

**Congregational Renewal Response Group  
Board of General Ministries  
June 18 & 19, 2013**

Participants: John Duckworth, Elisai Echevarria, Kay Farley, Bill Frederickson, Don Ng, Nancy O'Neill, Dean Parker, Koreen Villers, James Wolfe, Jeff Woods, Marilyn Tyson

James Wolfe was welcomed as a new member of the Congregational Renewal Response Group. James is the new BGM director from ABC of Great Rivers.

Don Ng gave a brief review of how the response groups were instituted and the purpose of such groups. One of the tasks undertaken by the Congregational Response group is to see how the concepts of the Transformed by the Spirit (TbyS) initiative can be integrated into the life and ministry of ABC churches and groups. Two of these concepts relate to adaptive change and to Spirit-led change. A third concept has to do with leadership.

A listing of resources for the TbyS Journey was put together prior to the meeting. The list includes resources from several sources: the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Missional Networking website ([www.missionalnetworking.org](http://www.missionalnetworking.org)), Judson Press, the American Bible Society, and a list compiled by Jeff Woods.

The group reviewed the list and members suggested the resources that could be listed as recommended by them. These recommendations will be added to the resource list and it will be reproduced for distribution to the Board of General Ministries. Possibly it will be added to the ABCUSA website.

There was a brief discussion of the Mission Summit Conversation topics (list distributed to group). The results of the conversations which will occur during the Biennial meeting will be posted on the website. The group was asked to review for "common threads". Jeff may send a message after the summaries of the conversations are available asking the members of the response group to review.

At the second session on June 19<sup>th</sup> several members of the group had an opportunity to speak about congregational perspectives. Kay enthusiastically reported on the Pathways Seminar in the Rocky Mountains, related to transformed churches (led by Jeff). Seven folks from Kay's congregation participated with the result being increased excitement about doing ministry.

Dean reported on his congregation's celebration of 150 years of ministry. Eli reported on his meeting with the region in May and his efforts to help his region understand the Board of General Ministries.

James Wolfe shared how the food bank of his church not only provides for community needs but which has allowed increased bonding among members of the congregation. Bill reported on churches in his area which have opened "feeding stations" following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

Don posed these questions to the group: If a church wants to do a food bank, who do they ask for information? Is this an area for our response group to provide leadership? How could we provide resourcing? Would an article on the website be a possibility?

In relation to American Bible Society resources and the possibility of ABC partnering with them, Jeff reported that we are in a “holding pattern.” Judson Press has some concerns about some of the ABS materials. We will need to have additional discussions concerning this.

Dean will give a brief report to the BGM on our meetings.

Nancy closed the meeting with prayer.