

Kairos of Mississippi
State Chapter Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2017

Committee Member Attendees

Gary Shelley	Earle Burkley	Adrian Fairchild
Darryl Whitford	Denice Williams	Von Brister
Sharon Scott	Curtis Jones	
Brandy White	Mendez Vaughn	

Advisory Council Chairs Present:

Gennia Varnado

Brandy White opened the meeting with prayer. Gennia Varnado shared a scripture reading from Matthew 8:6-7 and a devotional reading from Max Lucado and what it means to be “under authority”. Focus on prayer: ask God versus worrying.

Prayer requests for Abigail Jones Henderson including all those from Henderson Hills Baptist Church going on a mission trip to Nicaragua.

Building Community – everyone shared something about themselves

Motion by David Walker to approve the minutes, seconded by Denice Williams, motion carried.

Chairperson’s General Comments – Gary Shelley

- Nominating Committee to be formed and requesting anyone interested in serving to call as soon as possible in order to fill the upcoming positions.
- The Advisory Council trainings went well with an emphasis placed on reading the manuals and familiarizing yourselves with the website information.
- Talked with Harriet Brown concerning Kairos Outside leadership qualifications and looking at four (4) years ahead and getting those individuals already in place to lead weekends.
- Each SCC representative should make sure the Kairos website has complete, up-to-date information concerning AC positions, weekends, etc.
- All councils should be diligent in filling AC positions and weekend leaders going forward at least two years.

- Each council should also be building community within following the opening prayer before each meeting.
- All four (4) councils in the Jackson area need to be in communication with each other as volunteers are being recruited within each area.
- KPMI does not have a historian – still looking for someone to take on this endeavor.
- A reminder from Bob Neill that CD's and music are on the website and would be great fundraising items to let people know about.
- Bob Neill working on the startup of a Kairos newspaper
- Von Brister working with the new Commissioner,
- Will be in contact with Gary Cothran to update the website
- No progress at this date in a start-up program in Wilkinson County
- Earl Burkley to execute monies for the approved start-up programs.
- Working on nominations for next year to include Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Reminder to register weekends on the websites including the Prayer Vigils.

KPMI Report – Darryl McElrath (absent) Gary Shelley Reporting

- The terms of the officers of the IC are up and replacements are now being considered for the officers of the IC as well as positions requested for/by the Board of Directors requiring a “vetting” process for each candidate to move forward to be elected or appointed. The process has been timely and handled expeditiously and is nearing its final stages with due process. In addition, the language is being adjusted to meet the needs for a request for Bylaw changes requested by the Board of Directors. This process passed with a quorum ratification.

Von Brister, Board of Directors & Chair of Long Range Planning

- Kairos has two (2) governing boards and one is the IC (International Council). Each state has one representative for each of the sixteen (16) councils. The Board of Directors is made up of former council members. The language change (recently ratified) – qualifications of candidates for the Board of Directors must be members or “former” members of the IC. Other changes to be ratified by the Bylaws pertain to the number of meetings held to meet five times a year to include three times face to face and twice by conference call.
- Reminder of Annual Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Windham Peachtree Hotel July 25-29, 2017. The workshops will be held Friday – Saturday. You can also obtain a copy of the schedule and the workshop schedules on the Kairos website.
- Kairos is now in thirty-five (35)? states including Great Britain, Puerto Rico (re-activated as a state) and South Africa.
- Ann Kreller, who planned the conferences is retiring after seventeen (17) years of service.

- Department of Corrections facilities are undergoing major budget cuts all over the country which affects loss of personnel and prison closings. Chaplains are not always ordained ministers but “religious coordinators” which means that communication between the council chairs and liaisons with MDOC officials (warden, superintendent, chaplain and the security officers) is even more crucial. We need to be asking them what we can do to help make Kairos more available, how we can help due to the decrease in personnel, etc. Reminder: the council chair and the liaison should be the ONLY ones in contact with ANY MDOC official before, during or after a weekend.
- Kairos is now in thirty-eight (38) states to include Utah (Kairos #1). Puerto Rico is in the process of a new start up as they are now recognized as a state (US territory).
- We need to track the Kairos Inside & Outside graduates to be able to see where these programs are reducing recidivism. David Walker asked about the “talking points” for communication with MDOC officials and Von Brister said their committee is working on them and hopes to have them completed by Fall of this year.
- Lockdowns are becoming more common due to the increase in contraband.
- The newly appointed MDOC Commissioner, Pelicia Hall, has been invited to the Golf Tournament. Also, Von Brister & Gary Shelley were invited to attend a meeting concerning the DEFY program.

Treasurer’s Report – Darrell Whitford

- We were cautioned that the records show more money being spent than taken in.
- Councils should be reading FCOP
- Fundraising emphasized again. The following programs will really help if utilized.
 - a. Walmart/Sam’s employee program – if someone volunteers in the Kairos program, Walmart will make a donation (\$500) in that person’s name.
 - b. Amazon Smile will donate a percentage of the sale to Kairos International and in turn international will send a check to the state.
 - c. Kroger cards need to be filled out each year and a certain percentage will be sent directly to the state.

Financial Secretary – Earle Burkley

- Reminder to send all deposits with appropriate information ASAP
- Reimbursement requests that are filled out completely, accurately and sent in a timely manner will receive their check in a timely manner.
- Councils are doing much better in using the current forms found on the website

Agape – Fundraising – Golf Tournament – Gennia Varnado

- Reminder of tournament to be held at Lake Caroline, August 18th beginning at 8:30, ending at noon & followed by lunch. Information will be sent out this

week for further clarification. Also requesting sponsorship of whole signs at \$1,000 and donation of door prizes.

- A gathering of the Kairos community is being planned for Saturday, August 19th to be held at Parkway Hills beginning at 10:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. Food will be provided by Eddie Spencer, music provided by Uncle Bob (Bob Neill) and a special guest, Evelyn Lemly. Von Brister will also invite MDOC officials.
- Gary Shelley will confirm date & time with Eddie, Bob Neil and Parkway Hills and then send out an announcement to invite the community to this time of fellowship.

Advisory Council Reports

Kairos Central MS Torch (CMST) – Mendez Vaughn Reporting

- Excellent weekend with eighteen residents attending.
- Everyone participating in all activities, including the warden and security personnel.
- Everyone participated in the first mentoring session and the Bible study will continue the same three times a month schedule for those who choose to participate the 2nd and 4th Tuesday and the 4th Saturday sessions.
- There are still four (4) positions left to fill on the council – Vice-Chair, Fundraising, Outreach & Communications.

Kairos Outside Central MS (KOCMS) – Lynn Pudas (absent)

- No report

Kairos Outside North MS (KONMS) –Denice Williams

- Denice Davis has been appointed Vice-Chair. All positions are now filled.
- Reunion groups have started up in Starkville, Kilmichael, Batesville and Columbus, MS.
- Kathy Ramage leading the first weekend in Eupora, MS at Camp Kumbaya October 6-8, 2017.
- Discussion held concerning Gina Brockmeyer appointing the Advising Leader for Weekend #1 at Camp Kumbaya. Adrian Fairchild made the motion to authorize Gina Brockmeyer to appoint an Advising Leader for weekend #1, seconded by David Walker, motion passed.
- Fundraising discussion concerning donations sent in memory of someone (in lieu of flowers, to include cards for meals, and beds). Following any donation to Kairos of MS a thank you card should be sent by the Donor Coordinator as soon as possible.
- Request made for round tables. Gennia Varnado (Torch) commented their group have chairs available if needed.

- A copy of the upcoming KONMS weekends will be sent out by Sharon Scott.
- Lisa Sartin & Lanell Thornton signed up for AKT in Alabama September 8-10, 2017.
- Leaders are lined up going forward the next five (5) weekends.
- Earle Burkley will send Denise the CCL number for their information.

Kairos Outside South MS (KOSMS) – Adrian Fairchild Reporting

- Miriam Mitchell led Weekend #13 held at Seashore Methodist Assembly Center April 28-30, 2017 with fourteen guests attending. The weekend went exceedingly well with positive comments from all.
- Tammy Hillman appointed as Advisory Council Chair as Cindy Rainey will be moving to Florida.
- The following to lead upcoming weekends: Daneen Menke #14 November 3-5, 2017, Jennifer Sutton #15 April 20-22, 2018 and Debbie McWhorter #16 November 2-4, 2018.

MSP (Parchman) – Steve Loden (absent) Errol Castens Reporting

- Weekend #15, Unit #30 Led by John Hobson went extremely well with forty-two (42) participants, 37 came back for the instructional and several made professions of faith.
- Wayne Irby will be leading In Unit #29 in July and Thurmond Montgomery will be leading next Spring in Unit #30. We are working on preparing others for leadership by assigning them to key jobs after their first weekend. Also hope to have three (3) people attending the next Fall AKT in Canton, Ms.
- One of the challenges we face is the loss of Parchman’s Wellness Center for lodging the men’s team and the women’s team have always been able to stay in the Spiritual Life Center on the Parchman campus. Now looking into the costs and fundraising options to build a new facility that would incorporate a kitchen and some ‘barebones’ bunkrooms and showers, along with a visiting area.
- The volunteer bases have moved from Columbus to Grenada & Winona, then Batesville and recently Oxford, which is 90 minutes from Parchman and that is a long way to travel so we are also checking into recruiting locally. It would also be beneficial to recruit volunteers from the Delta, especially since there is no Kairos at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility, seven miles from Parchman. The leader of this past weekend recruited his former pastor who attended the weekend and that he will assist in recruiting people who live within 30 minutes of Parchman.
- Unit #28 is not conducive to hosting a Kairos weekend but prayer and share is ongoing there. Unit #30 is strong and that is where most of the educational programs happen, including the program from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. They have many inmate ministers and musicians. The maximum security Unit #29 has fewer leaders, almost no musicians, and more challenges, including time constraints for prayer & share.

- Since the C-custody inmates are now segregated from A and B -custody men, there have been fewer negative leaders. We have requested having all C-custody graduates and we would need more volunteers as the graduates cannot be used as stewards but the core group of volunteers are excited about moving forward in this endeavor.

CMCF Men – Fred Garrott (absent)

- No report

CMCF Women- Brandy White

- Advisory Council training sessions for June & July have been set up.
- The April weekend #38 led by Josie Neill-Browning went well with 30 participants attending.
- The July 2017 Retreat will be led by Alice Jackson & Otha Tillman.
- Upcoming weekend #39 - Valerie Braylock leading - October 2017
- The number of participants attending Prayer & Share on Tuesday nights has increased.

SMCI – Lee Whitt (absent) David Walker Reporting

- Weekend #22, Area #2 led by Jimmy Taylor went well with 39 participants attending.
- Requesting warden to allow C custody to attend a Kairos weekend.
- Decrease in volunteers attending Prayer & Share
- Upcoming leaders – Lee Whitt and Jim Frisch?
- Requesting a weekend for staff & MDOC officials (chaplains, superintendent, wardens, etc.) to come together and talk about the various issues concerning all.

MCCI (Marshall County) - Curtis Jones Reporting

- Weekend #6 in March went well
- Changes occurring but have maintained a strong relationship with the chaplain
- Larry Eason leading Weekend #7 October 26-29
- Need applications for Burns & Reeves regarding AKT and leadership.

New Business

- Outreach activities – Kairos gathering Saturday, August 19th following the golf tournament to be held on Friday, August 18th. Food to be provided & cooked by Eddie spencer, music team, special guest, Evelyn Lemly with other guests from MDOC facilities.
- IT Committee being set up with Gary Cothran (webmaster) and Stephen Coleman (equipment manager).
- To set up nominating committee to fill vice chair position and secretary.
- To set up Outreach/Recruitment Committee
- Kairos ENews – anyone interested in receiving please let us know

- Reminder to register weekends on the website www.mykairos.org for agape and on the website www.3dayol.org for the prayer vigil for upcoming weekends.
- Fundraising idea (David Goff) shirts, other items with logo imprinted
- IT inventory – computers, printers, etc.
- South Central Region American Chaplain's association meeting in Natchez, May 15-16th – Gennia Varnado plans on attending.
- Discussion concerning having a Chaplain's & Warden's weekend (two separate weekends) – Von Brister will talk to Chaplain Wigglesworth and the warden about the feasibility of them being able to attend due to the many changes at the facilities.

David Walker closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Scott

****Future 2017 SCC Meetings:** May 13th, August 5th, November 4th
Location: United Methodist Foundation – Colony Parkway, Ridgeland MS

**** Attached is a Handout regarding spreading the “good news” of the Kairos Prison Ministry by signing up to help set up and sit at the Kairos Ministry Exhibit booth at the MS Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to be held at the Jackson, MS. Convention Complex June 8-10, 2017. If you can help, please fill out the attached schedule and/or call Miriam Mitchell, On-Site Coordinator.**

ACT Schedule: June 24th & July 15, 2017

AKT Schedule:

1. Forsyth, Ga. – May 19-20, 2017 (KI only)
2. Huntsville, Tx. - June 2-4, 2017 (KI, KT & KO)
3. Jacksonville, FL. – June 9-11, 2017 (KI, KT & KO)
4. Forsyth, Ga. – August 18-20, 2017 (KI only)
5. Calera (Birmingham), Al. - September 8-10, 2017 (KI & KO)