

BAMA MINUTES – January 11, 2012

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at the North Bloomfield United Methodist Church. Present were host pastor Jody Baker, Melvin Tolley, Jim Elkin, Tal Lewis, Jim Gardiner, Dale Briggs, Jim Jewell, Fred Keener, and guests Ken Weeks and Melody Keener.

Jody Baker led in opening devotions from Galatians 5:4-6. He stressed that the Christian life is not about us trying to be good enough, but simply living and resting in the goodness of Christ. It's not about living a religious life, but a life in the grace of God.

Following prayer requests and the offering of prayer, the minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George could not be present, but copies of a year-end financial report he had emailed earlier were circulated. Our balance as of the end of the year was \$4,656.67.

Arrangements for the Life Action Summit May 27 – June 3 were discussed at length. Fred's daughter Melody, a 3-year Life Action team member, had drafted a letter to be sent to pastors in the greater Trumbull County area, inviting them to be part of the summit. It was felt that the letter says just what is needed at this time. It was suggested that a follow-up letter in March or April should include times of each of the events, plus any other details of the summit that would be helpful for people to know. It was mentioned that Trumbull County Right to Life president Jim Earl would have a database of many of the pastors and churches in the county. Fred said he would contact him to ask for this database (which Jim did indeed submit). It was felt that a follow-up phone call should also be made to pastors after the second letter is sent. Melody said she would be willing to help make the phone calls.

Our second area of discussion under the topic of Life Action was about a vision for a revival-oriented website Melody has for the area. It was felt that it should be a stand-alone site, though there would be links to it on the BAMA web page. The site would be aimed at helping people in our area find out more about the upcoming summit and what to expect, and have testimonies from other people who have gone through one as well as articles that will encourage them to pray and know how to prepare for the summit. The site would also be directed at letting pastors know about the summit, so they in turn can encourage their members to attend. Melody shared that a high school senior in the Medina area would do the site for us for no more than \$400 (though he wanted to leave it up to us exactly how much to give him), and would be willing to make small monthly changes in the site for no extra charge. Dale moved that we offer the site designer (David Maynard) \$200 up front, then give him more once the site is finished. The motion was seconded and passed. Dale said he believes the site will help encourage our own members to be part of the Summit. Jim Elkin suggested that we call the page "Trumbull Revival." Dale confirmed that the domain <http://www.trumbullrevival.org> is available. It was felt that there will probably be a small annual fee for the use of the domain. The possibility of a billboard to advertise the summit was mentioned, and Tal said he would check into what it would cost. (Fred will have publicity materials - posters and bulletin inserts - available to all the BAMA churches at our February meeting.)

Our third area of discussion pertaining to Life Action was a listing of vital information and details about the summit which Tal had designed, and Fred and Melody had added to. This list includes the various coordinators needed. Tal said he believes we should get coordinators assigned as soon as possible. Jody volunteered North

Bloomfield U.M.C. to do Monday lunch and supper for the Life Action team. Fred reminded the group that all team meals are to be served at Wildare. North Bloomfield will also help with fairground facility needs, though every church will need to provide chairs. For the prayer tent, Jody offered the use of a large tent he has access to. A platform was also discussed. Dale volunteered to be the host family coordinator. We are to let him know how many host families will be available from each church. Melody shared that host cars will also be needed for the team members to commute back and forth in. Tal offered the use of his 28-foot RV, if the revivalist who speaks at our summit prefers this type of lodging. He mentioned that if desired, the RV could even be parked by Mosquito Lake for \$28/night. Something else we discussed was whether the Sunday morning meetings (usually around 2 hours) should start at 10 or 10:30 a.m. We recognize that there are still a number of details about the summit that are “unknowns” to us at this time, but which will be filled in at the pre-summit weekend April 15-16.

At this point in the meeting, Ken Weeks was given the opportunity to share about a new possibility pertaining to the food ministry. He distributed a handout, “Frequently Asked Mobile Pantry Questions.” He had met with Kimberly Peterson at Second Harvest, who shared with him that funding has become available (via a 3-year grant) for 2 mobile pantries intended to serve people in northern Trumbull County. Each month, Second Harvest’s truck would bring pre-packaged 35-lb. boxes of food, in addition to frozen goods, to 2 separate locations on 2 different days (one of those dates can be the day each month that BAFM already does its distribution). Ken said each family on the food ministry list would get 1 box, regardless of the family size. He shared that BAFM wouldn’t stop what it’s doing, but could supplement what Second Harvest provides (with items like paper products), and therefore do a lot more for the people that are served. It would be a partnership between BAFM and Second Harvest, which they would like to begin in March. Second Harvest believes they can continue to fund this ministry even after the 3-year grant is up. Ken said that eventually, Second Harvest would like to be able to have a setup where people can choose the items they need, rather than just having to take the pre-packaged boxes. Ken shared that Champion is not considered part of northern Trumbull County, so Dale Hatch’s group will have to go a different direction with food ministry in their area.

Jim Elkin offered the use of Greene Nazarene for one of Second Harvest’s drop-off locations. Ken said there should be a freezer at the drop-off location, in case some of the frozen goods don’t get taken (they can be held over till the following month). Tal suggested that Ken call some other church that’s already partnering with Second Harvest to see what their experience has been. Ken said he will get a year-end BAFM financial report made up, and that he will meet with Second Harvest another time prior to the beginning of the partnership in March. He said the paperwork for people to qualify for the Second Harvest distribution is very much the same as BAFM’s paperwork.

Melvin Tolley shared that Mecca Community Church has voted on a new pastor, [remainder of paragraph deleted by request].

We continued discussing this year’s Lenten service schedule. Jody shared that Jack Childers needed to opt out of BAMA, because of wanting to be involved with the Grand Valley association of churches, and not having time for both organizations. So far, the schedule of locations and speakers for Lenten services is as follows (note that there have been some changes from last month’s meeting):

Feb. 26 – Mecca Community Church, Dale Briggs speaking
Mar. 4 – Johnston FUMC, Dean Kappas speaking (formerly Fred Keener)
Mar. 11 – Free Will Baptist, Fred Keener speaking (Tal Lewis unable to)
Mar. 18 – Greene Nazarene, Jim Elkin speaking
Mar. 25 – West Mecca U.M.C. (Sonny Hernandez possibly speaking)
Apr. 6 (Good Friday) – West Farmington U.M.C., with Jim George leading (social time at 6 p.m. that evening, service at 7)

Tal distributed a handout about the Financial Peace University being offered at Wildare February through April. Jim Elkin announced that Greene Nazarene has green choir robes available to any church which would want them.

Closing prayer was offered by Jim Gardiner. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 9 a.m. at North Bristol Christian Church, with Dale Briggs as host pastor.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Keener, Secretary