

Beloved Community Action Group
Board of General Ministries
Green Lake Conference Center
June 13, 2014

Directors: Julia Bebeau, Dianne Steelman, Ken Kho, Shirley Fair, Kelly Legg, Dean Parker, Vivan Martindale, Wesley Sun

Leader: Camille Brown

Staff: Patricia Hernandez

Absent: Kelly Legg, Wesley Sun

After introductions and prayer, the question was asked: "Why did you select the Beloved Community Action Group"?

We then reflected on the Chinese Proverb Don Ng shared in his President's report since that seemed to capture the heart of the Beloved Community.

If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person.
If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the house.
If there is harmony in the house,
There will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world.

In light of our action group's focus on the Beloved Community and since this was a new group, everyone was invited to share what comes to mind when they think of Beloved Community.

We then brainstormed on what is a Beloved Community and what was this Action Group charged to do?

Beloved means: greatly loved, highly regarded. It assumes relationship, belonging.

What has to happen for our congregations to be able to more deeply develop relationships?

What is Beloved Community?

Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy

A place to belong, a place to feel valued and respected

Welcoming and affirming of ethnicity, racial, cultural, theological differences

Looking within, looking without-what are we doing to make people feel comfortable coming to BGM?

How have we welcomed the Burmese, the Chin?

What are we doing around multi-cultural training?

Community of trust

Climate of trust where caucuses are no longer needed for quotas

Local church feeling they belong

Every single disciple of Christ taking the initiative to create welcoming space

Sense of belonging

People feeling connected and good about being ABC

Building healthy relationships with local churches throughout the denomination, engaging in mission projects.

We felt, we are charged with:

“This Action Group will continue to ACT on this topic with the hope of identifying findings that would influence the work that BGM does such as Biennial Mission Summit”.

When we reported out on our Action Group session:

We shared Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ....”

To our BGM sisters and brothers we shared:

We love you and you matter to us

We are here to serve you as the hands and feet of Christ.

BGM is our Beloved Community when we are together in our meetings. When we are in our Regions, that becomes our “Beloved Community”

Being a Beloved Community requires us to understand that we are all God’s Creatures

- Diversity
- How do we witness to the world?
- How do we witness to each other?

We closed with the song:

Bind us together Lord

Bind us together Lord

With cords that cannot be broken (Repeat)

And we charged BGM members with taking this Beloved Community concept, back to their churches and regions.