

Ecumenical Planning Team Conference Call agenda

Thursday, January 12, 2017

9:00AM Pacific/11:00AM Central/12:00noon Eastern

1) Conference Site & Dates Mark

MCC meeting planner Lauren Bennett and Mark have contacted dozens of conference centers and hotels over the past few weeks. It has been quite difficult to find venues that are large enough (500 persons): 1) near major airport; 2) with facilities that are compact & easily accessible; and 3) at a reasonable cost—that were not already completely booked this fall. We do have two good options: Marriott St. Louis Airport and Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center (north of Columbus). Read the details given on the attached chart, but here are basic pros and cons. Marriott St. Louis has free airport shuttle, has ample sleeping and meeting rooms and has given us a great room rate of \$85 per night. However, there are add-on charges, like fees for parking and wifi and the meal costs are significantly higher. The Nationwide Hotel is in a pleasant park setting, has ample meeting rooms and a reasonably priced dining room for meals. However, there would be airport shuttle costs, the room rate is significantly higher and we could not house everyone there—would have to use overflow hotels in the area. The costs we would pay for onsite housing and meals for our guests would be the same (about \$500 for three nights/days) at both places. Both hotels proposed the same weekend: September 8-10, 2017

2) Conference Schedule Proposed Mark

Wednesday night—planning team arrives to convene and set up Thursday morning.

Thursday—invited guests arrive during day; convene this group midafternoon (or evening) for preconference activities. Serve meals Thursday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

Friday—other participants arrive during day; convene full conference midafternoon (or evening) through Sunday noon. Serve meals Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

3) Name of Conference Rick (with Marianne & Ray)

Propose: *Rolling the Stone Away: Generations of Love and Justice*

Discussed pros/cons of “Generations of LGBTQIA Love...” vs. “Generations of Queer Love...” Suggesting doing neither but having logo image like an empty tomb with LGBTQIA word cloud spilling out of it.

Any volunteers to work with graphic artist on designing logo?

4) Invitations Committee Report Judith (with Jim, Marianne, Nicole, Ray, Rick, Sylvia)

a) Invitee list: everyone on this planning team has been asked to enter names of persons to consider inviting in the Gogledoc. Can nominate LGBT and ally leaders.

b) Criteria: Initial brainstorm of how to evaluate whom we invite.

- Early involvement in the movement, as defined by timelines of different traditions
- Founding members
- Recognize unique challenges for some persons, e.g., trans leaders
- Those who “make history” at various stages of our histories/herstories
- Observe as multi-generational historical conference
- Prophetic voices
- Organizationally active
- Those who “paid the price”

- Those with secular impact
 - Groundbreaking writers
 - Those who shape/shaped the work
 - Helped shape the movement
 - Helped write history of the movement
- c) Support for Invitees—proposing that we pay all costs (travel and onsite housing & meals) for invitees and encourage them to contribute what they can to the conference. Question of whether paying for double rooms and guest would pay difference for single or for spouse/companion. Also recognize that some persons will not be able to come without the assistance of a companion.
- d) Expectations—invited guests to post a profile on LGBT-RAN website (so we can link to it on our conference website). Will talk more about how to engage guests in storytelling and sharing written records at the conference.

5) Personnel Committee Report Barb (with Bernie & Pamela)

- a) Development Coordinator announcement now circulating (everyone help circulate it through your organizations). Deadline for applications is January 20th. Will have top candidates write answers to some questions. Personnel Committee to review candidates with Mark.
- b) Media Coordinator will offer to Ann Craig. Mark has talked to Ann and she is willing to do this and will draft a plan for her work for review by the committee.
- c) Administrative Assistant: Barb proposing that MCC staff can process registrations—would be donated time from MCC. So could use these funds (\$3,000) to supplement other staff compensation as needed.
- d) Website Manager: Carl Foote who has managed the LGBT-RAN website since its inception 14 years ago is willing to do this.
- e) Audio-Visual Manager—draft of posting circulating now. Will have this out in a week or so.

6) Finance Committee Report Marnie (with Justin & Mel)

- a) The Development Coordinator position is posted. As we interview, we will be asking applicants to outline a strategy for raising \$100,000. There is a spectrum of options from finding 10 major donors who could give \$10,000 to 100 people who \$1,000 to 1000 people who could give \$100 and there is the pyramid with a combination of all levels.
- b) The Finance Committee is well aware that we do not want to in any way take away donations from donors who give to our representative organizations. However, we would like to explore if there are major donors who could give at least \$5,000 just to see if at least half the fundraising could come from major donors. The conference is a onetime event so major donors might be willing to not lower their regular giving to your organization as they know we will not be asking again. Planning team members to confer with organizational leaders as appropriate to identify a few possible major donors who may or may not be in your organization and may be interested in the gay movement in general such as preserving LGBTQ history.
- c) First draft of budget attached.
- d) Contributions from planning team members. Need everyone on the team to pledge/give as able now so we have total pledge from team when Development Coordinator is on board—at least \$10,000? Keep in mind the suggestion that the conference covers the cost of travel, housing and meals for us as planning team members.

7) Next Conference Call