

Ministry Against the Death Penalty
Board Meeting
November 16-17, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Ken Alford, Greg Callahan, Karen Clifton, Alice Gerdeman CDP, Rose Ann Hefner CSJ,
Beth Hornberger, Agnes Hopkins, Ruth Kettman, CSJ, Pat Kozak CSJ, Helen Prejean CSJ,
Marianne Race CSJ, Marlene Rink, Joanna Stott, Janet Fleishhacker CSJ

Absent: Pat Delahanty

Friday, November 16, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kathy Uhler OSF - Executive Administrative Assistant for Catholic Mobilizing Network and Ilaria Buonriposi, CMS - director of Hispanic Outreach Activities for CMN joined us via Skype to acquaint us with them and their work

2. Prayer was led by Alice Gerdeman

3. Review of Agenda - Marianne explained the order and procedure for the two days together

4. CSJ Ministries

Janet Fleishhacker CSJ, director of CSJ Ministries shared a huge thank you for all the work done by the board and staff of MADP. She thanked them for their work and commitment on behalf of the CSJ Ministries Board and all CSJ's. She shared that the CSJ Ministries Board has looked at all 29 of our sponsored ministries and their work to include and address the Generous Promises in their goals and expressed support and great respect for the efforts that MADP makes to address the Generous Promises. Especially the focus on achieving systemic change.

5. Greg Callahan shared his Business Plan for the Theatre Project

- Fetzer Institute has given a \$50,000 grant in connection with the play, Dead Man Walking as they research Love and Forgiveness. Fetzer is developing questions for students to answer to help with their research. Greg hopes to create lessons plans for high school/universities to be used in conjunction with the play
- Greg is hoping to market an interdisciplinary curriculum with has been developed with Mercy High School in San Francisco to be used in conjunction with play presentations
- He will work with Karen Clifton to see if it cannot be included in their (CMN) materials available on their website
- The conversation opened into a discussion around the fact that the work of this board and of MADP has grown immensely over the years and thinking and planning need to be much larger, more global. Tim Robbins initially said the play could be done for a limited number of years and has now said until the death penalty ends in the nation.
- Helen spoke to all the efforts over the years and how effective they have been but now is a new time - a time needing a much more proactive, creative plan for marketing. Helen will work with Greg and others to work on a major media production to market Dead Man Walking

- Helen also spoke to a new idea involving libraries in the discourse of the book Dead Man Walking and reading the play in a library setting
- Much discussion followed about the direction MADP needs to move
- Pat Kozak moved the group to begin thinking about how to address the expansion of MADP. She used the image of a spider plant and asked the group to think about this new moment in time and how to connect the play, book, Helen's speaking engagements, the Opera, CMN, the library project, major media planning, etc. All were asked to hold this image and think of what was needed to expand and include these parts.

6. Finances

- Ken shared how he and his company are doing their best to bring all accounting into standard, understandable form. Most areas have been clarified and coming along well.
- MADP accounting shows no significant overages or underage. Some under budget items are most likely due to timing issues.
- Theatre Project is under budget at this time but may be due to timing issues
- CMN also under budget slightly but most likely will adjust in time
- There was discussion as to whether or not we should continue to separate accounts or have them all be one. It was suggested the finance committee discuss this and make a proposal.
- Beth Hornberger addressed the website expense. Previously, it was not a line item and now is. Beth will get that in order for next time.
- Ken also mentioned that some of the accounting for CMN is cumbersome. Mainly the signing of checks and the time it takes to get them. Beth will continue discussion with Ken and those involved to simplify the process for CMN
- Conversation continued around the idea of a "common pot" or the need for three separate ones. If only one, each group would still need to be accountable for their budget and allocation of resources.
- Helen interjected a wondering around the need for a fund developer for MADP. MADP growing and she cannot add any more to her already very full schedule.
- Janet said we could consult with CSJ Ministries regarding the areas of funding and grant writing but will not be available to do it for MADP.
- Pat Kozak suggested we might need consultation regarding what is needed most for MADP

Saturday, November 17, 2012

1. Prayer Alice Gerdeman led us in a Litany of Gratitude
2. Pat Kozak began with the spider plant image and asked that 3 small groups be formed to work for a half hour to develop ideas as to how we might grow this "spider plant" (MADP).
3. Reporting from 3 Groups
 - Continue on-going conversation with Suzanne Dumbleton at DePaul University in Chicago (where Helen's archives are housed) to move the Theatre Project office there in order to involve De Paul more in its expansion. Might be able to find a grant writer at DePaul to help with funding
 - Discussed the purpose of the play which is to raise the level of discourse around respect for all life: leadership development/respectful dialogue/become respectful citizens

Do the play materials address this? Possible need to review the materials being sent out to be sure they are doing the job. Is there follow-up after the play? outcomes reached?

Greg does a lot on his own. Might benefit from a support group/advisory group to help with marketing, etc.

- 2013 is 20th anniversary of the publishing of Dead Man Walking. Need to re-energize the book and its impact. National coverage is needed!

4. General Observations and Conversations

- comprehensive marketing approach needed
- grant writing and fund raising needed for entire MADP
- need to include all 3 entities of MADP when writing grants
- Theater Project materials being received by schools not enough - need personal follow-up to entice schools into doing the play
- Greg should get more involved with CMN for contacts and tap into their database
- Theater Project needs wider marketing scope
- should Theater Project target certain states
- connection with DePaul University should be pursued
- support needed for Greg

5. National Program Conversation

- Helen began sharing her dream of developing a National Program for the Theatre Project
- she is in contact with Elizabeth Zitran who is involved with the World Conference to end the Death Penalty. Helen continued to speak of the need for university connections and feels California may be the place to focus the National Theater Project because of her connection with Elizabeth Zitran and her many connections. Helen wants to explore this possibility with Elizabeth Zitran to establish a National Task Force for the Theatre Project with the mission to end the death penalty.
- Janet Fleishhacker spoke of the board doing what it needs to do and what it has been able to do but also spoke to this moment in time and acknowledged the need for broader partnering for the Theatre Project
- The partnering with DePaul University is on hold until Helen has been able to connect with Elizabeth Zitran in California

6. Areas of Agreement:

- Marianne and Helen will have a conversation with Suzanne Dumbleton in April regarding if/how DePaul University connect with the Theatre Project
- Ken, Pat, Rosie and Greg will stay in contact regarding a job coach to help Greg with his planning, etc
- Pat and Marianne will consult with Pat Milenius regarding fund development and grant writing needs
- Helen will talk with Elizabeth Zitran regarding the feasibility of a National Task Force for the Theatre Project

7. Minutes from August 3, 2012

- Ruth Kettman approved the minutes. Pat Kozak seconded. Unanimous approval
- Marianne reminded everyone when the draft of the minutes is sent out to please read your section and comment

8. Reports

Status of the Death Penalty in Ohio and Kentucky

- Alice Gerdeman reported that the 2012 elections did little to change the power in either the House or Senate. Both will continue to be controlled by the Republican party
- The task force to Review the Administration of the Death Penalty in Ohio continues to meet. No monies have been appropriated for its work so little is being done.
- Ohio: 6 executions scheduled for 2013 and 5 for 2014
- Alice reported that Kentucky had a very thorough Abolition Bill and Mental Illness Bill before the General Assembly but they were rejected
- Ruth Kettman reported on her efforts at educating parishes regarding the death penalty by bulletin inserts, display materials, and intercessory prayers
- She shared that in the United States, 141 death row inmates have been freed.

Helen's Activities

- Has had a very busy schedule-long time in Eugene, Oregon promoting the opera which will air in March and blitzing Southern California coast promoting Proposition 34 (to end the death penalty)
- Projected schedule: Random House granted an extension on Helen's book *River of Fire* (new publication date 2015) In order to meet the deadline, more time is needed for writing so will cut back on speaking engagements.
- Because of reduced engagements and 3 year commitment to University of Oregon completed, income will be less. Mentioned the need for fund development, once again.

CMN – Karen Clifton

- Staff additions
Anne Feczko-Program Management (volunteer)
Wayne Hipley – Youth Minister/maintains website (part time-salaried)
2 offices: Vicki Schieber at St. Mary's University office
Kathy Uhler OSF at Washington Theological Office
- Karen shared an extensive listing of conferences and activities of their offices, their publications and efforts at education all over the country. The amount of work they have done is incredible and was recognized and praised by all.
- CMN has produced a 6 week course (2 ½ hours each session) for Just Faith entitled: *Sanctity of All Life* which was published in June. Multiple churches are using it as their curriculum.
- working with NDD (National Association of Deacons Directors) on a semester masters level course to be produced and used nationally
- They continue to seek grant monies to sustain their programs but are running out of resources. The need for fund development was highlighted as a great need.
- Areas of immediate attention and consideration:
 - office location will change because WTU building was sold and CMN can no longer be housed. Need bigger space therefore, rent will increase
 - there is question as how to handle book sales which are now a part of their work
 - growth in youth ministry and the need to work with publishers (personnel issue)
 - financial needs and grant writing critical
 - matching grant letter to Sisters-need to identify key people to whom they send the letter for best results

- do not always have the funds they need to do the work before them (esp. printing and travel costs)
- continued need to update website requires salaried position (Wayne Hipley)
- There was discussion around budgeting needs and the budgeting process. If CMN needs money for something they should ask to be funded from MADP. But also revise their budget for next year if falling short at present
- The “common pot” conversation began again. What this would mean and is that the route to go?
- There was also conversation regarding “re-forecasting” budgets

Communication with Congregation – Rosie Hefner

- Rosie and Ruth Kettman will discuss ways to keep the congregation informed of the work of MADP.
- Marlene Rink and Aggie Hoskins joined the board as new members and will be the liaisons with the New Orleans office. They are planning a trip to NO in January

Louisiana Catholics Committed to the Repeal of the Death Penalty (LCCRD)

- submitted a request to MADP for funding to assist in providing a salary for a community organizer for their organization. Discussion ensued and it was decided that our monies could be utilized by our own organization. CMN does in-kind work for LA already (i.e. duplicating materials at no cost).
- The request was denied.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 4, 2013 / 2:00 – 4:00 pm EST / CONFERENCE CALL or SKYPE??

May 3, 2013 / 2:00 – 4:00 pm EST / CONFERENCE CALL or SKYPE??

August 12, 2013 / 2:00 – 4:00 pm EST/ SKYPE

November 17-18, 2013 / Chicago or Cleveland

November 17 / 2:00 – 5:00 pm

November 18 / 9:00 – 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Schmitz CSJ