

**Shared Ministry Update Session  
St. James United Methodist Church  
Sunday May, 2 2010  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

***History:***

Based on the conclusions of the original Shared Ministry committee that was developed in February 2008, the second phase of Shared Ministry prayerfully began its work on February 28, 2010. This newly formed team was challenged to develop a strategic plan which could be embraced by the churches interested in what shared activities and communication between several churches could generate. Additionally, it was decided that a mission statement should be created.

May 2 was designated as the date to bring the data formulated by the Shared Ministry team to the members of Bethel, Caldwell and St. James. These three churches have committed to the on-going study of Shared Ministry including what can it be, and how can it be implemented.

The May 2 meeting was designed to provide the Shared Ministry concept to church members. After the history and strategic planning outcomes were shared, members in attendance had an opportunity to ask questions. Following the informational session, breakout sessions were held. These sessions included “Spiritual Growth through Focus Groups”, “Worship Opportunities”, “Mission”, “Community Objectives”, and “Lay Leadership”. The breakout session’s brainstorming ideas will be an addendum to the minutes.

***Meeting Outline/Agenda:***

**Covenant Shared Ministry Strategic Planning Process Update**

Small UM churches in Southeastern Wisconsin search for ways to expand their ministry in a challenging environment. Three churches (St. James, Bethel, Caldwell) come together, each facing fears, threats and weaknesses. Together the congregations who share common values have visions to expand their ministries. By utilizing the strengths of each congregation and prayerfully asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these courageous Christians believe that the Word of God can be expanded throughout their communities.

The role of the pastors was critical in this initial planning stage. They met frequently with complete transparency. They participated in pulpit exchanges, received the blessing of the Conference and the District superintendent and supported the Shared Ministry Committee. Additionally, the pastors kept the District and the Conference informed of the progress of Shared Ministry.

A more formal exploration of a Shared Ministry Covenant was begun in February, 2010. A consultant was hired; an overview of the process developed; a team-building focus was adopted; and a timeline established.

## Findings

After much discussion, the team agreed on these “Commonly Shared Values”—

- Acceptance
- Worship & Music
- Mission & Outreach
- Talents & Leadership
- Loving Relationships
- Facility Locations
- Transparency

By identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Shared Ministry, the committee identified several SM themes which include—

- Expansion
- Outreach
- Relationship with God
- Relationship with others
- Spirit-filled energy and commitment
- Opportunities for spiritual formation

A Shared Ministry Mission Statement was then developed.

*“The purpose of Shared Ministry is to offer an intentional, cooperative framework for a wider spectrum of choices, such as:*

- *Worship*
- *Mission*
- *Spiritual formation*
- *Education*
- *Staffing*
- *Music*
- *Youth and children’s ministries—*

*which can be done better together!”*

Based on the Shared Ministry Mission Statement, team members were asked the question, “What would a Covenant Shared Ministry look like?”

Members developed strategic objectives which include:

- Spiritual growth through focus groups
- Worship opportunities
- Mission
- Community connections
- Lay leadership

## **Breakout Sessions**

The five breakout sessions were developed based on the Strategic Objectives listed above. A team leader and scribe were assigned to each section. Participants in the session were asked to further expand the objectives by listing activities and events which could be shared by the three congregations. Prior to the breakout discussions, individuals were reminded to keep in mind the following points: “Would each congregation agree to embrace a shared ministry focus”; “that each church is challenged financially and motivated spiritually to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world “; and finally, “focusing efforts together will provide more than any one church can do alone”.

Reports from the five breakout sessions follow.

**May 2, 2010**

## **Spiritual Growth Objective**

### **VBS, daytime and evening**

**Who** to contact: Bethel – Debbie Nehs, Carla Dearth; Caldwell – Jenny Hensgen, John Steib, Kim Van Buren; St. James – Marolyn Joss, Judy McFarland

**When** – Caldwell has already scheduled VBS for early Aug.; Bethel & St. James can coordinate with them and/or offer same curriculum another week to start this Summer. Otherwise the coordinators can start planning for 2011 and lead up to it by doing some combined Sunday School events during the school year.

**History** – Caldwell and St. James typically offer a daytime VBS; Bethel has most recently done evening or combined with other Elkhorn churches to offer both daytime and evening sessions.

### **Combined youth groups/activities**

**Who** – Bethel: Sharon Roy, Chris and Tim Nehs; Caldwell: Don Foster, John Steib; St. James: Russ Gale, Dignan's, Stacy Spurlock

**How** – mission activity/trip (i.e., Second Helpings meal prep/serve/clean up; community service with yard work, window washing; other hands on mission work); once a month movie/activity night; intergenerational play day; Bible study; confirmation class

**When** – This summer have all the churches participate in a field day/play day of games that people of all ages can do together. Fall/school year meet once a month for fun/mission activity – suggest starting with assisting with Second Helpings meal.

### **Bible studies**

**Who** – Bethel: Jan Baker, Linda Carter; Caldwell: Marilee Gloe; St. James: Judy McFarland

**What** – sort term (6-8 weeks); long term (28-32 weeks)

**When** – This Fall start a long term study group that will travel to each church/rotate location to meet at; be offered both during the day and in the evening.

### **In-home small groups**

**Who** – Bethel: Jan Baker; St. James: Joyce Ketchpaw, Ross Harmon

**What** – specific reason for group to be meeting (i.e., covenant/prayer group for spiritual growth and support; worship; book study; support group for grief, parenting, empty nest, etc.; some natural commonality – all current members of the church, all newcomers to the area, all friends of the person hosting the group) to build/strengthen relationships within the life of the church or to connect to people outside the life of the church; clearly defined entry and exit points with the group (i.e., we study a new book each month; we'll be meeting once a week during this school year; we get together over a meal once a month); and clear covenant/expectations for group members (i.e., what is said here stays here; it is/isn't OK to bring someone new with you to see if they would like to join the group; you need to contact the host prior to the meeting if you can't be here).

**When** – This week Joyce Ketchpaw is looking for input to get started on forming groups.

### **Thriving men's ministry**

**Who** – Bethel: Bill Leith, Bill Yurs; Caldwell: Don Foster, Steve Lohr; St. James: John Milne, Tom Rossmiller, Brad Balgard, etc.

**What** – Intergenerational 'floating' Trustee/work group to serve all the churches; once a month breakfast; mentoring/skill sharing with youth – that can have a mission focus (i.e., repairing bikes to give away; repairing cars for those unable to afford repairs; produce garden for food pantries.)

### **Small group evaluation of today's work/presentation**

- good discussions
- flow of ideas
- all participated
- right amount of time
- people in this group who haven't been involved on the Joint Vision Team or Strategic Planning Team felt that today's session kept them informed/in the loop; those who did not attend should have a synopsis made available to them
- exciting to have possibility of expansion while maintaining comfort level of weekly worship at each church

Shared Ministry Breakout Session  
Worship  
May 2, 2010

Leader: Deanna Shimko  
Scribe: Judy McFarlane

This session is concerned with the why, how, who and when during worship services as well as outside of worship time. Participants in the session felt that it is necessary to form a resources bank to be shared among the three churches. There was excitement among the individuals as ideas evolved that will positively impact the spiritual life of members of the Shared Ministry churches.

### **Brainstorming Points**

- Implement a more visible and participatory role for lay leaders at worship and events.
- Encourage lay leadership training.
- “Piano bench” rotation among churches—also choir and musician exchanges scheduled for participating churches.
- Increase spiritual and social activities.
- Initiate shared planning for topical Sundays; ( i.e., Children’s Sabbath, United Methodist Women, Mission Sundays, etc.).
- Establish teams—key to making things happen.
- Ask people for pulpit supply at the Shared Ministry churches. (Completed by June 1—list by July 1) Judy at St. James; Marilee at Caldwell; Bethel, TBD.
- Develop a list of individuals who are willing to teach Bible studies.
- Develop a summer music supply list as well as a list of individuals willing to bring music and drama to the churches. (Completed June 1—list by July 1. Caldwell, Bob Weeks; Bethel, TBD; St. James, Debbie Rush).
- Develop a catalog of potential activities and a resource bank of individuals willing to serve.
- Increase Taize services—different times, locations.
- Plan ecumenical services—Lenten, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, Seder Meal, Taize, etal.

### **Process**

The committee agreed that a worship planning team should be established. This committee would oversee the brainstorming points and coordinate the resources between the churches. (A committee for each event can be established so the Shared Ministry worship and music committee would not be overworked).

### **Deadlines**

Information listed under bulleted points should be shared with the Shared Ministry team at the June meeting. The Worship and Music committee (SM) will meet in July. Judy will talk to Reverend Carrie about the points listed above, and if she would like to be a part of this committee. This committee will also make suggestions on the type of activity to be developed and a timeline for the event.

## Shared Ministry Strategic Planning Presentation

**May 2, 2010 at St. James UMC**  
**Minutes from the Missions Break-out Group**

25 people in attendance from Bethel, Caldwell, & St. James  
(7 from Bethel, 8 from Caldwell, & 10 from St. James)

Overall power point presentation was given by Joyce Ketchpaw, Tim Middleton, & Steve Lohr which reviewed what we've done, where we've been, and what our hopes are; including the procedures used and Purpose statement.

We then took a break for fellowship time and then attended your choice of 5 different Break-out sessions – based on the 5 primary areas the task force thought we could work on as a shared ministry. [Spiritual Growth, Worship Opportunities, Mission, Community Connection, and Lay Leadership]

These are the minutes from the Mission Break Out Group, facilitated by Don Foster and attended by Diane Bustamante, Tom and Chris Rossmiller, Sue Leih, and Don Foster

General goal for Missions – put “legs” on meaningful mission activities

It was strongly supported that we “do” mission in our own communities since there is a real need, rather than taking trips (although mission trips elsewhere was still appreciated)

We all agreed that our common practice is if people ask, we give to the cause or the individual; but if people don't ask, we aren't seeking them out. Perhaps we should do some kind of campaign around the philosophy of: “we'll give you an hour if you give us an hour” - meaning we'll help you if you come to worship/event/offering at one of the local churches

3 Main Mission Ideas for starting in our own backyard came from our conversation:

1) **Mission Weekend** (inter-generational)

Begin with a meal with all participants on Friday for fellowship and relationship building. After the meal – break up into the mission teams that will be working together on Saturday.

On Saturday – go to your site and work from 8:00am – 4:00pm (during the day there would be a team making the rounds of all the groups – taking video/pictures (perhaps contact local media for coverage)

On Sunday – go to worship at whatever church you choose but then gather for mid-day meal with all people participating (including homeowners) and celebrate the mission/ministry. See a power point presentation that summarizes the event and hear any witness/testimony people want to offer.

This idea has been done in a Circuit up north – Rev. Kris Androsky (associate pastor at 1<sup>st</sup> Waukesha UMC) on original team will be contacted by Diane Bustamante

We would like to do this event in the Spring of 2011 – but we need to start organizing this now.

## **2) Mission Bank**

A registry of people's talents/skills so they can be contacted when a need arises

Would need to compile a survey form for all three churches for all who want to be a part of this, to fill out

Need coordinator(s) – to compile/coordinate needs/workers

Need volunteers (intergenerational)

Need publicity

Could start this immediately – but would need someone(s) to compile all information and keep it updated in a databank/spreadsheet format, etc.

Challenge: finding those in need – could use local church pastor/people's knowledge or agencies like Hope Now

## **3) COW (Community/Church on Wheels) Bus**

Since transportation is an issue in our geographical area, especially for those in need – we could get a bus and have it go around to different areas around our churches – like a “book mobile.” Except this bus would bring food/clothes to different areas for people in need. We would also take “requests” and try to fill those for the people in need and bring them next time around.

We could then use the bus on weekends to help transport people to church worship services or other event.

Another possibility for mission may revolve around the Caldwell parsonage which will be vacant come July 2010

Work Camp away – as a small group venture from the 3 churches is still a desire by some.

# Shared Ministry

## Community Connections Notes

by Terri Weiland 5/2/10

**Facilitation:** Steve Lohr  
**Notes:** Terri Weiland  
**Participant:** Bob Garvens

### **General Goals:**

- Encourage continued and additional connections to our communities
- Community recognition that we are there and fulfill a community need

### **Ideas for connections:**

1. School children mentoring program

Each community has elementary schools that could potentially use reading support, weekend food programs, drug abuse prevention support, etc.

**Who:** Invite members of each congregation to participate in a planning / organizational meeting. Pastor Grace has information from communications with the principal from the local school.

**How:** Discuss the possibilities and have local principals attend a planning session meeting or a joint Ad Council meeting.

**When:** After 7/1/10

2. Explore the possibility of developing a financial support process for local impoverished residents through an organized fund raising and needs evaluation/approval. (Example Hope Now Inc. in the Elkhorn community, which Bethel supports.)

**Who:** Pastor Joyce Rich, Chuck Harman,

**How:** Explore current resources in each community to ensure there is no duplication of effort. If other similar resources exist, find out how SM could support these processes.

**When:** After 7/1/10

3. Mentoring support for residents of local Alzheimer, Troubled Adolescent Center, Just Like Home group home residents.

**Who:** To be determined

**How:** Visit with facility administration for opportunities to provide help.

**When:** To be determined

4. Establish a non-profit transportation system for the three communities. Details to be explored at a later date.

5. Provide a host local for local groups like the 4-H, Scouts and support groups. Details to be explored at a later date.

## Lay leadership breakout group, 5/2/10

Participants: Elouise (Caldwell), Ross (St. James), Mary and Tim (Bethel).

How should we define lay leadership? Multiple levels:

- Service at the Conference level
- Certified lay speakers, liturgists, etc.
- Leaders in other roles within the church
- Service to the community

What lay participation resources for worship services does your church have?

	Bethel	Caldwell	St. James
Liturgists	No	~10, sign up annually	Yes, sign up quarterly
Greeters, ushers	No	Yes	Yes
Lay speakers	1	1	~6

There was no real consensus on how important these roles were to the worship service. It was felt that having liturgists was important, and that lay speakers should be certified. There was also a feeling that liturgists and lay speakers should and would be willing to work across churches.

Where does it make sense for Shared Ministry to emphasize lay ministry?

- Lay speakers can provide an avenue into the community e.g., speaking at nursing homes or other venues.
- Use of lay speakers and liturgists from one church in the other two churches is a way to foster interactions between churches.
- Development of specific programs. For instance, they might be able to work between the three churches to develop a strong Sunday school program, or a coordinated music program.

Areas for Shared Ministry to focus:

- Target additional people to become certified as lay speakers. Develop a plan for using them both between the three churches and as an integral part of an outreach program within the communities.
- Pick one or two other areas of unmet need to have lay leaders concentrate on. Potential areas might include programs for young children or youth, a specific community outreach program, maybe music (more of a need in some churches, less in others).
- Develop a plan for a small group of lay leaders to focus on recruitment, to involve new blood in the activities of the churches.

Most of these items have in some fashion the intent of cross-pollination between the three churches. It was felt that this should be a high priority for lay leadership, that this was an essential and important part of forming a stable interaction between the three churches, and that lay leadership were well-positioned to drive those interactions.

Specific issues raised that may not necessarily fall under the topic of lay leadership:

- A perennial complaint amongst Sunday School teachers is that they are either faced with missing worship services or having Sunday School at a time when fewer kids will show up.

Currently St. James has ~14 children, Bethel ~3-6 and Caldwell ~0-3. Can Shared Ministry help solve this dilemma?

- The opinion was expressed that Caldwell has become disconnected from its community over the years, and that the logical community for it to reconnect with at this point is probably Mukwonago. It was felt that this should be a priority for Caldwell.