

# MINUTES

## WIB Faith-Based Meeting

November 01, 2017

Attendees: Pastor Carolyn McCombs Chair, Walter Toombs, Jawana Hardwick, Pastor Michael Odom, Stacey Coleman, Elder William Henry, Antoinette Brevard, Angela Fields, Erica Crenshaw, Andrea Newton, Duwan Bogert, Walter Toombs, Robin Wanner

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### Welcome and Introductions

Pastor Carolyn McCombs called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

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### Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

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Pastor Carolyn reference the minutes as a good starting point for discussion on where we are and where we are going. A Care Management Organization team member attended our last meeting. Persons from agencies like hers (who address the needs of at-risk youth and families) would be great additions to the Faith-Based Committee because of their work with families and youth. These are critical connections we need in the future.

Carolyn asked Cynthia for a list of Faith Based Committee Members who participated in the conference. Cynthia provided a list of registered participants which included only 10-15 faith based committee members. Many were in the room. She raised a question about low conference attendance among Faith Based Committee members since the conference theme and focus was a collective idea. Committee engagement leading up to the conference was very energized. When there were specific assignments to be completed the week before the conference, many members who committed to doing preparation work did not fulfill their promise. This is an issue for discussion. Questions may include:

- Was low attendance attributed to the fact that we were not having a Technical Assistance Conference?
  - Did workloads or personal commitments prevent members from attending?
  - Did we confuse things by changing our conference from June to September?
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Some of the explanations offered by other committee members included the following:

- When committees were formed people dropped off from the group and many of the responsibilities fell on Cynthia.
- This conference had many moving parts requiring more hands-on involvement. Our previous conferences only required members to invite guests and attend as guests themselves.

The key question for discussion is: where do we as a committee want to focus? Do we continue in alignment with our last conference theme? If we continue in this vein, we may need to recruit new members who share the same passion and interest. Andrea Newton noted that we should always be engaging new members all the time in terms of recruiting for the committee.

Erica Crenshaw shared that our committee needs to involve new people while leveraging strengths of existing committee members. This may be a good opportunity to understand individual member expectations, needs and skills they can offer. Pastor Carolyn noted we need a formal roster that will give details on what each organization offers.

Antoinette mentioned that the Faith Based Committee has always offered diverse topics for its conferences and has always been on the cutting edge. Examples include: social entrepreneurship, over-comers' stories and capacity building, grant writing techniques. We have always hosted emerging topics and have never pigeon holed ourselves. Next year the committee will probably do something else that is also cutting edge.

Pastor Carolyn suggested that the committee may need a more personal touch when communicating with members moving forward. Antoinette noted we could make it a logistics committee so that Cynthia will not be the only one making contacts. Carolyn noted the need for a communications strategy to keep members engaged using social media and other outreach strategies.

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Pastor Odom noted we must start by getting members back in the room to strengthen information exchange, however, people need to know what's in it for them. If meetings consist of tools or information members can take away, then we gain from each other and can collaborate where everyone wins. Pastor Carolyn noted, in the past, the committee has invited guest speakers which helped keep people in the room and maybe we need to focus on bringing in guest speakers based on the needs identified in the community.

Carolyn mentioned that the committee met throughout the summer this past year when we normally take a break for July & August. This may have thrown people off track. Erica suggested the committee have a small event in May and September to help build members' capacity.

Walter noted he, Pastor Odom, Jawana, and Andrea are all in the building with Cynthia and can serve as help to Cynthia who can delegate certain task.

Pastor Carolyn posed the question: What are the next steps? The following was discussed:

- Suggest committee members bring back names of guest speakers who offer information/tools that can benefit members.
  - Committee should consider returning to the May or June conference month.
  - Re-visit and update the Faith-Based Directory including mission statements, target audience. (Resource Guide).
  - Survey members to determine their needs.
  - Committee could look at potential workshops for technology, broadcasting that can be housed on a platform for members to access, especially when they are not able to attend.
  - Committee could possibly host capacity building topics after surveying a group on the topics of interest and consider webcasting other topics for on demand access.
  - Host a membership drive and determine the most efficient manner for implementation.
  - Committee could put in some governance and form a process of membership (1 year
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membership etc.) Look at how we invite people to attend go more direct.

- Committee look into getting a Facebook page for the Faith-Based Committee to post all of the events. Committee will have to speak with Dr. Chris Irving.

Pastor Carolyn asked the committee members to brainstorm around guest speakers that we may want to come in and speak on hot topics in the community. The following topics were recommended:

1. Making the youth aware of the venereal diseases within the community. (Contact Andriana P-CASA and Antoinette Health Services)
2. Affordable Care Act due to many changes that will affect the community. (Ruthie Rios)
3. SNAP/ABAWD (Contact Cheryl and Angela)
4. Energy Assistance
5. Senior Citizens (Shirley Force)
6. Pathway to Healthcare (Robin will get contact for Kim from Passaic County Healthcare Coalition)
7. Cancer among women (Cheryl Walters)

#### **Wrap-up**

Announcements

#### **Meeting concluded at 2:50am**

The schedule for the next meeting: **TBD**

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