

AFFN Board Meeting: October 29, 2015. Skype.

Board and Advisory Board Meeting

Present: Chris, Bill, Carl, Ellen.

Lisa, Don, Mark, Ron, Sean

Absent: Doug, Norm

Agenda from Chris (10/25)

- Fall plans: including plans for newsletters, new additions to the Abbey, and particularly, membership renewals (dates and deadlines, and levels of access).
- Updates on web progress (you'll be very pleased)
- Technology update (if Doug has some things to present us about his research into webinar/virtual conferencing).
- Plans for a January meeting here in Sacramento with Joanne Webber and your potential availability. Please check your calendars for the timeframe of January 18-24, particularly focused on 20-24.
- Other

1. Opening prayer – Mark, 10:32 am.

2. Fall Plans

Newsletters already sent out describing new developments and additions. Very good response: open rate is great (48-53%). 2 or 3 people have asked to be removed from the mailing list, but they weren't contributing members, just following along.

New additions to the Abbey: interview with Father Ryan Mackey. His church was part of the Pentecostal holiness group of churches in Kansas that have all moved to the Evangelical Episcopal Church. Posted in the Abbey and on the Epiclesis website.

Membership renewals are coming in. We are still headed toward Advent for renewals, but now have the technology capability to designate any date as yearly renewal date, tied to date of donation. (Bill reminded us that anyone who renews now has the Advent membership level; membership until beginning of Advent 2016.)

3. Web progress

The Knowledge Base is up and running. It's located in the pull down menu in the Abbey.

Postings in the Abbey are active for 1 month, then shifted to the Knowledge Base.

Store is more or less ready to go. All content has been loaded except audio/visual.

New button on the main toolbar: "Networking." Includes information on the Cloisters and the Chapter House. Thanks to Lisa for helping with getting this up!

Web stats continue to climb. 1,500 visits, almost all are brand new, almost 10,000 page views. Bounce rate is 3.2%.

Chris has developed a Resource Partner page that describes what they are and why they are important. He will re-send the email with details to Board and Advisory Board.

Resource Partner numbers update: 7 have paid; 4 more committed; 4 or 5 others are considering.

All new membership levels and payment amounts are now incorporated into the giving page.

Chris has prepared Robert Webber materials for the website to be released after the new year (Advent).

Examples – materials from the first two ancient-future conferences Bob did in Chicago. Additional lectures. 1) Retelling of Luke 24 (Emmaus Road journey). Carl mentioned there is an accompanying book, *Worship: Journey into His Presence*. Can we make that available, perhaps as a package? Chris will check into whether it's still available in other places.

2) Candid, informal interview with Bob done by some researchers at David C. Cook Publishers. Discussed discipleship and spiritual formation. Chris has gotten permission from Cook Publishers to make this available. Chris has edited out any personal information.

3) also has lectures ready: Ancient-Future Worship (undated), AF Evangelism (undated), AF Evangelism (given at Moody Bible Institute)

Bill suggested a nomenclature change: instead of “store,” could use “market” or “marketplace.”

Mark: how often do you plan to post these?

Chris: about once a month. Web visits and views spike when the Webber stuff is posted, but then people return to read other things. Facebook and Twitter also drive traffic.

Members are sending in material pretty regularly. When this is sparse, Chris puts up something else Webber, or recycles from prior posts that might not have been seen the first time. (Good to bring older posts back to members' attention anyway.)

We are creating a protected area on the website for Advisory and Board access; it's a simple matter of assigning access.

Bill: when we get to full sharing capability, we should get some kind of technology that allows for making comments on documents. There are better tools than just what is included in Word mark-up.

Our attorney, Susan Spann, will be clarifying copyright questions with publishers of some of Bob's out-of-print books, then work to get permission to digitize them. Chris has asked the Board members to help with gathering some information for her. Most have given this to him already.

#### 4. Technology Update

Chris and Doug are looking for the best tools; even if that means we have to pay in order to ensure all have a good quality experience. Looking toward webinars and monthly online meetings for members.

#### 5. January plans

We have made plans with Joanne Webber for her to come to Sacramento the third week of January, 2016; want to discuss financing issues with her, and just generally spend time with her. We (the Network) will fly her out. The meeting will also include visioning and strategy.

We would love to have a gathering here with as many advisory and board members as possible. Desirable dates: Jan 20-24 (Wednesday – Sunday), but the bulk of activities will be on the weekend. If advisory and board members can get themselves here (travel), we will take care of them while they are here.

## 6. Other

Prayer. Chris asked us to pray about a confidential matter (funding possibility). He discussed ideas for an endowment; would make available funding for, among other things, starting or growing AF churches

Prayer, continued: Chris called us to be praying specifically and intentionally about and for the Network. This should be a regular part of our personal, devotional prayer life.

Carl related a story of his recent conversation with a fellow Baptist pastor, begun because he was wearing his AFFN pin. Encouraged us to wear them regularly.

Bill encouraged us to spread the word about memberships and talk with people about joining now. Reminded us that this makes membership active until the beginning of December 2016. Bill is also working on a matching grant concept with some other members. This would entail a matching donation, dollar for dollar, for all donations given by Advisory and Board members above the amount of their membership level.

Bill: if you have other people in mind who would be interested in Network membership, and would be likely to give anywhere between \$250 and \$5,000+, point them to him, and he will talk with them.

Update on New Vision statement (Bill and Ellen): we have received really good input from Lisa, Mark, Don and Norm. We've incorporated that into a new draft. Next steps: get input from others; schedule a meeting with Chris to work out language.

Don: bank balance: \$4,127.58 as of this morning.

Next meeting: just before Thanksgiving. Chris will send out an email about availability.

## 7. Closing

Chris closed in prayer at 11:26 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Koehler