

AFFN Board Meeting: October 9, 2015. Skype.
Board and Advisory Board Meeting
Present: Chris, Bill, Doug, Carl, Ellen.
Lisa, Don, Mark, Norm.
Absent: Ron, Sean

1. Opening prayer – Norm, 10:32 am.

2. Responses to Chris' question for the meeting: Who are we (as a network)? Where are we going? (Describe who we are; who we are *actually* at the moment) What are we (now, at the moment)? Where should we be going?

Lisa: A group of like-minded people; common interest in church history.

Re, from last week: Glenn Collard's offer to familiarize the Charlotte chapter with AFF. A mission statement would be helpful, so we're all on the same page. We shouldn't have to point people to the website. We ought to have an "elevator speech;" sound bites; different ways of expressing it.

There was a discussion about that in Pittsburgh.

Carl: like-minded; compelled by a particular view of the church, history, worship, evangelism, discipleship, etc. based on the early church model, as laid out by Webber. The network not only offers resources for those who believe this hermeneutic is correct, but a modeling for them.

Doug: largely what Carl said. Reminded us that Norm early on had a vision for a resource center.

Where we're going: a true network; a forum that enables others to go forward into this vision of worship renewal. We are on a growth curve now.

Because we are a network, it does depend on the contributions of all the members.

We need to have a bit more structuring and direction for, and feedback from, the "chapters."

[Aside: Chris is the only one who posts content. People submit to him, he vets it.]

Chris and Carl have been brainstorming about terminology for the chapters; would like to call them "cloisters." Would have regional cloisters; would like a monthly, online live roundtable "Chapter House;" on specific topics. Sean will help with that, at least with the development of them.

Ellen: largely agree with everything that's been said. Would like us to move more intentionally to regional chapters and to enact other of the things members have previously requested as resources or helps.

Mark: we have examples of different journeys. Epiclesis – a church start. What do we do about churches that need assistance?

What is ancient-future "like" now? Is it a seeker model? Do we come alongside other churches, help them? What lessons could we learn from the things we've seen?

Chris: response to a couple of those points. Has just completed editing a compelling lecture by Bob on the topic of "Ancient Future." "I've come to believe that the style issues are irrelevant" – AF is applicable to no matter what doctrinal, stylistic model, etc.

Also wants to get all these materials into the hands of all the board members.

It will be obvious that the imprint and legacy of Bob Webber will be central to who we are

as a Network. At the same time, the organization should not only be about Bob; he would not have wanted that, either. He is a guiding figure; he basically authored The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future.

[Ellen suggested that board members take a listen to one of the Ancient Future Faith podcasts. Interview link and dates: Jan 3, 2014 and Jan 10, 2014 {click on the dates; they're at the bottom of the page} In them are called out specifically some points of what ancient-future faith is and is not.

<http://www.epiclesis.org/podcasts/series/ancient-future-faith-on-kfia/page/2/>]

Don: we've just walked through a number of 11th and 12th century cloisters on our walk on the Way of St. James. That's a beautiful image idea for our chapters.

We also should not lose sight of the pastoral aspect of what we're doing; support for those who have needed it (counseling, prayers, etc.) since the beginning of the AFFN. We ought to articulate that.

Chris: I still get calls monthly from those working in churches who are getting opposition because of their desires to bring in ancient-future faith aspects.

Bill: we are infants embarking on a journey; what's most important is the direction of that journey. God is already there, and knows what it is. We are in the discovery phase.

Agree with Lisa about the need for talking points.

It was very helpful to him, personally, to listen to the materials. We should all be required to be familiar with them.

Chris to Lisa: Is Glenn doing more harm than good, in leading these meetings in Charlotte, in not being able to articulate these things? Lisa. No. Last time we had some technical difficulties, so we didn't get it all done. The meetings could have more structure.

Lisa mentioned Jonathan Stone. Someone Lisa met on Twitter; Lisa invited him to a meeting, last one was at his church. He is Church of God ("we embrace the liturgy and the shout"). Each time they meet, they focus on one person and his/her ministry.

The chapter meetings are also evolving.

(Right now AFFN has about 122 Twitter followers.)

Norm: doesn't know if we ever will really understand where we are going, because the conditions are always changing. We must be capable of embracing the nuances that come along.

Lisa: Perhaps one thing that would help the Charlotte group, and then others: what should we be doing in our meetings? Should everyone be a network member?

What should be the goals?

Chris: Yes, they should be network members (not necessary to be, maybe, but that is a goal). We also saw local chapters and regional gatherings as a way to get down to the grassroots in terms of pastoral care; mutually supporting, accountability, etc. In fact, has never seen organizations do real, connected accountability very well, and we want that to be a characteristic of us.

3. Bill and Ellen. Visioning the Network

Bill – document sent to Chris. Used as talking points on screen.

This document will be emailed out for consideration, prayer, comment. We will work this in before next time.

Specific comments:

Carl: include Christus Victor theology.

Chris: some theological issues on the four-words-section.

Lisa: include something specifically ancient-future in the mission statement, because there are lots of ideas about what is “worship renewal.”

4. Miscellaneous

Doug: is there a way to create a restricted area on the website where he can post some things just for the board members to see? (Chris: will ask David Sudarma)

Doug: we need to check out a better technology for our board meetings. Also could be used for the monthly Chapter House meetings.

Bill: this should be doable, based on his current fiscal expectations. So, completely in favor of this.

Bill: comment on the “cloisters” and Chapter House meetings:

This is a good way to provide a personal connection (video or live) from Chris or another board member.

Doug: As the cloisters coalesce, as funds become available in the future, would be wonderful to have regional convocations. The sooner the better.

Ellen: this is similar to the regional conferences the members have been requesting for a long time. Very excited to see this in motion.

Chris: getting together a couple of ancient-future lectures, based on Bob’s lectures but in his own words. Would have these ready to go for these regional meetings.

Carl: this is very much in the spirit of ancient future approach. (Lisa, “this is very medieval in spirit, very wonderful.”) We could have teams drawn (initially?) from the board members, with a particular interest and expertise in some of the topics – AF discipleship, AF worship, etc. Would be ready to go for in-person regional Chapter Houses.

Chris – has updated the section on the website titled “Latest News.” Everyone please go there, see if all is clear, because he is going to send out an email tomorrow with the newest initiatives (membership levels, resource partners, knowledge base, store) to the membership.

Mark: has applied for a job in Nova Scotia. Please pray with him about this. Can see some interesting implications for the Network; the school is a joint venture among 3 denominations.

Norm: a request to the group: We need to keep in mind that there are a couple of different ways to look at growth. We need to provide a reason for members to want to join the network (this is the personal growth aspect). So the resource center must be stocked.

Refers to his experience at Epiclesis.

Don: we have about \$3,500 in the bank.

Chris – has a meeting with David Sudarma today. Will discuss today’s discussion points

Next meeting: Thursday, Oct 29, 10:30 am PDT.

5. Closing

Chris – closed with a Scripture. His life verse is Deut 31:7-8

Moses is conferring his leadership to Joshua, in the presence of all Israel.

“Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their

inheritance. The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
Chris closed the meeting in prayer at 11:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Koehler