

Mission and Outreach Committee
Minutes of October 6, 2009 Meeting

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY November 5 at 6pm.

Present: Rev. Bill Meyer, Bill Cummings, Bobbie Mahler, Gary Mahler, Nancy Mastromarino, Alane O'Connor, Ken Weaver, Kevin Wellenius.

Meeting began at 6pm with a prayer by Kevin.

Item 1: Minutes of prior meeting were approved without modification.

Item 2: Collection of existing policies.

The Trustees have asked all church committees to inform them of any existing policies they have adopted, either formal or informal. Bobbie explained that this does not mean that committees must create policies where none existed before, though Bill Meyer suggested that this might be a good opportunity to crystallize policies appropriate to MOC. The following two policies were unanimously approved:

Policy 1: The MOC chair(s) has discretion to approve expenditures up to \$500, so long as the expenditure is for a purpose consistent with prior MOC activity. Expenditures above \$500 require a vote.

Policy 2: All persons in attendance at a meeting of MOC may vote on any issues before the committee, regardless of whether they are official members of the committee as approved in Charge Conference.

Follow-up: Kevin will communicate these two policies to Bobbie Mahler.

Item 3: Need for new policy regarding loan of church tools.

Bobbie raised the concern that use of church tools may expose the church to liability if they are used for non-church purposes and an injury occurs, as the church liability insurance does not extend to non-church events. Ken expressed the concern that church equipment could suffer excess wear and tear -- and hence a shorter useful life -- if it is loaned out and used heavily. Kevin suggested the easiest policy to implement would simply be that church equipment is not available for loan. However, Ken questioned whether this would be fair given the heavy reliance on individuals' personal equipment for church projects. All present were asked to consider how a feasible policy might be written that balances the objectives of fairness, preventing excess wear and tear, and avoiding liability issues.

Follow-up: policy to be discussed at next meeting.

Item 4: Need for inventory of MOC equipment.

In the past, equipment purchased by MOC has been kept by individuals, as we lack a location to store equipment that also makes them readily available for projects. This make is challenging to maintain an inventory of church-owned tools and equipment, which we have been asked to prepare by the Trustees. At present, Ken Weaver has the new and old airnailers, and Jim Webster may have other equipment from prior years.

Follow-up: Kevin will contact Jim for a list of church-owned equipment he currently has.

Item 5: Robert Klein's trip to Haiti and compliance with Safe Sanctuary policies.

Kevin inquired whether the upcoming trip by Robert Klein and Jim Webster raised any issues regarding the church policies that minors participating in church events or outings be accompanied by at least two adults. In the case of the Haiti trip, it raises the questions of whether (a) the trip is considered a church event or outing; and (b) whether the participation of other adults from outside Union Church are sufficient to satisfy the "at least two adults" requirement. Bill Meyer felt that the trip does not conflict with the policy, but commended the committee for considering the issue and recommended that we inform the Administrative Council that we had discussed the matter.

Follow-up: Kevin to relate discussion to Michael Barrett.

Item 6: Ongoing support for mission trips.

Alane inquired whether MOC has a standing practice on support for repeat mission trips, and if not, what it should be. Ken informed the committee that he and the Bourgoins received support for repeat mission trips in the past, and it was always the same amount of monetary support. It was generally felt that requests for support of mission trips should be evaluated on a case by case basis depending on budget and other needs.

Item 7: October workday.

Bill Meyer reported that Jim Webster told him he was not yet sure whether the dairy farmer would be prepared to receive a team of workers for the October 17 workday. It was decided to keep the October 17 workday as scheduled, but to have a back-up plan to cut and deliver wood from the downed tree on the (Dawn) Klein property.

Update: Kevin talked to Jim, who said he would be seeing his cousin (the dairy farmer) on October 11 and would let us know of his status. Kevin also talked to Diane Atkins who could use the firewood if we cut the tree instead.

Item 8: Firewood assistance.

Kevin reported that J&M logging is charging \$250/cord for seasoned, split, delivered firewood. J&M is still trying to work out the logistics of setting aside wood for future delivery during the winter. The chairs were directed to purchase two cord of wood if J&M can figure out the logistics.

Item 9: Strength for service.

Bill Meyer related a suggestion from Michael Barrett that MOC purchase copies of "Strength for Service" to have on-hand for the church to give to friends or family of service members. This is separate from the special offerings made to support the sending of the books to troops; it is for the church to have on hand and give out personally. It was unanimously approved that we do this, though the appropriate number of books to be purchased should be worked out with Michael.

Follow-up: Kevin discussed with Michael, who felt 15-20 books would suffice. Michael will provide ordering detail to Kevin.

Item 10: State Troopers support.

Bill Meyer requested that MOC consider sharing (with the Pastor's Discretionary Fund) the cost of a 1/4 page ad in the Maine State Trooper's annual magazine. Ad revenues support the

Troopers' community programs, including the children's D.A.R.E. program. Bill reports that in the past we have been the only church to support the program. It was unanimously approved to share the \$395 cost with thePDF.

Follow-up: Kevin to inform Bob Sutton.

Item 11: Equipment trailer update.

Ken Weaver reporting finding a homely but potentially functional and well-priced trailer on Route 17. It is not an enclosed contractors' trailer, but a utility truck bed with locking compartments and a central open space. The locking compartment avoid the need to spend time and money outfitting a conventional trailer to store equipment. However, the trailer tongue will likely need modification for towing with light-duty vehicles. Asking price is \$750, but may be flexible. It was approved to authorize spending up to \$750 to purchase the trailer, pending a second visit by Ken and Kevin.

Follow-up: Kevin and Ken to look at trailer.

Item 12: Next meeting.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY November 5 at 6pm.

Adjourned with a prayer by Bill Meyer at 7:10 pm.