

# **CHURCH HEALTH, Board of**

Via Conference Call –February 28, 2012

**On the Call:** Cory Engel (Chairman), Marc Johnson, Fred Rodda, Loren Eder, and Steve Strutz

*I. Welcome (Cory Engel) – Prayer (Fred Rodda) - Devotional Thought*

*II. Review our Purpose*

**a. Why We Exist** – The Board of Church Health exists to support and encourage healthy, life-giving, multiplying and prevailing churches in the Western Conference.

**b. How We Do This** – By facilitating church health assessment, by helping churches engage in peacemaking principles, by providing resources to churches looking to improve their health and vitality, and by keeping the importance of church health in front of our Conference churches.

**c. Fresh Starts** - A portion of our budget has been established for the purpose of

**i. Supporting “turn-around” processes with a struggling church by:**

1. Helping with a restart or re-development
2. Helping with external consulting/coaching fees
3. Specialized training/conferences
4. Re-branding

**ii. Supporting the “peace-making” process with a church in conflict**

1. Peacemaking resources and training
2. Subsidizing mediation or on-site consultation
3. Development of a peace-making team within the church family

**iii. Supporting the “health assessment” process within a church**

1. Engaging in the NCD survey with the Insights Report
2. NCD coaching and/or implementation expenses

*III. The 2011 minutes were reviewed and discussed.*

*IV. New Stuff –*

**a. Peacemakers Training**

i. The Peacemakers “Conflict Coaching and Mediation” Training was held in Billings on February 16-18, 2012. Seven of our conference churches were represented in some way. Several of the board members participated and shared positive feedback about its value.

ii. Bryan Baker (Not present) suggested via email that another potentially valuable training opportunity for Churches was a 1 Day Seminar called “The Leadership Opportunity”. This was discussed and the following resolution was adopted.

**WHEREAS** the Board of Church Health is committed to assisting Churches establish spiritually healthy practices within their Ministries; **AND WHEREAS** we believe that a commitment to Biblical peacemaking principles within ministry is essential to the ongoing health of a Church and its ministry, **AND WHEREAS** we see the Peacemakers “Leadership Opportunity” training seminar as a valuable tool to assisting Pastors and Leaders in establishing those Biblical Peacemaking Principles within their churches:

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that Bryan Baker work together with Cory Engel and Supt. Steve Strutz in establishing and organizing a “Leadership Opportunity” Seminar for our conference Churches, and their leadership, as soon as it is feasible to do so.

iii. There was considerable discussion on the value of investing in some of our conference pastors in the process of becoming certified conciliators. There are pro’s and con’s on both sides as to its merits. It was a valuable discussion and it was agreed that more dialog should had around this topic.

**b. NCD/Health Assessments**

i. A resolution was agreed upon at the 2011 Annual Conference to include questions on the current status of Health Assessments within a church on the Annual Reporting form. Because this will not appear on the Annual Reporting Form until next year, it was agreed that we would request Karen Walton, conference secretary, to submit a request to the conference churches to gather that information for 2011. Cory Engel will submit that email.

ii. A discussion was made regarding NCD Coaches and the possible need for more NCD specific coaches. Because the requests for NCD specific coaches have been relatively few, it was determined that the BOCH gather the data from the Conference Churches and evaluate further at the Annual Conference Meetings.

**c. Grant Request**

i. Hope Church has made a request for assistance regarding the Sabbatical Coaching Fees for the Sabbatical of their Pastor Marc Johnson coming this summer.

**WHEREAS** the BOCH sees Pastoral Health as a vital part of Church Health and; **WHEREAS** purposeful and well coached sabbatical rests can restore and renew a Pastor for the next phase of ministry; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, we grant the request of \$1,500 to Hope Church for the purpose of covering the Coaching Fees associated with this sabbatical, payable at their request.

ii. There was concern expressed about how the conference funds sabbaticals for our conference Churches, and where those funds should come from. It seems wise for one board to handle all funding requests in this regard, rather than a church having to make multiple requests to multiple boards. It was agreed that Supt. Steve Strutz, Erin Youngs (Board of Pastoral Health), and Cory Engel (BOCH) meet in the near future to dialog about to whom requests should be made and for what purposes.

**d. Areas of Awareness**

i. **Absarokee:** Pastor Barry Troyer resigned in January and the Church is in Pastoral transition. Pray for them in their search.

ii. **Langdon:** In Pastoral Transition. Joe Moutria has been assigned there and has been mentored the last few months by Allen Solheim. It’s a healthy situation. Allen may have started a good pattern for us here.

iii. **Beach:** In Search of a Pastor. Ben Baker has been filling the pulpit and the prayerful process continues. Be praying.

iv. Two Churches have matters of conflicts on their Boards. This may be an area Church Health can bring some helpful training for Church leadership teams. i.e. The Leadership Opportunity

**e. Looking toward 2013**

i. OATS

1. Our preliminary budget for 2013 looks as follows:

a. Resources	\$1,000
b. Training/Development	\$5,750
c. NCD Assessments	\$2,500
d. Fresh Starts	\$23,000
e. Misc.	\$750
f. Harvest Ministry Support	<u>\$2,000</u>
	\$35,000