



**Bishop's Mission Plan
Launch Team #7 - Unleash Lay Leadership
May 13, 2014**

Time: 1:30 P.M.

Location: Bishop's Conference Room, Conference Office

Attendance:	Candace Barron	John Crawford	Vicki Davis	Mabel Donaldson
(P) Phone	Mark Epperson	Amy Forbus	Stephen Gideon	Jim Kimzey
	Palmer Lee	Charles Long (P)	Karon Mann	Dede Roberts (P)
	Bruce Vick (P)	Mackey Yokem		

Absent:	Jimmie Boyd	Henry Heidelberger	Brian Ratcliff	Butch Renfroe
	Tracey Ritchey	Martha Taylor		

Call to Order: Mackey Yokem called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M and conducted a roll call.

Prayer: Candace Barron

The notes from the initial Launch Team #7 gathering on March 7, 2014 had been provided to all team members via email message on May 10, 2014. Paper copies were provided to all in attendance.

Mackey Yokem spoke about the team organization and responsibility. Gil Rendle recently reported no annual conference has successfully dealt with the issue of effectively defining and motivating lay leadership. Mackey added we will figure this out so that strong lay leadership foundations can be created in the local churches, the districts and the annual conference.

The notes of the March 7, 2014 meeting served as the reference for the initial conversation. The following are brief notes from the discussions.

Issue #1: Encourage all laity the opportunity to be involved and heard; not just the church lay leaders, those who have served in leadership positions for many years or those who tend to "maintain control."

Will need a list of criterion to serve as a guide.

Must involve newer members

Lay Leadership committees must be tasked to learn about the skills of their church members

Identify members who have progressed spiritually as well as those with specific skills and talents

Must broaden the perspective – this is not just about committees

Must have more member input

Brainstorming sessions involving all age groups in the church can be productive

Assure the same criteria are not applied to committees and ministry teams

Many congregations have closed structures and leaders

Many congregations are led by long time patriarchs and matriarchs even though not elected or selected

Question: What is a leader?

Need to define – What – Who – Training – Selection – Expectations

Issue #2: Encourage clergy and laity to conduct partnership forums in their churches. Ensure laity feels empowered to discuss ministry issues openly and candidly with pastors and lay leaders.

Vitality depends on excellent clergy/laity relationship.
Laity must be proactive on learning pastors' ministry plans and methods
Clergy needs to be willing to accept laity involvement
Both clergy and laity must learn what each needs, wants, expects and should do
Clergy and laity need to be reasonably comfortable with each other's roles
We tend to let the petty stuff get in the way of ministry
Should expect some setbacks when appointment changes are made – allow a period of adjustment
Question: How can we pinpoint and/or evaluate if the clergy/laity relationship is developing?
Question: What do we do if the relationship is not developing?
Numbers (stats) will provide some of the answer
Ministry involvement may be a better measure
There is a whole spectrum of items to be considered
Question: How do we define relationship?
Common respect, encouragement, etc.
Question: How to measure the relationship?
Healthy or dysfunctional
By church size and context
Churches are different – same measures will not work in all churches
Question: Are we addressing senior pastors only?

Item #3: Ensure all involved understand help is available (conference staff, congregational coaches, etc.) and should be requested when needed.

This issue will be discussed in a later meeting.

Issue #4: The time in team meetings must be dedicated to what we need to do rather than to sharing and discussing the bad practices and experiences of the past.

This is an observation only – not an action item.

General discussion issues included:

The two "Centers" need to be involved and effectively used in the future
Some sense a need for mentoring in local congregations
Local congregations must accept more responsibility
Local church lay leadership involves more than just the so-called "designated" leaders
Question: Is leadership a gift?

To some degree, yes. Leadership is not just the ability to lead a committee

Reread the Step #7 defining statement from the Bishop's Mission Plan

Laity will be coached and mentored so they increasingly demonstrate passion, boldness and excellence in faith sharing, servant ministry, stewardship and using their spiritual gifts.

Discussion led to whether the Step #7 "Unleash Lay Leadership" title is sufficient

A number of options were discussed and the following three options were identified for further consideration

Unleash Lay Leadership in Ministry

Unleash Leadership in Lay Ministry

Unleash Lay Leadership for Ministry

Mackey directed Jim Kimzey and Amy Forbus to prepare a summary of the pros and cons from the discussions and send via email to all team members. Each team member is to respond with their choice of the three via Reply

All email to the inquiry by 12:00 P.M, Friday, May 17, 2014.

Mackey identified the following three issues for further consideration and response by team members. Again, the team members are to respond via email to Jim Kimzey by May 27, 2014 for summarization.

Item #1: What do we mean by leadership?

Task leaders, directional leaders, spiritual leaders

What is a leader?

How do you know a leader is a leader?

What can you expect from a leader from the context of church and everyday life – leadership with passion

Item #2: What is specific leadership?

Criteria for leaders

How does discipleship tie into leadership?

Item #3: Define the partnership between clergy and laity

How do we know a partnership is healthy?

What benchmarks might serve to measure healthiness?

What happens if the partnership is not healthy?

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Monday, June 2, 2014 in the Bishop's conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 P.M. following prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Kimzey
Project Manager