**RCN Spring, 2010 DRAFT Minutes of Actions for 4/17-4/19, 2010 at Luther Seminary**

Attendance: Bernie Evans (Monday) Alvin Luedke, Angela Herrmann (Sunday), Christine Iverson, Mark Jackel-Juleen, Shannon Jung, Ron Lammert (Monday), Lon Oliver, Dave Ruesink, Katarina Schuth (Saturday only), and Kenny Sherin

**SATURDAY, 4/17**

**- Minutes for Dec, 2009 meeting as sent out by Dave. Moved by Shannon and Lon to approve as sent out. Approved.**

**- Treasurers report by Lon – Received for 2010 since last meeting gifts from denominations $2,100; Individual gifts $700 which leaves $3,184.96 balance in treasury. Due to Ex. Sec. prox $1,500. As develop resources, need to let all contributors about what is happening in gratitude. Moved by Christine and Shannon to accept report. Approved.**

**- Executive Secretary report by Dave**

 **Items that take most of the time:**

**1. Monitoring and forwarding email messages**

1. **Working with webmaster on mailing list and web site**
2. **Responding to inquiries about RCN**
3. **Letters to denominations and individuals about needs for funding**
4. **Preparing for semiannual meetings**
5. **Messages about the meeting**
6. **Arrangement for Executive Committee conference call**
7. **Preparation of DRAFT agenda**
8. **Attending semiannual meetings**
9. **Sending out minutes**

**Moved by Mark and Lon to accept report. Approved.**

**- President’s invitation to go to Crieff Hills for the fall meeting in Canada October 22-24, 2010.**

**In the absence of President, John Young, it was reported that he would extend an invitation to go to a camp about 30 minutes out of Toronto. This is the same camp that will be used by the Canadian Rural Church Network on October 24-27. After much discussion, and with another conversation with John on Monday, it was decided not to go to Canada because the cost will be more that normal to fly to Canada.**

**The Executive Committee was charged to find another place for October 22-24 that might be around an airport hub where air fares will be more reasonable. Those areas mentioned were Kansas City, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas-Fort Worth, or Cincinnati.**

**- President Elect’s guest for short period of time is Katarina Schuth.** **Alvin suggested that she might share some her research and her book about research she has done among multi-point Catholic parishes.**

**Resource development by Shannon**

**David Furman is a website designer.** Jean Hoeft was very helpful. Needed something engaging and showing who we were in terms of resources to be developed. **Paid him $500 for development using Dreamweaver.**

**Issues:**

1. **Are we willing to do this?**
2. **What skills do we need?**
3. **What is distinctively rural?**
4. **Who are partners – what entailed?**
5. **What is there already?**
6. **Quality control/permission?**
7. **Costs---where to begin?**
8. **Also need a webmaster to put material on the site**
9. **Need someone to edit but it does need to be on the site.**

**Mark** **prepared an example using Ning as a platform for PowerPoint resources. Went through menu of what he has. Used one as an example and tweaked it. Upload on Ning as a discussion site which provides quality (closed invitation.) Also unofficial closed invitation for anyone to respond. Could create an additional site for RCN only.**

**Mark suggested that we will need a couple of people who are intentional to help shape up. Have front door page with resources already. Play with it through Ning site. Will it work here or there. Need to be cleared by audience.**

**Angela Herrmann arrived Sunday at 1:10 She is a Web site developer for Disciples Church and advocate for Community gardening and growing of food.**

Lon—**We are working with ecumenical settings. What kind of resources would be useful for what audience. We have been spending lots of time on old and new website. Delivery of resources is our interest.**

**Distinctively rural should be focus. Glean gifts and graces within rural communities. A place where could go to think through issues like food with a rural voice. Logical place where someone going to a gathering to debate farm issues could find help from lifelong farm person. Immigration, environment, poverty**

**Chris willing to do worship resources and would like to ask Susanna to be a partner.**

 **Mark New to rural**

 -Seeing some stuff that is beginning to coalesce

 -Rural has a lot to teach about hunger and what food is

 **Alvin willing to work with Mark on moving into rural community and context**

 -What kind of questions to ask

 **Kenny interested in hunger and adding resources on rural economic development**

 **Lon thinks economic development might be of interest for Ben Poage**

 **Dave will check with Julia about developing a resource on Lay Ministry Teams**

 **Projects**

 **-Hunger Shannon, Lon, and Angela if willing.**

 **-Hope Joan would do one on FRB. Shannon as wrangler will ask her again**

 **-New to Rural, Mark and Alvin**

 **-Worship, Chris and hopefully, Susanna**

 **Shannon will be the one who will check in with each with different teams including July 15 for hunger for peer review with one month turn around time for reviews.**

**Mark**

 **By end of July for New to Rural ready for peer review. Same for review.**

**Chris**

 **Hesitant about committing until talk to another partner. Will have something by October 15.**

**Dave**

 **Commit for Lay Ministry Teams by Sept 15.**

**Shannon**

 **Preaching: Nancy Nyland ELCA Pastor and Fred Craddock as possibilities**

 **Poverty: Kenny and Ben when time allows**

**Tech Team**

 **Shannon, Kenny, Lon and Mark from this group communicates with webmaster? That is part of the oversight for the one Checking in. When and where does it go? Shannon will be the Check in person and to receive material and get it to the Tech Team. Mark will convene the team.**

 **Shannon sees content editor and webmaster as same person. Edit and throw up on Ning. It is up now, what do you like about it and how do you want it changed. Not all in agreement. The editor and webmaster may be different tasks.**

 **Angela stated that Usually tech is not an editor. Not many are the same.**

 **Another approach is to develop a style guide for material development. Eg how portray as same. Eg dates all same. Phone number all same. Consistent style helps go a long way toward looking professional. Pages with bullet points or numbers and letters like squares, circles.**

 **The tech committee would ask that Ruralchurchnetwork.org would continue and the group that has registered the domain (GKG) would need to make the request.**

 **Kenny will add email address to Ning ---Those who attend last three meetings. Add Gary Goreham, Gary Farley, Gil Waldkoening.**

**Resource Project**

 **Alvin asked for consensus about the comfort level for moving ahead with the Resource Project. All agreed, but may need to make a decision about where to host.**

**Uses for Ning by Kenny**

**ruralchurch.ning.com**

 **Could be a forum for this discussion**

 **Can be updated place for photos, videos**

 **Cross between face book and other things like a blog**

 **A communicating networking tool**

 **Discussion forum---Anyone can write on it. As administrator, can control who is invited.**

 **If want to use for internal use, only invited members can be asked.**

 **Add a discussion by titling it.**

 **What do we want to be as well as sharing resources.**

 **Bookmarks for UMC Town and Country, Village Missions work, Rural Ministries Network, Anglican in Canada,**

 **A lot of bloggers doing rural ministry blogging.**

 **Lots of “stuff” going on**

 **All Google platform on rural ministry Book marked using Google and finding links to others. Now have 65 bookmarks collected.**

**RSSE update by Lon and Kenny**

**Special notice: Because of a computer glitch, the recorder did not get the full content about moving RSSE from NDSU to AMERC. Will need Lon and Kenny to fill in the gaps at this point.**

**AMERC has partners for options. Non credit, for credit, for consortium members to plug in as part of a rural certification. Eg certificate of rural ministry. Credit transfers available for a seminary to use as a tool for rural ministry program.**

**Slow, but good**

**Kenny Lay or licesnsed would be helped by seeing community in a new way to understand structures.**

**Lon, These folks are more receptive to strong study**

**Want support and looking for a name of a partner.**

**Kenny hopes to be in a position for doing this, but DA**

**International Rural Church Association (IRCA) by Alvin and Dave**

**IRCA Alvin distributed two pieces of paper describing what is planned. IRCA Conference:** **September 20-26th 2010 will be at the Evangelische Landjugendakademie in Altenkirchen, Germany. Participants will fly into Frankfort and be transported about two hours away. For more information, go to** [**www.irca.net.nz**](http://www.irca.net.nz) **and click on to coming events then go to wanting more information. There is still room for three or four more participants from the USA to attend.**

**Frequency of meetings and alternatives to on site meetings**

 **Fall meeting: Have Executive Committee meet soon about place.**

 **Executive Committee needs to review and recommend revisions to By-laws Suggested changes need to go out at least 30 days ahead of a meeting. Think about Nov 19-22 in Kansas City, Chicago, St. Louis, or Cincinnati or Gettysburg Oklahoma City for Native American, migrant, poverty, etc.**

**Next spring. Meeting as conference call.**

**Sometimes need a meeting to produce educational material and have a meeting devoted to be in a locality to be in dialogue with such things as minority folks. Have an educational meeting in the spring and have business meeting in the fall. If limit business is priority,**

**Reduce report time by using electronic reports**

**Shannon moved to have one meeting in the fall, 2010 and not have one in the spring, 2011 then to have one meeting per year. Need one in 2011 in the fall because of resourcing.**

**Consensus of group is not to have a spring meeting and ask Dave to send out report for others. There could be an educational event sponsored by someone. Keep eye open for add-on where could have participation. Sometime in the spring will be a conference call for business.**

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 **Spring will be a conference call for business. Shannon moved to have one meeting in the fall, 2010 and not have one in the spring, 2011 then to have one meeting per year. Passed.o Need one in 2011 in the fall because of resourcing.**

**Need a conference call in a couple of weeks for Executive to decide on date and place.**

**Nomination Committee:**

**Need Vice President, Secretary, and At Large. John will be at large. Judy is to be asked whether she wants to stay or be replaced. Executive Committee to be nominating committee.**

**Help with dissertation**

**Kenny would like help with identifying major groups like AMERC, Shalom Hills, Luther, Duke, Rural Chaplains, NCRLC, UMRF. Want to include like “the sticks.” TEEM for Lutherans, Central state and Neb.**

**Adjourn at 11:10 am. Dave Ruesink recorder**