

Minutes of ITEC Teleconference on 2 June 2005

Present: Anna Belle Leiserson (presiding), Ed Wilde, Tina Harris, Marg Sanders, Mark Steinwinter, Linda Berez, Bob Hurst (scribe)

Absent: Deb Weiner

The main topic of discussion was the focus groups. The AUUA focus group will be held Wednesday, June 22 at 4-5 pm in the Clarion Hotel Grand Ballroom C. Plans developed by Marg and Linda for the AUUA focus group were discussed. These plans evolved from considerations of how to get modern IT technology into congregations and to help each one avoid having to re-invent everything. The example cited was posting of sermons in mp-3 format on church web pages.

1. Welcoming and introductions.
2. Breakout into dyads during which each person will speak for 2 minutes uninterrupted to tell what is going well in his or her work.
3. Re-form into larger groups in which each person will be asked to briefly in a few words or a sentence to describe his or her personal aspirations and those for the congregation.
4. A 5-minute presentation from ITEC of the Vision and Mission statements of ITEC.
5. Participants will then be asked to think about how their visions could link to the vision of collaboration outlined by ITEC. Emphasis will be focused on how sharing of knowledge could facilitate increasing efficiency and ability to carry out congregational missions.
6. Participants will then be assembled into groups of 4, wherein they will be asked to consider what if their visions became reality. This encourages wider thinking and understanding of how this technology could help transform congregations.
7. Assemble into a group of the whole for final words.

The members potentially able to attend and help facilitate included Ed, Tina, Anna Belle, Marg and Linda.

Mark then reported that the time and space were available for a focus group for district executives. The importance of providing Harlan Limpert with both a brief, targeted invitation to share and a more detailed and informative invitation/description was discussed. This would allow Harlan to evaluate the information and provide some impetus to executives to attend.

The focus group for presidents is planned, but the date was not yet clear.

The importance of informing ministers about these focus groups and that they were being targeted for 2006 was discussed. After some discussion of various mechanisms, consensus was reached that using the UUMA would be the most expeditious and effective means.

The need for an informal recorder for focus groups was discussed. Most important to capture was the list of aspirations. The results should be distributed as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.