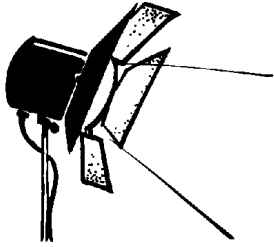


The Proactive Pulse



District Ministry Training Initiative A Major New Ministry Frontier



March/April
2011

Staff Directors:

Executive Director
Rev. Jim Hollis

Director of Ministry Development
Rev. Jim Burt

Director of Resource Development
Dr. Ron Flowers

Director of Video Ministry
Jan Hollis

Director of Ministry Covenants
Heidi Lauer

Director of Administration
Jamie Blankenship

Additional Staff
Crystal Barham
Chuck Duncan
B.J. & Lloyd Griffith
Jewels Kind
Steve Klinger
John Landis
Polly McClure
David Nysewander
Joye Percival
Sonsee Sanders
Lamarr Stevens
Jimmy Trimble
Rev. Gary Whatley
Suzanne Zipperer

Through some wonderful donors and a private foundation, we are reaching out to share ministry training with both clergy and laity in United Methodist Districts across the nation in 2011. We are currently in conversations with District Superintendents across seven states and just getting started. **We are proposing five exciting ministry options for Districts:**

1. Barnabas Cluster Church Groups

Our first one is well into the first year of ministry development in the College Park District of the North Georgia Conference. Four congregations (three African American and one Caucasian) are experiencing spiritual and ministry transformation beyond all expectations, with attendance at Training Experience weekends averaging around 140 participants. We have donations in place for the majority of the underwriting of two more groups, with five churches in each. Two districts have nominated churches for consideration in this as of February 10, 2011.

2. The District Clergy and Laity Ministry Motivation Event

- ▶ A day and evening of spiritual motivation and proven ministry training with all the clergy and laity of the churches in a district
- ▶ Pastors share in worship, motivational plenary session and workshops from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., followed by a limited number of individual consultations
- ▶ Dinner for laity leaders and all clergy at the host church, followed by a shared worship time and two creative ministry workshops

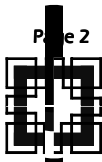
“Our Staff and Leadership have prayed that Christ would seriously expand our ministry territory. We believe that 2011 is the first year for *major ministry* expansion. Keep praying with us!” – Rev. Jim Hollis, Executive Director

3. District Pastors’ “L.E.A.P. Groups”

Multiple research sources (The Barna Group; Pastoral Care, Inc. and Fuller Institute) agree there is a widespread clergy crisis across America today:

- ◆ 50% of pastors would move laterally to another job if available
 - ◆ 80% feel unqualified and discouraged in their role as pastors
 - ◆ 80% believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families
 - ◆ 70% constantly fight depression
- ▶ “LEAP Groups” – Loving, Relating, & Encouraging Pastors
 - ▶ Led by compassionate, experienced, objective, ministry consultants
 - ▶ Plan to start the first “pilot group” in 2011
 - ▶ Superintendent will work with Proactive to promote this with clergy

(Continued on page 2)



Your Staff Parish Relations Committee: Human Resource Ministry OR Fire Department?

Tarisha, a member of SPRC dialed Susan, the Chairperson and said, “George called me last night and says that Pastor Bill has given Gina, our Secretary, a notice that her position will be dissolved in 30 days.”

“Oh my goodness. I have not heard anything about this,” Susan said, “But we need to have a meeting and see how we can sort this out.”

“Yes, I agree and immediately. I know Bill and Gina have differences but he is out line to do that without us. Besides that, she is a single parent Mom and really needs this job for income. You recall that she is Verna and Tim’s daughter.”

▶ Can you identify the major issues represented here? It did not get this way over night...

Nearly everyone wants to get along in the church. At work there are boundaries, policies and clear ways to address sticky situations. This is church and too often it is the course of least resistance to simply *accept the unacceptable*.

Susan thought back to last fall when she was asked to chair the SPR Committee. She told the nominations committee that she really did not want to serve on SPRC again after the memories of the last roller coaster ride during a pastoral change rife with conflict. But they persuaded her that several others were unwilling to serve and she was really needed. She prayed, *I knew better! But here we go again. Help us Lord for this storm to be smaller than the last ones where families left the church.*

Serving on your church’s Staff Parish Relations Committee can result in experiencing blessings, joys and fulfillment in ministry. How can this be true?

- ◆ Excellent training and re-orientation of ministry identity and vision
- ◆ Operating the ministry of SPRC out of a *proactive* rather than a *reactive* strategic ministry plan for the entire year, apart from incidents that arise
- ◆ Situational role plays during the training of “fly paper” circumstances, applying the new principles and strategies in real life settings
- ◆ An ongoing support system for the Committee year round

Is this a transformation that you would like to see take place in your church, with your Staff Parish Relations Committee? Would you like your SPR Committee to produce positive personal testimonies of rewarding ministry, closer relationships and reconciliation of hurts? It’s very possible for your church. Give us a call.

District Ministry Training Initiative (Continued From Page 1)

4. The Pastor’s Life & Leadership Development (Day Retreat)

- ◆ Inspiring and affirming worship
- ◆ In depth teaching on professional clergy ministry development
- ◆ Based around the “DISC” profile assessment tool
- ◆ Each registered participant takes the instrument online prior to the retreat
- ◆ Major training on healthy conflict, team building & leadership development
- ◆ Training on Team Building and Staff relationships

5. The Superintendent’s “Potential Picks” Envisioning Week

- ▶ The District Superintendent nominates SIX churches or cluster group of churches with the greatest potential for ministry growth
- ▶ Two Proactive Staff conduct Envisioning with either:
 - ◆ Churches (a day and an evening with each) OR
 - ◆ With Cluster of churches together (one half day with single cluster groups)
- ▶ These consultations all held during four consecutive days in the District
- ▶ Focus is on Possibility Thinking for major ministry growth potential

Leadership Development Ministry for Small Businesses

- ▶ Proactive Staff has an effective track record of working with owner/operators, managers and Supervisors of Chick-fil-A restaurants for past two years.
- ▶ Plans to expand into other various small business settings for:
 - ◆ Professional leadership development training
 - ◆ Staff communication and relationship development with management teams
 - ◆ Individual life-coaching with owners, managers, supervisors and employees
 - ◆ Training in healthy conflict, addressing differences in the workplace

All across America today there is often an unspoken “disconnect” between business leaders and others in more traditional ministry. At times business leaders see their roles as a ministry, while others say, “The business community may minister in certain settings, but are not in the same kind of ministry as clergy, missionaries and teachers.” Part of this “disconnect” comes from the disdain that some hold toward capitalism and making profit from the sharing of goods and services. Yet, business leaders often provide employees with income, insurance, and other compensation which directly impacts their quality of life. This ministers to these families as it is often done with the teachings of Christ in mind.

Therefore, Christians who are business people ARE in ministry if they are Christ followers, seeking to serve the needs of others and enrich their lives both financially and spiritually. Keeping the bottom line of any business grounded in Judeo-Christian values and morals is a ministry risk that business leaders take, one that could impact offending customers who are of different faith systems or no faith system. In the January 2011 edition of Christianity Today magazine, there was an entire article written as an interview on this topic by Rob Moll.

We at Proactive feel called to reach out, initiate new relationships and support business owners and leaders through providing them with on-site, in-the-workplace leadership development training, life coaching and encouragement for their Directors, Managers and employees. We believe this is “front line ministry” demonstrating the relevance of Christian Faith to the struggles and challenges of everyday life. We are seeing persons come to have new desires to learn about the Christianity and what it means to live in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Without sharing in the context of the workplace, we would never meet many of these wonderful people – because many of them are not presently active in any local church.

What can YOU do to help move this new frontier of ministry forward? Think of one or more business owners or leaders that you know personally. Ask them how their faith gets lived out in the context of the workplace. Listen carefully. Share with them that Proactive Ministries is reaching out to people like them, businesses of various kinds to provide on-site, ongoing ministry support, training and encouragement with owners, management teams, and employees so that many who don’t “do church” can come to learn more about life, faith, and Christ.

Our Calendar

March

- 4-6 Envisioning
Cross in the Desert UMC, Phoenix, AZ
- 7-8 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
St John UMC, Atlanta, GA
- 11-13 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
Barnabas Cluster Project
Hapeville UMC, Hapeville, GA
- 11-13 Youth Ministry
Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting
Proactive Ministries
- 18-20 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
Inman Park UMC, Atlanta, GA
- 25-27 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
Julia A. Porter UMC, Porterdale, GA
- 29 Joseph Project
Central UMC, Atlanta, GA

April

- 1-3 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
Beaumont FUMC, Beaumont, TX
- 8-10 Evangelism & Outreach (LRE)
Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL
- 22 Office Closed in Observance
of Good Friday
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting
Proactive Ministries
- 29– May 1 Connect Group
Barnabas Cluster Project, Atlanta, GA

May

- 10-11 Leadership Development
Inman Park UMC, Atlanta, GA
- 12 Griffin District Training
Griffin FUMC, Griffin, GA
- 13-15 Friends in Faith
Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL
- 17 Executive Committee Meeting
Proactive Ministries
- 20-22 Friends in Faith
Tavares FUMC, Tavares, FL
- 24-25 Connect Group
Barnabas Cluster Project, Atlanta, GA

See Our Calendar and More Online at
www.proactive-ministries.org

Find us on the World Wide Web at:
www.proactive-ministries.org

Proactive Ministries
2400 Lake Park Dr SE Suite 155
Smyrna, GA 30080-8996

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What is Inside?

OUR NEWS

District Ministry
Training

Leadership
Development for
Businesses

Staff Parish
Relations:
HR Dept.
or Fire Dept.?

Calendar

Wow! 2011 is here with spiritual amazement, exceeding our hopes. Enjoy reading how our Barnabas Cluster Churches are seeing spiritual transformation. We are seeing the Lord open major new frontiers of ministry. We are blessed to begin working with Districts of the UMC, sharing effective ministry training options for both laity leaders & clergy, single churches and groups of churches. Wonderful new church ministries from Arizona to Texas to Florida have become realities from many prayers. Celebrate with us the acceleration of spiritual JOY that is unfolding. ALL honor, glory and thanks to God.

Rev. Jim Hollis



Proactive Ministries
2400 Lake Park Dr SE Suite 155
Smyrna, GA 30080-8996
Main Office: (770) 803-9988
Fax: (770) 803-9989
Email: proactive.ministries@gmail.com

Find us on the World Wide Web at:
www.proactive-evangelism.org