

Asian-American Pastoral Ministry (AAPM)

(Supported under the CRCNA/Lilly Endowment's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program)

Minutes of Denver Meetings (*1st DRAFT, 7.13.04*)

July 5-7, 2004

Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast, Aurora, CO

Present: Ji & Sarah Jun, John Kim, Nam & Lien Kieu, Matthew Le, Socheth Na, Phohn & Sommai Sinbondit, Elmer & Joy Tandayu, Tong Park, Mike & Lois Vanderpol, Fernando & Vickie del Rosario

Not present: Abraham Lee (on missions travel in Alaska), Albert Sideco (his mother had a bad stroke in Florida)

A. Monday Session #1 – 3:30-6:30 pm, Monday, July 5 (Moderator: Phohn)

1. Phohn opened with devotions and prayer. Songs were sang including the Filipino version of "This is the day." AAPM members were reminded to prepare to teach the group with their ethnic songs.
2. Tong began the round of personal introductions and encouragement for the AAPM.
3. To spice up the sharing, those who submitted their personal info/bio were each introduced anonymously (though not always) by another person. The group was then asked to guess who the person is. During the following sessions, personal introductions were continued.
4. Elmer used a summary paper to guide the group to revisit and review the actions and plans done by the Asian Ministry Consultation (AMC) and the Asian Planning Group (APG), predecessors of the AAPM. This paper was used again during Sessions #2-3.
5. Coordinator's Report:
 - a. Fernando explained how he 'accidentally' got thrown in to the group as 'interim coordinator' since December 2003. He reminded the group, as decided back in the April 15 conference call, to confirm the appointment of the coordinator for 2004.
 - b. As decided in the conference call held in May, Fernando presented AAPM's "Living Binder" to contain all documents generated and used by the group past, present, and future. As the binder most likely will grow thick, each member should use a thicker binder or continue the filing using another binder. For starters, the present binder has 5 tabs/sections and were explained as follows:
 - **Correspondence** – Each member should print important emails from/to the group coordinator and among members and compiled in this section. This will help solve the difficulty of looking for past emails in an overloaded inbox. This section should also contain letters and other correspondence from the CRCNA/Lilly SPE office in GR.
 - **Minutes** – These will contain agenda and minutes of 2004 conference calls, face-to-face meetings, and regional subcommittees' conference calls and meetings. Past minutes of the AMC and APG are compiled under the section 'Organizational Documents' as part of the group's historical records.
 - **Reports** – Will consist of reports by the Coordinator, Treasurer, regional subcommittees, and other reports of importance to AAPM.

- **Organizational Documents** – Contains past minutes and reports by the AMC and APG, and the AAPM proposal to Lilly. Will also include other future documents deemed important to be archived as part of the organizational identity of AAPM.
 - **References** – In this section, we will compile highly relevant articles, handouts, book reviews, and other materials that all of us could come across and recommend to the group. We can also maintain an index of audio and video tapes of lectures, sermons, and web-based teaching materials from acknowledged mainstream resources aside from those in the CRCNA.
- b. Fernando also reported the arrangements for the preaching seminar discussed with Howard Vanderwell when they met during last synod.
 - c. AAPM members were urged to use email as primary medium of communications because of Fernando's full-time job at the UCSF. Email also is a way of keeping a record of important and brief exchanges among the members.
 - d. Members who haven't submitted their personal bio/info were requested to do so before Thursday.
 - e. Lois was asked to explain the wives' schedule for Tuesday.
6. Treasurer's Report:
1. Nam submitted to the group a preliminary financial statement dating back when we received the first half (\$7,500) of our approved Lilly budget. Thus far, expenses include travel to Denver, conference calls (April-May-June), and materials for the binder.
 2. After the Denver meetings, Nam will update the financial statement with hotel, food, preaching seminar fees, and other expenses from our Denver meetings. He will email this to all AAPM members.
 3. To raise additional funds for AAPM, Nam suggested the asking contributions from Asian churches and soliciting from the different classes through their missions committees.
7. John recommended for us to have dinner at a 'giant' Chinese buffet restaurant a short drive from the hotel. And we did and gained a few pounds!

B. Tuesday: (whole day seminar led by Howard Vanderwell)

1. AAPM pastors attended a whole day preaching enhancement seminar by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, led by Rev. Howard Vanderwell.
2. NOTE: Pastors' wives had their separate session with Lois Vander Pol. In the afternoon, they went out to see Denver.
3. Nam taught the class a Vietnamese song in addition to other songs prepared by the AAPM group.
4. Thanks to Howard and the Calvin worship institute, wives were invited to have dinner with the rest of the seminar class.
5. In the evening, pastors' wives joined for worship led by Howard and Norma Malefyte. The evening's worship liturgy and other intergenerational worship issues were discussed with Howard and Norma sharing their ministry experiences from Hillcrest CRC.
6. **NOTE: It would be good to write a separate brief report on this seminar. Volunteers? Yes, I volunteer Ji!**

C. Wednesday: Session #2, 8 am-12 noon (jointly with pastors and wives)

1. John taught us a Khmer song and Nam led with a devotion and prayer.
2. Fernando explained the workshop procedure using a format he prepared. The night before, he reminded the members to reflect and write about their personal and ministry experiences using the workshop format. The group was divided into two work groups and asked to report the top priority issues they discussed.
3. Sally Morgenthaler, a worship consultant with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, had an informal talk with us during coffee break. She was challenged to explore more about the unique worship needs and opportunities faced by Asian-American CRCs.
4. After the two work groups reported, it was decided to do the following:
 - a. Revisit the action plans of the AMC, APG, and those contained in the Lilly proposal, and confirm them for AAPM's use. The format suggested by Fernando was set aside.
 - b. The group decided to use the summary paper Elmer submitted to the group on Monday as a way to facilitate planning and decision-making for the rest of the day.
 - c. The two work groups selected the top priority issues from among the goals and plans as summarized. The selections were tallied by Mike on the board and the following came out as the top issues to be worked on further after lunch:
 - **Workgroup topic #4 (refer to Elmer's summary paper)**
 - **Workgroup topic #5 (same)**
5. Miscellaneous decisions:
 - a. Extremely important: the group decided that lunch would be at PHO 2000.
 - b. Elmer was selected to preach at Khmer CRC that evening. Also, PowerPoint presentations would be done. Mike suggested for the group to sing after the evening worship.
 - c. AAPM would give to the Khmer CRC a love gift (\$200) to cover our share in the dinner and usage/gas expenses of the church's 15-seater van.

D. Wednesday: Session #3, 2:30-4 p.m.

1. Phohn taught us a Laotian song and opened the afternoon session in prayer.
2. To facilitate planning and distribute responsibilities among the members, the group decided to organize regional subcommittees as follows:
 - **East Coast : Phohn, Albert, Socheth (chairman)**
 - **Northern CA : Nam, Abraham, Fernando, John (chairman)**
 - **Southern CA : Ji, Matthew, Elmer (chairman)**
3. It was also decided to invite prospective and interested Asian pastors to join the subcommittees so they could already participate in the process of planning and developing the Asian churches in the CRCs. However, because our AAPM funds are limited this year, they will be asked to cover their own travel costs.
4. The following deadlines were also decided:
 - **Sept. 15, 2004 – subcommittee's first draft of action plans due**
 - **Nov. 15, 2004 – final draft due for possible presentation to the coordinators' one-day conference on Nov. 17 in Grand Rapids**
5. For the second face-to-face pastors-only meeting for 2004-2005, it was decided that this will be held in **southern California on March 7-9, 2005**. The southern CA subcommittee will prepare the details of this event in consultation with Mike and Lois

who recommended the Green Oak Ranch camp center near Escondido. Elmer, who is the subcommittee's chairman, will serve as coordinator of that meeting.

6. Aside from the assigned work topic, each subcommittee will assess leadership and ministry styles/models appropriate to Asian-American churches and developing action plans to improve those and train future leaders. The group was reminded that a key output expected from our peer learning group is a paper about the leadership and ministry styles/models we find effective (or not) in our Asian-American contexts.
7. Tong urged AAPM members to join an intergenerational church conference to be held in LA on October 22-23, 2004.

E. Wednesday: 4:00-5:00 p.m. (turned out to be an 'executive session')

1. On the table for the group's decision were the appointment of the AAPM Coordinator for 2004 and the group's representative at the one day coordinators' conference on Nov. 17, 2004 in Grand Rapids.
2. In an email sent to Fernando by Lis Van Harten last December (Note: I'll forward this to all after this Minutes), Project Coordinator of the CRCNA/Lilly SPE program, preferred that each peer learning group appoint a coordinator to serve as contact person.
3. After a lengthy and spirited discussion, AAPM members voted and decided to do the following:
 - a. Appoint Fernando as AAPM Coordinator up to April 15, 2005
 - b. Delegate Fernando and Socheth as the group's representatives to the coordinators' conference on Nov. 17, 2004. Fernando will submit a formal request to Lis Van Harten strongly recommending Socheth's participation in the conference.
 - c. AAPM Coordinators will serve for one year. This decision is intended –
 - To spread the opportunity for growth in leadership character, vision, and sensitivity in a multi-ethnic pastoral leadership group
 - To share the opportunity of learning and doing with excellence various administrative knowledge and skills in managing a group of pastors/leaders coming from different states and ethnic backgrounds
 - To serve as a 'check-valve' against what Elmer stated as the tendency of sinful (but forgiven) leaders to indulge in "playing politics and holding on to position/power".
4. Mike closed the afternoon with a timely counsel about "being and doing" and a prayer for God's blessings upon all the decisions that were made and for the fellowship that followed later that evening.

F. We spent Thursday for a visit at the 'Garden of the gods' and the Chapel of the U.S. Air Force Academy - both in Colorado Springs. Most of us had our flights that evening except for Phohn, Sommai, Mike, and Lois who left in the morning. Tong left the day before. Socheth stayed in Denver for vacation.

WE ALL PRAISE AND THANK GOD FOR BLESSING US WITH SUCCESS, UNITY, VISION, AND COMMITMENT FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST'S GOSPEL FOR THE ASIAN-AMERICAN CRCs! ADD TO THAT, SAFETY IN ALL OUR TRAVELS.

Minutes: Fernando del Rosario