott reported that what appeared to be active at Michigan Tech, Houghton, is:

Catholic - Catholic Campus Ministries at St. Albert the Great University Parish

Protestant – chiefly Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Parachurch – His House Christian Fellowship. It has ministries at 11 Michigan colleges and universities, mostly the bigger ones.

The discernment over future moves and work

Bracketing out for a moment our two larger schools, NMU and MTech, we discussed that it is difficult for independent campus ministries to exist at smaller community colleges. This results in fragmented, church-based outreach, which is good, but which tends to flag, and especially, where it isn't easy for Christian students of different affiliations (let alone "seekers") to be together. We also discussed that, even more than that, at community colleges where so many students commute and have serious demands on their time, the students don't have many things to bring them together.

Remembering what ministries fellowship and service are, Dean Peterson encouraged us to consider the model which has worked at Bay de Noc Community College: where the student ministry convenes a weekly meal, which is provided by local churches.

The committee seemed struck by the possibility that we would rally local churches, through contacts with local minister's associations, to begin and to develop a campus ministry with this model, perhaps even seeding such through the presbytery campus ministry budget.

Scott will have some talking points that we could use when making such contacts through minister's associations by the time of our next meeting.

In the meantime the committee should push ahead with research and contacts.

Update: in the week of October 27th Dean Peterson reported that their meal served 110 students. This is about double last year's average.

The next meeting will be November 22nd at 10:00 a.m., again by conference call. Scott will email the PIN a day or so in advance.

Consent was expressed to adjourn, and prayer was offered.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott White