



Planning Team Conference Call Notes

Monday, September 25, 2017 1:00PM Pacific/3:00PM Central/4:00PM Eastern

Participating: Barb Crabtree, Marianne Duddy-Burke, Pamela Lightsey, Jim Mitulski, Rick Mixon, Sylvia Rhue, Megan Rohrer, Bernie Schlager, Marnie Warner, Judith Wray. Staff: Linda Brenner, Mark Bowman, Carl Foote, AhSa-Ti Tyehimba-Ford. Guest: David Lohman.

Mark welcomed David Lohman who has agreed to write a theme song for the conference. David talked about his background and invited input from planning team & staff members for his writing.

a. What is a theme or message of our conference that resonates with you?

Modern Day Saints, Prophets, Activists, our heroes and sheroes. The circle until all of God's creation is included. Rolling the Stone Away. Lazarus is raised; unbind him and let him go. Round stone as we spiral through diversity that we make, (LGBT rights), as stone turns, we are fighting over again. The stone is relevant today. And can learn. "We must go, we shall go, to see what the end will be." (lyrics from a spiritual). Renewal. Creating a way for generations to come. Embodying the incarnation. Borrow our authority from the future. Act up. Fight Up. Fight AIDS.

b. Describe the world we are trying to bring about.

Preserving voices, embracing full diversity of God's creation. What is the beautiful thing that comes forth from the tomb. Prophetic history calls to our future. God's love is infinite, can't measure it. There is love for everyone, expands outward. Non-acceptance limits God. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song. Unlimited imagination of God is reflected in our identity. "Lazarus come out" (hymn and jazz version).

1. REGISTRATIONS & PUBLICITY

Mark presented current listing of registrations (as of 9-20). We added about 6 new registrations in past two weeks. We currently have around 165 persons registered; just over half of whom are invited guests, planning team and staff. There are 12-15 invited guests, planners, staff still to register. Our housing list is due to the hotel this Friday, September 29.

Viewed new registration video from Linda: <https://vimeo.com/235399804>

Mark proposed that we get this video out as widely as possible. Invite congregations to show it in worship. Marnie noted congregation can also put on website. Pamela asked about producing a flyer with the video embedded in it; Linda will follow up on what exactly needed. Marianne suggested purchasing Facebook ads to show the video. Linda will proceed on that. Carl will move video to our Youtube page and send around link. Mark will also send links to leaders of our participating/sponsoring organizations for them to distribute.

Linda reported that she begins this week on media work: a) sort Guest list according the Media Outlet interests; b) create Media Alerts for Target Audience/outlets (local news, religious news, NPR, Black media). Follow up about BOL promo- articles; c) Create Media Releases--focused on target audience--with quotes from guest(s) & Mark. Contact outlets by email with calls the next week.

2. ST. LOUIS TRAVEL STATEMENT

Linda presented the statement that she's been working on with some planning team members started working on a statement from us in response to the NAACP travel advisory. After the recent acquittal of a police officer shooting and protests that followed, we have further revised our statement. Mark noted that the emphasis is on how we can act while we are in St. Louis to be in solidarity with those advocating justice for persons of color.

Megan raised concern that the statement as written doesn't accomplish this; opening with focus on travel advisory and acquittal of police officers. Suggests it address broader concerns about racism. Pamela noted the importance of using the phrase "racial injustice" and not "tensions." Linda indicated she will edit and resend to planning team. Marnie proposed that planning team members be invited to give feedback via email so we can get this on website soon and not wait until our next meeting.

Pamela is in touch with a Black Jewish Transman in St. Louis who may be willing to come and speak to us. Mark noted that we are in communication with Jeanette Mott Oxford, who is in our network and is the ED of Empower Missouri. Also we know that Spectrum, the annual conference on trans concerns in St. Louis is happening the weekend after Rolling the Stone Away. We will come up with a plan to take action while we are in St. Louis.

We are using a printer recommended by the St. Louis Minority Business Council to print our program book. Still looking for a minority-owned business from whom to rent office equipment.

3. WEBSITE

Carl reported that the Neil Cazares-Thomas promo video has been added and a number of profiles updated with invited guests changes.

Mark noted that we have had a number of changes in guests' participation over the past couple weeks--we have lost some guests and are adding others. Refer to the Invited Guest page on website for current list.

REGRETS—Carl Bean, Robert Clement, Mel White & Gary Nixon for health concerns; Irene Monroe & Gene Robinson for schedule conflicts.

ADDS—Naomi Washington-Leapheart & Barbara Satin from the Task Force, Bishop Zachary Jones replacing Carl Bean, Miss Major Griffin-Gracy from Transfaith; Loey Powell (UCC) and Sam Brinton.

Lauren & Carl have drafted a project outline for a Memorial Wall / Wall of Honor:

Mixon. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_2voDkbNreSHLY-LHRsG-jmdDjjT-nBpfNAVNaZL9go/edit?usp=sharing

Carl noted that Memorial Art is intended to be set up a physical art, but will be able to be digitized. Thinking we could have an online version of the Wall that persons can post to after the conference. Trying to provide opportunity for persons to leave thoughts via writings or video. This could be put this up before and/or extend beyond conference. Wall may be to memorialize significant persons who have died, not just the prominent movement leaders. Jim noted that he liked that we include the remembering important persons in our lives who have died, not just those who made front page news. Rick asked where this will be located? Carl said Lauren looking at options in hallways or alcove. Mark suggested Rick be in touch with Carl & Lauren to confer on how this can be used for the Ritual of Remembrance session.

4. DEVELOPMENT

Mark reported that we have undertaken a number of fundraising initiatives, some more successful than others. One that has exceeded expectations is the Seminary Sponsors—we now have 9 who have given \$1,000 each. See list at: <https://rollingthestoneaway.org/support/> NOTE: This list intended to include ALL financial supporters.

Scholarship fund crowdfunding campaign launched two weeks ago: www.youcaring.com/RTSA Thanks to planning team members and staff who have made gifts and shared this campaign via social media & email. Mark asked what planning team members have done or intend to do on this campaign.

Judith stated that she doesn't do social media, but she sent emails to number of friends and colleagues with the link and invited them to give.

Rick noted that he made a gift and posted to his Facebook page.

Mark encouraged everyone to participate in some small way.

Mark still following up on a few congregational & individual appeals that are in process. Will have more detailed financial report for our next meeting.

Rick asked if Baptist seminaries were invited to become Seminary Sponsors. Mark said he would connect him with Ryan who has the list of seminaries contacted.

5. AUDIO-VISUAL

AhSa-ti reported that we have received three bids for providing our audio-visual equipment and she has a final bid from the Aries Company that is within our budget. Still working out final details. And we have a few more volunteers to help us out.

6. PROGRAM

Mark reported that the most recent version of the conference schedule was sent with the agenda. Will not take time to look at it now, but encourage everyone to look over so the times and flow of the conference is understood.

CO-SONG LEADER

Mark noted that Stephanie Smith (proposed at our last meeting) declined the invitation to be co-song leader; Patrick Evans also available. Jim Mitulski recommend Bob Crocker who said he was interested and available. But Mark received email just before this email that he is unable to participate.

WORSHIP/SPIRITUAL REFLECTION EXPERIENCES

Mark reported that these are confirmed:

- Dignity Mass (Marianne Duddy-Burke)
- Disciples LGBT Alliance Communion service (Judith Wray)
- Queer Feminist ritual led by Diann Neu
- Taizé service led by Mel Soriano
- Healing service led by Candy Holmes

Need one more. Judith will help determine which three are offered on Wednesday morning and which on Thursday. Time is 7:45 – 8:30 a.m.

CONVERSATIONS

Mark reported that the 12 Conversation Groups are essentially completed, a few adjustments may come. Marnie & Judith are coordinating. Final titles and 2-3 sentence description requested by Wednesday, October 6th for the program book.

Marnie reported that all of the groups have facilitators except one or two. Marnie asked Megan & Sylvia when they intend to convene their groups. Said would do today or tomorrow. Marnie asked if any other facilitators on this call have questions. Megan asked what is needed for the program book. Mark replied that a revised title and 2-3 sentence description are needed, not detailed plan for the Conversation. This is explained in the two-page background document that went to all groups.

Marnie noted that the intention is for groups to do most of the planning via email and conference call before arriving in St. Louis. But the Conversation groups will eat lunch together on Tuesday to finalize their plans. Contact Marnie with any questions or concerns.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Mark reported that leaders and planning team liaisons identified for all 7 sessions. This planning is all delegated to different persons/groups. So we need each person/group to proceed with the planning. A plenary plans document was distributed which included proposed plans for opening session. We need similar plans from each plenary team by the next meeting—in two weeks. At that time we can look at all these together and see where we can identify common threads and plan consistency.

Judith indicated that she has proposed some scripture texts (largely from John 11) that could undergird the plenary sessions. Mark will send these around.

7. PROGRAM BOOK Justin & Mark

Mark reported that we have secured a printer in St. Louis which will save turnaround time since the books will not need to be shipped. The printer will need to have final copy on Monday, October 23rd—four weeks from today. Justin & Mark are editing 100-word bios for invited guests that will appear four-up on a page. If anyone has interest in assisting with preparation of the program book and/or proofing or commenting, contact Justin or Mark.

8. OTHER CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

None given.

9. NEXT MEETING Monday, October 9 1:00PM Pacific/3:00PM Central/4:00PM Eastern

Linda led closing prayer.