

**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church
April 15, 2016
Minutes**

Members –

Present: Lyndol Loyd (Chair), Mike Fordham, Melissa Stump, Jon Tschanz, Starr Clay, Andy Foote, Jim Manuel, Bob Douglass, Dick Schaeffer, Drew Dancey, Nathan Adams, Patti Aupperlee, Glenn Bosley-Mitchell, Allison Manning, Yvonne McShay, Cynthia Sucher, Amanda Blount

Absent: Sharyn Ladner, Steve Painter

Ex-Officio –

Present: David Fuquay, Mike Crawford, Sharon Austin, Tim Smiley, Rev. David Allen

Campus Ministers –

Present: Narcie Jeter, Erwin Lopez, Erik Seise, Christy Holden, Mike Toluba, Cindy Guiles, Latricia Scriven, Gary Marcelin, Derrick Scott, Ryan DeLaune

Motions and decisions in **BOLD**.

Board chair Lyndol Loyd called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Devotional

Mike Fordham spoke about the challenge of transition and change, pointing out that from a physical perspective, not to “change” means to die. Moses was reluctant and afraid of change when called, but followed God’s command in spite of his fears. Like Moses, when faced with change we should say “yes” to God.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Starr Clay

Second: Yvonne McShay

Motion passed.

Executive Director’s Report

David Fuquay spoke at greater length about the special announcement he sent BHECM members prior to the board meeting. Members of the Mississippi Conference when he and Rwth were married in 2012, David was working with campus ministries in the Florida Conference. The couple knew that their dream was to co-pastor in the future. The Florida Conference offers more support for women co-pastors, and Rwth moved to Florida. Earlier this year, the opportunity to co-pastor became reality. David stated that after marrying at the age of 39, this was the first time that he was moving from one conference into another and one position into another as part of a “we,” rather than an “I.” David is grateful for the opportunity for the two of them to “live into their dream.”

Chair Lyndol Loyd then explained that the meeting would focus on the transition that would be taking place in campus ministries and BHECM. He said that what was being discussed today was new information for the executive committee as well as board members and campus ministers. Lyndol learned of the changes slightly in advance of the executive committee meeting Thursday. David distributed copies of *A Report on Transition and Next Steps for BHECM*. (See Attachment A.) Lyndol stated that some items were fact, while others were being shaped. He stated that the BHECM budget

would remain the same and would include a salary for the director position, although there was no decision on whether the position would be filled at this point. BHECM will be restructured and everything “would remain on the table” as discernment takes place.

Campus ministers then moved into the smaller conference room to discuss changes outlined in the document they had just received, while BHECM members remained in the larger conference room to discuss implications of the report on BHECM and local boards.

BHECM Members’ Discussion

Lyndol read the five key changes outlined in the report. He provided additional insight and then asked for member input.

1 – District Superintendents will be supervising and overseeing campus ministers in their districts.

DSs are being asked to live into the campus ministries in a new way. The bishop will hold them accountable for their new responsibilities. DSs are becoming missional strategists within their district. This relates to recent changes in the appointment process, which has moved to the cabinet working on and making those appointments rather than having BHECM or local boards initiating and conducting searches.

Starr Clay said that the FSU Wesley board is redoing its by-laws and asked whether local support staff salaries would be impacted by the change. The response was that that type of decision would remain a local board task. The changes only relate to the ministers. Starr said that one of the changes being made to the bylaws was to make the ex-officio position of the sitting DS a voting member of board.

Discussion followed about the transition being an effort to draw the DS into greater relation with campus ministries. This involves reciprocity in that the intent is also to have campus ministers become more involved in relationship with other pastors in a district.

A local board might be considered similar to a church SPRC. The bishop consults with SPRC, but makes the appointment decision. The conference cabinet will have input into appointments.

Related to the recent appointments, there was discussion about transferring conferences and the implication of having people from other conferences. Are we influencing ministers to change conferences? What is the impact of changes in the appointment process on lay folks?

2 – Cynthia Weems to be the new Cabinet Liaison to BHECM. As a peer who has been very engaged with campus ministry in her district, she will interpret what the new role of the DS will be in each district.

3 – Tim Smiley will serve as BHECM chair beginning July 1. Tim observed that he and Cynthia has served together in the past.

4 – BHECM’s responsibility for overall mission and vision of higher education and campus ministry to continue. This will be in cooperation with the Cabinet and local Wesley boards. David was going to be working on identifying specific responsibilities for BHECM members as distinguished from the executive director’s role and this will move that process forward. Since Bishop Carter began, he has assembled a strategic leadership team that works with the appointed and extended Cabinet and an implementation team.

BHECM's restructuring will mean that the strategic leadership team (SLT) and entire Cabinet to be involved in the same conversation.

Tim Smiley stated that BHECM will be engaged more directly with the SLT and Cabinet and thinks this will enhance BHECM's relationship and role going forward.

Lyndol Loyd stated that campus ministers are processing this separately since it affects their daily lives.

Every DS has had a different kind of relationship with campus ministers and ministry. This transition moves campus ministries toward standardizing the way things operate across the state. In the past, BHECM does its work and goes on to annual conference. This will clarify who campus ministers specifically report to. There has been some frustration about whether a campus minister reports to a DS, the executive director, BHECM or the local board.

Tim spoke about the need for adaptive leadership to train Christian leaders at all levels about dealing with a world that's not predictable.

Bob Douglass commented that some of the things that are happening with this transition seem to have been handed down without input from BHECM. He would encourage discussion of significant changes to occur beforehand and provide opportunities for input.

Tim Smiley observed that it is often not change we fear, but loss, adding that in a recent leadership assessment, communication placed in the lowest strength quadrant for the whole conference.

Campus ministers returned to the large conference room at 11:30 and Lyndol explained the reason for breaking into two groups. Since it involved roles changing, the impact was greater on their daily lives and they needed to be able to discuss those things directly.

Starr Clay compared it to preparing breakfast a breakfast of ham and eggs for chickens and pigs. Board members were like chickens and partially invested in the menu, whereas campus ministers were fully invested, since they were the "ham." They would be much more impacted about what the restructuring would look like.

Erwin Lopez shared some of the conversation from the campus minister discussion. He said that receiving the information with such short notice was a concern. That prompted a primary question: **How do we get answers to frustration around things taking place without input from campus ministers or BHECM?** He suggested that Tim should work on this with Sharon and Cynthia so that communication is a dialogue not a directive.

Tim said that they can't be specific around item 4 at this time because there is not yet a lot of detail.

Erwin said that campus ministers were concerned about situations in past where a DS has not been in line with local boards.

Tim said that the intent of the restructuring was to move into a more dialogical relationship.

There was discussion about the need to ensure that Bethune Cookman and Florida Southern are considered in this new vision between the conference and the campus ministries. Lyndol commented that the two schools also need to ensure that connected more with BHECM.

Tim Smiley asked that we consider in what way a Wesley ministry is like a local church. Part of our work will be to try to determine how a DS needs to be involved. Who should campus ministers call?

Mike Crawford suggested that campus ministers might draft a listing of some ways they can interact with DSs.

There was a suggestion that Cynthia Weems or another member of the Cabinet attend the upcoming campus ministers' retreat.

Questions from campus ministers: Should campus ministers interact with DS or conference on daily basis? Is there an opportunity to speak into conference offices? Will they need staff support? What things still need to be done at the conference level?

Lyndol then suggested that we break for a 30-minute lunch and pick back up with discussion of a re-organization draft. We would conclude by recognizing specific way that we see God moving in campus ministries.

Melissa Stump prayed before lunch.

Discussion of BHECM Re-Organization Draft (See attachment)

There were questions about how funds would actually get executed. Dick Schaeffer stated that that needed coordination. One person should sign off, not several. What would be the role of local board with regard to expenditures?

Andy Foote suggested that the property committee could validate an expense and send it to finance. There was a suggestion that there be a Treasurer added to the Executive Committee who could be a POC for single sign-off.

If the DS assesses campus ministers, how would that work with a local board? There was conversation around assessment and how to do it. Sharon suggested that the local director of connectional ministries could be involved with local boards.

There was a recommendation that there be a person designated to contact at the Conference office. Sharon suggested that there was the possibility of staff support at conference offices

David will be sending a survey to existing members to determine areas of interest. Lyndol encouraged members to send follow-up thoughts via email to David.

Finance Report

Dick Schaffer reported that there had been underspending in several areas. He affirmed that the 2017 budget includes the executive director salary, stating that that will be helpful in accommodating higher salaries for several new hires for campus ministry positions.

Mike Toluba asked how campus ministry salaries are set. Discussion followed. David said that, unlike prior years, no one is making the minimum salary. Salaries overall are related to specific campus ministries and elder/provisional elder status. Other circumstances may factor into salary, for example, cost of living in some areas of the state.

Sharon Austin said that Bishop Carter would be scheduling a conversation with campus ministers to discuss some of the logistics around the transition. She thought that it would be a four-hour meeting and would take place in the next six weeks.

FSU Wesley Building Report

Mike stated that they are scheduled to move into the new building in December and will be ready in time for spring semester. The tower and foundation are complete. He reported that the only “hiccup” has been soil density. They have had to bring in several truckloads of soil at a cost of about \$30K.

Other business

Christy Holden reported that the process of bidding on a parsonage is under way.

Lyndol said that Narcie Jeter had had to leave to negotiate a deal with Verizon about having a cell tower on the property, which could result in a new income stream for the ministry. Lyndol noted that BHECM wanted to mark her time with us and note the things she did for BHECM at Gator Wesley. He wished her well on behalf of BHECM on her move to SC conference.

The meeting continued with recognition of several BHECM members who are rotating off after serving for eight years. David presented certificates to Patti Aupperlee, Dick Schaeffer and Mike Fordham.

He continued by recognizing that this was Lyndol’s last meeting before his move to Texas and presented Lyndol with a certificate for guiding this team for four years and helping BHECM focus on its real mission.

Lyndol then recognized David on behalf of the board, since, he, too, would be transitioning during the summer to serving as a co-pastor at a local church. He presented David with gift certificates to a restaurant and to purchase books.

Celebrating campus ministry

Lyndol pointed out that this was the end of the 2012-2016 Quadrennium and there was much to celebrate. He invited everyone to share something meaningful and authentic about the impact of campus ministries.

- David Allen spoke about a \$7K grant that allowed students from BCC to take seminary tours. One of those tours led to a student recently being accepted at Duke. The program had also received a \$600K grant that would impact 50 students. David has been named an assistant dean.
- Latricia Scrivens described the growth of FAMU Wesley and talked about one student who actually learned how to read the Bible and to understand numbers, colons, chapter titles, and the Old and New Testaments. She showed photos of a recent event where they baptized three students in the FAMU pool. 30 people walked down to the pool singing “Take Me to the Water.”
- Mike Crawford talked about 15 students who went to southern Virginia to do mission work over spring break. They worked with families, doing homework with them. They replaced a floor with one family from one of the most impoverished regions of America. The students asked father to join them and he finally did. He then asked the students to lead him in a prayer to rededicate his life to Christ on the kitchen floor he’d just redone. The father said he hadn’t ever seen students actually living into what they preach.

- Nathan Adams encouraged all of us explore what it means to do campus ministries. He spoke about their outreach to Johnson and Wales. His church partnered with a TESPA gaming club, which resulted in 8-10 college students coming to help with children. The students asked if they could ask for support during an Easter service. They received more than the \$300 they needed and decided to put the excess back into church. They asked to be baptized. Nathan said that Fulford wanted to be THE religious voice on campus.
- Mike Fordham talked about introducing his daughter to Vance Rains at FSU Wesley in 2007. He said that he had “been this girl’s pastor for all her life.” He cautioned Vance about the handoff from him (Mike) to Vance. Now he has another children who have been touched by Wesley and he thanked the campus ministries and BHECM for making such a huge difference.
- Sharon Austin acknowledged that, even though there are tough discussions that have taken place at BHECM, everyone is still at the table.
- Tim Smiley spoke as pastor and parent with young children at first who are now in high school and reflected on the impact of campus ministry at FIU.
- Lyndol Loyd said he was thankful for students at CFL Wesley who come to Lifesong. Soon to graduate, they have asked to start a life group for 20-somethings. Lyndol sees that as a natural connection with the new Apartment Life ministry.
- Starr Clay talked about college students who may have been on the fringe of faith and someone who had had no “churching” who was now asking for a recommendation from FSU Wesley for ordination.
- Erwin Lopez shared that because of the flood in the parsonage he had had to give up leadership of CFL Wesley’s two mission trips to assistant directors. The two trips filled up! He spoke about the fact that there are between 5 and 10 students serving in Warren Willis camp. There are students visiting Asbury. A student named Kimmi had never been connected to church. She got plugged into Wesley. Erwin baptized her. She chose Wesley as her way to becoming a Christian.
- Gary Marcelin said that, while there had been challenges with the changes in the Miami area, that in tension there’s growth. The two ministries had their first worship together on Good Friday. Three students will be in seminary. One starts in fall. There are two student pastor interns and three more are inquiring about going to seminary.
- Cindy Guiles talked about seeing how the Methodist Student Movement Retreat can continue. She thanked Rev. Drew Dancy for coming alongside the men’s ministry.

Lyndol acknowledged the successes and reiterated a quote from Corrie ten Boom: “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” He then asked Sharon Austin to close BHECM in prayer and adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.