

BGM Executive Committee Report

By: Kevin A. Walden, Associate General Secretary for Congregational and Pastoral Effectiveness

Re: Camping Ministries

The Executive Committee requested that I show our support for our ABC Camping Ministries at a gathering of ABC Camp Leaders in ABC Nebraska on September 17-19, 2019. Present were:

Camp Merrill: Bev Pacas (Director) and Caleb Cornelius (Program Director)
Camp Christy: Steve and Danielle Massaglia (Co-Directors)
ABCUSA: Kevin Walden

Preparation: An invitation was mailed and emailed to every ABC camping ministry in the country. Bev Pacas mailed out invitations and created the webpage with registration on the Camp Merrill website. Kevin created a constant contact announcement and emailed out invitations with links to the webpage and registration. We received some regrets.

The in-person meeting was very well organized by Bev. The schedule was:

Camp Leadership Schedule

Tuesday, September 17th

1:00-5:00 pm: Arrive at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.
Relax & get settled in, set up your camp display table

5:00 pm Introductions at Weaver Hall
5:30 pm Dinner at Weaver Hall
7:00 pm Camp Story
7:30 pm Retreats & Conferences Roundtable
9:00 pm Campfire

Wednesday, September 18th

7:30 am Morning Devotion
8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Camp Story
9:30 am Summer Camp Roundtable
10:30 am Break

11:00 am More Summer Camp Roundtable
12:00 Lunch
1:30 pm Wagon Tour MMCCC
3:00 pm Enjoy MMCCC
5:30 pm Dinner at Weaver Hall
7:00 pm Camp Story
7:30 pm Facilities Roundtable
9:00 pm Campfire or Games

Thursday, September 19th

7:30 am Devotions
8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Camp Story
9:30 am Administration Roundtable
10:30 am Break
11:00 am Debrief & planning session
12:00 Lunch
1:00 pm Homeward Bound

While the group was disappointed that there were not more in attendance, they were not discouraged.

Caleb Cornelius presented a comprehensive program he has developed for Leaders in Training. It has been a 5 year process of developing the LIT program, and in my opinion it is very impressive. It is a transition from total volunteers to some part-time volunteers who have come through an extensive training. The volunteers compliment the paid staff in the LIT program.

We discussed the challenges finances at great length. Each camp presents an end of the year report that is very nicely done and is a promotion piece to show potential contributors the kinds of lives touched by the camping ministry. (Very impressive) They discussed types of local, regional and national foundations

that support children's summer programs as a source of fundraising. We also discussed ABHMS and their grant process and I shared the ABHMS contact person: Dr. Cassandra "Casey" Carkuff Williams.

In review: They hope and plan to reach out to those who could not be there and seek their input for another event.

They greatly appreciated my presence and requested that we keep in touch for the future. They very much appreciated the Executive Committee's provision for my attendance. (I was visiting family in Nebraska, so all I turned in for expenses was 100 miles for travel).

Kevin