

**Council of Administration**  
Faith E – Billings, MT, March 4, 2015

**Present:** Steve Strutz (Superintendent), Brent Nymeyer (Chairman), Robert Canen (Secretary), Jack Runner, Benjamin Gonzales, Bob Conover, Jay Ashbaucher, Mark Erickson, Dan Morgan, Dale Erbele, Werner Seibert, Bob Strutz, Jon Oakland.

Steve Strutz gave an opening devotional from Psalm 107.

Steve Strutz gave an overview of the Conference Vision and Values, and the make-up of our Conference.

Historian Report was presented by Bob Strutz. While he had no written report Bob Strutz shared that George Peterson, a pioneer in our Conference, from the Evangelical Methodist Church, passed away this year. He shared that we are living in an historic time as we look at the events in the world around us.

Church Health Report was presented by Brent Nymeyer in the absence of Cory Engel. He mentioned that money was available for churches to work on church health. Steve let us all know that Bryan Baker is available for Peacemakers, and Dale Erbele is available for helping churches with self-evaluation.

Mobilization Report was presented by Mark Erickson. This is a new board which brings together several ministry areas into one group. Mark was encouraged as he listened to several ministries and how they all fit together.

The Mobilization Board is seeking to identify various leaders in churches so that information can get out to the appropriate person (i.e. Women's ministry leader getting women's ministry information). The plan is to put this list together on an annual basis.

Communication is a key issue as the board seeks to develop ways to communicate to churches various ideas as to how the conference can help (i.e. finances, curriculum, etc.).

It was suggested that we have a form to request funds.

Jon Oakland suggested that we add contact information for the ministry leaders in order to understand who is leading what and who to contact in case we need help in an area. It was suggested to update the Conference web page to disseminate this information.

Jim Neifert was introduced as the new BCC camp director.

What does discipleship look like in the local church? Several suggestions were made. Jon Oakland shared that Bob Schwan will be doing a seminar in Bozeman on April 10 on the topic of Family on Mission.

Board of Ministry Report was presented by Robert Canen. A discussion was held as to what membership is in the local church especially as it relates to the credentialing process.

Pastoral Health Report was presented by Benjamin Gonzales. The Pastoral Health Board will be meeting in April and meets as needed. Benjamin communicated that the Pastoral Health Board is available for **crisis**, but also wants to be available for **prevention** and **recovery**.

Church Planting Report was presented by Steve Strutz. A couple recent church plants have had to be closed down recently in Wyoming, but God is raising up people to plant new churches (i.e. Boise, ID).

Superintendent Relations Report was presented by Dan Morgan. The Superintendent Relations Committee operates like the Pastor/Parish committee of the local church. They discussed how the Regional Overseer structure is working. They discussed how churches and the Conference could help our Superintendent and ministers with Social Security tax. We are the only Conference that doesn't have a standing rule encouraging the local church to do whatever they can to help ministers with social security tax.

Steve Strutz gave an update on the Regional Overseer system and the changing landscape of our Conference. Steve asked for permission to put a team together to tweak the regional overseer format. It was M/S/C to give Steve the authority to establish a team to adjust the Regional Overseer structure to fit the Conference's current make-up by May 1st.

Administration Report was presented by Jack Runner. The positive cash flow is the tithe income minus all expenses. Jack has been working hard to get the budget to more accurately reflect what is spent by each board. It was M/S/C to adopt the revised budget for 2015.

Denominational Matters were discussed. General Conference was held in Portland, OR in 2014. It is being proposed to move the General Conference offices to Portland, OR in the summer of 2015. Steve shared how the Western Conference has been able to bless the Denomination as well as other conferences. Dan suggested that churches consider helping with the move to Portland, OR.

Annual Conference 2015 – Billings, MT will host conference in November 2-4.

Steve Strutz mentioned that he's still working on "Let's Talk" which is a chance for pastors to get together online and discuss various topics.

On Monday, March 2, a meeting was held with those who are in the final season of ministry on how to leverage that season for the kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Canen  
Conference Secretary