

## **SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Via “Mega Meeting” Conference Call - October 26, 2012

**Present:** Dale Erbele, Glenn Ewert, Jay Forseth, Superintendent Steve Strutz, Marc Johnson  
**Absent:** Webb Mandeville, Bill Howey, Dan Morgan

Welcome/Introduction/Prayer/Devotions

**Steve’s theme for this year:** Disciples making disciples making disciples making disciples...  
Fits into the Denomination’s new tagline “Transformed People Mobilized on the Mission of Christ”

No carry over business from past minutes

### **Hearing the heartbeat of our Superintendent (and wife):**

- \*Conference – Finances in good shape, grateful for good conference leadership, working ongoing scenarios at a couple of conference churches, gearing up for Annual Conference, great support of teams, visited Glendive, Rapelje, Big Timber, Reed Point, Broadview, Great Falls and Helena the past 6 months; going to Beach, ND in early November.
- \*Personal – Janice doing well, health is good for both of them, Sabbatical was positive
- \*Sabbatical Highlights – Class on Spiritual Disciplines through George Fox, interviewed conference superintendents and pastors in other denominations, worshipped in a few rural venues, R & R, reading, poured into each member of the family (the top highlight was family)

**WHEREAS**, our committee and Faith E work together on the support package for Steve, **BE IT RESOLVED** we would like to carry the same 2% COLA increase for Superintendent Strutz’s salary, retroactive to September 1, 2012.

Review of Western Conference Questionnaire and results—ongoing dialog forthcoming at Annual Conference 2012 (SEE ATTACHED RESULTS)

Green Light Thinking:

1. Encourage a quarterly Regional Overseer meeting by web
2. Encourage Prayer Board to pick back up the intercessor prayer ministry
3. Steve requests help in helping him assist our churches to be more effective

We prayed for our Superintendent and wife, and would encourage entire conference to do so regularly!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay Forseth, Conference Chairman

**The Western Conference exists for the benefit of the local church. How are we doing?**

(Questions 1-8)

Strongly Agree. 5	Agree. 4	Neutral 3	Disagree. 2	Strongly Disagree. 1
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1. \_\_\_\_\_ I have had a meaningful contact from or with our Conference Superintendent and/or my Regional Overseer in the past three months. Comment:
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel the door is open for me to contact my Conference Superintendent and/or Regional Overseer if I need something and/or I have a question. Comment:
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I appreciate being a part of the Western Conference Team and I believe this relationship benefits my local church. Comment:
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Western Conference website is beneficial to me and my local church. If so, or not, how? Comment:
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I am satisfied with the level of communication I receive from the Western Conference. Comment:
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The Western Conference is fulfilling its mission? (Healthy, life-giving, prevailing, multiplying pastors and churches) Comment:
7. \_\_\_\_\_ My church needs the Western Conference, and the Western Conference needs my church. Comment:
8. \_\_\_\_\_ When I have contacted the Conference Office, I have received a professional, timely, and helpful response. Comment:

**(Questions 9 and 10) OF THE FOLLOWING WESTERN CONFERENCE BOARDS:**

Church Health	Stewardship/Finance	Christian Education	Missions	Trustees
Pastoral Health	Church Planting	Women’s Ministry	Outreach	Prayer
Student Ministry	Camping Ministry	Board of Ministry		

9. The Board of \_\_\_\_\_ has been MOST HELPFUL, followed by the Boards of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Comment:
10. The Board of \_\_\_\_\_ has been the LEAST HELPFUL, followed by the Boards of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Comment:

**(Questions 11-14) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

11. In the past year I have participated in the following Western Conference opportunities: (check all that apply)
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Gatherings     | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Conference         | <input type="checkbox"/> Oratium Training    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister/Spouse Retreat | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Summit             | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping Ministry        | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Ministry Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Training   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peacemaker Training     | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Training      | <input type="checkbox"/> David Pals Training |
12. How do you and/or your church feel about the amount of tithe you share with the Conference? Comment:
  13. Do you and/or your church feel the Conference is stewarding the resources wisely? Comment:

14. Is there a specific way the Conference could help you and/or your church with any of the following: empowering leadership, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, loving relationships, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, need-oriented evangelism? Comment:

**RESULTS - Western Conference Questionnaire – Summer 2012** -- 65% responded (2/3rds)

1. CONTACT FROM CONFERENCE - Average **4.17** (44% responded 5, 37% 4, 9% 3, 3% 2, 6% 1)  
Comments (4): No contact past 2 years, no contact past 3 months, good contact with my regional overseer, I appreciate my regional overseer
2. OPEN DOOR TO CONFERENCE - Average **4.66** (83% responded 5, 10% 4, 6% 3)  
Comments (0)
3. APPRECIATE WESTERN CONFERENCE - Average **4.59** (62% responded 5, 35% 4, 3% 3)  
Comments (3): I believe it helps us stay together and connected, Help is available If needed, I like being part of something growing and forward looking
4. WEBSITE - Average **2.89** (4% responded 5, 15% 4, 67% 3, 4% 2, 15% 1)  
Comments (11): Have not accessed it, haven't used it, rarely go there, never use it, use resources/calendar, add social media integration, not sure how much it does/does not benefit, don't use much, camp website has issues, never really used it but this is my fault, we need resources there for each board—discipline, licensing packets, etc.
5. COMMUNICATION - Average **4.03** (34% responded 5, 41% 4, 17% 3, 7% 2)  
Comments (6): We are notified right away when prayer or help is needed, not much but I don't expect much, I don't participate in all it offers, videos were great, we could use update emails, communicate earlier upcoming events
6. FULFILLING CONFERENCE MISSION - Average **4.34** (48% responded 5, 38% 4, 14% 3)  
Comments (3): They help where they can; churches that need help receive it for the most part. I don't see the conference strategically planting or resourcing plants/satellites or dealing openly with plants within regions
7. NEED EACH OTHER – Average **4.28** (45% responded 5, 41% 4, 10% 3, 3% 2)  
Comments (4): None of us can survive alone, disorganized chaos/churches too independent without conference, we have support when we need it, our church has little conference interaction aside from my personal involvement
8. OFFICE STAFF – Average **4.54** (64% responded 5, 25% 4, 11% 3)  
Comments (2): Good job, responses to email or phone often takes a couple of days

9. MOST HELPFUL BOARDS

Church Health-6	Steward/Finance-4	Christian Education-2	Missions-1	Trustees-1
Pastoral Health-11	Church Planting-6	Women's Ministry-1	Outreach-9	Prayer-1
Student Ministry-6	Camping Ministry-2	Board of Ministry-6		

10 LEAST HELPFUL BOARDS

Church Health-1	Steward/Finance-1	Christian Education-4	Missions-6	Trustees-2
Pastoral Health-1	Church Planting-1	Women's Ministry-8	Outreach-1	Prayer-2
Student Ministry-1	Camping Ministry-7	Board of Ministry-0		

11. CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Regional Gatherings-19	Annual Conference-25	Oratium Training-15
Minister/Spouse Retreat-12	Prayer Summit-9	Board Member-17
Camping Ministry-7	Student Ministry Training-1	Outreach Training-1
Peacemaker Training-9	Small Group Training-3	David Pals Training-6

## 12. TITHE TO CONFERENCE

Positive comments=16, Negative comments=0, Neutral comments=3

## 13. STEWARDSHIP

Positive comments =21, Negative comments=1, Neutral comments=1

## 14. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU? – see attached

### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- We are losing traction on Natural Church Development
- In discussing this questionnaire with my PPR, they suggested we meet face to face instead
- Please help us with our future change of pastoral leadership
- Can't think of anything else we need
- Would like more seminars like Oratium at annual meetings
- All boards are helpful depending on your need at that time
- I have had no experience with the boards so cannot comment
- Sometimes it seems like we have big pots of money and people ask for it just because it is there
- Need help with functional structures—elder board, PPR, board of ministry, etc.
- My ministry has several denominations that work together, Evangelical is helpful because not as constrained by denominational boundaries, and I belong to this whole community
- Please help us with our church addition dedication
- None at this time
- Sometimes our church can actually be somewhat of a drain on the conference
- Have someone help us understand why the Church Health Tool would be beneficial to our church, help us walk through the process, I am sold but not all Elder board or council sees the need
- Already doing all you can do, I believe
- Help us with empowering leadership in developing new lay leaders
- Have a training session for worship leaders (inspiring worship)
- We are due for another NCD survey
- Speakers on inspiring worship, passionate spirituality, gift oriented ministry
- I feel the conference is doing everything it can to help my church
- Gift oriented ministry is our weakest area