

Kairos of Mississippi  
State Chapter Committee Meeting  
Minutes for July 21, 2012 Meeting  
Madison United Methodist Church

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**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Von Brister	Gennia Varnado	Bob Neill
Darryl McElrath	Barbara McDonald	Sylvester Mims
Jim Sonnier	Paul Brady	Leland Creel
Julian Crawford	Jimmy Gant	Gary Sims
Patsy McCarty	Carolyn Mims	

**Committee Members Absent:**

Harriet Brown	Kathi Coleman	Patricia Edwards
Reece Vaughan	Nick Nichols	Tim Battle

**Advisory Council Chairs:**

Anita Johnson

**Opening:**

Von Brister called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m., and Julian Crawford offered the opening prayer.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the April 21, 2012, meeting were reviewed. Jim Sonnier moved that the minutes be approved as presented and was seconded by Sylvester Mims. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Julian Crawford reported that the Kroger Card fundraiser is now being handled by Kairos Outside. Von Brister reported that the CCLI license issue has been handled.

**National Rep Report:**

Bob Neill noted that Mississippi would be represented by several volunteers at the KPMI Annual Meeting in St. Louis next week, but the Mississippi Kairos Music Team decided not to attend due to the cost. Bob will still lead the music for the conference. He noted that due to the search for a new KPMI Executive Director many issues at the national level have been put on hold. He said that the items up for vote at the convention were mainly updating of forms and manuals. He said that it would probably be 2014 before any funds would be available from the Kairos Foundation.

Bob presented the Kairos Cantata CD which was just completed and said he will present it to the national conference as a fundraiser. He will be selling the original CD (\$20), the new CD (\$20) and the book (\$25) at the conference and will give a special deal of both CDs for \$35 or all three products for \$50. He said that he believes this fundraiser could yield \$1 million in 18 months and noted that the Music Team receives no revenue.

Gennia Varnado offered to sell the products via her EBay Web site and will look into donating some of the proceeds of her other items to Kairos. Barbara McDonald is to send her the letter which designates Kairos as a 501(C)3 nonprofit.

**Excellence Initiative Program:**

Von Brister noted that the program is working well and emphasized that its intent is not to be punitive but to identify issues that could require national program changes.

**Outreach/Recruiting:**

Von Brister introduced Leland Creel who will coordinate Outreach and Recruiting for the State Committee. Leland noted that there has been no progress on the national Outreach II program but that Mississippi has been using successfully parts of the current Outreach program such as videos and Power Point presentations. He said that Cursillo/Emmaus closings and small churches are great places to recruit. Von emphasized that initial recruitment is to be done face-to-face and not via email. Barbara McDonald will add to the Web site that Kairos speakers and Music Teams are available for presentations at churches and community groups. Leland and Von noted that the SMCI group has been helping a Louisiana council with recruiting and is providing a leader for their next weekend.

**Election for 2013:**

Von Brister announced that he wants all Advisory Councils to have officers for 2013 elected by December 1 and budgets ready by January 1. He will form a Nominating Committee for state officers in the near future so that the election can be held at the September meeting.

**Prayer Focus Group:**

No report.

**Kairos Web site:**

Barbara McDonald noted that only one Advisory Council has submitted information about upcoming team meetings and the volunteer application. Patsy McCarty said that she would provide the Kairos Outside Volunteer Questionnaire instead of the team application.

**Agape:**

Gennia Varnado will contact churches and day care centers to request agape in the form of placemats and letters for the weekends. She will provide blank placemats and will donate the shipping costs. Jim Sonnier moved that Gennia be allowed to send a letter on Kairos letterhead requesting this agape. Upon the second of Bob Neill, the motion was approved unanimously. She also explained how to post and download agape from the mykairos.org Web site.

**AKT Report:**

Von Brister reported that the recent AKT was a huge success with 57 trained. He noted that KPMI has asked Mississippi to host AKT again in two years at the same location.

**Advisory Council Reports:**

Yazoo City - Julian Crawford reported that the council is not active. Von suggested that the members might consider working Torch which is in desperate need of volunteers who live closer to Walnut Grove.

CMCF Men - Sylvester Mims reported that Chaplain Moore is back after an illness and that he is very pro Kairos. They just completed a retreat, and the next weekend is in September.

CMCF Women - Anita Johnson reported that 102 residents and 15 volunteers participated in the summer retreat, and the next weekend is in October.

SMCI - Gary Sims said there were 167 residents and 25 volunteers at the recent retreat. He noted there have been a number of staff resignations in the wake of the no tobacco at state institutions policy. He said that the Council has now been able to recruit volunteers successfully in Leakesville.

Parchman - Jimmy Gant said that the Advisory Council has been doing a good job and that the next weekend is this month. Darryl McElrath noted there has been a problem getting residents approved to attend Prayer and Share due to paperwork issues. He said there was also a misunderstanding whereby the chaplain wanted letters from residents requesting to attend a Kairos weekend to go to Darryl instead of the chaplain. Von and Darryl will address this issue.

Torch - Paul Brady said that a new company has taken over the Walnut Grove facility causing some uncertainty about the Torch program. Mentoring has been temporarily suspended. He plans to meet with the new chaplain on July 30. He proposed delaying the scheduled fall Torch until after the first of the year to give time for issues at the facility to be settled and to recruit more volunteers. He said that 95% of the volunteers drive from the Columbus area.

Kairos Outside - Patsy McCarty said that the next weekend will be in September

and that the Council is in need of a new laptop.

South MS Kairos Outside - no report

**Approval of New Weekend Leaders:**

None were presented for approval.

**New Business:**

A golf tournament was suggested as a fundraiser. Von asked Gennia Varnado and Leland Creel to investigate and it was suggested that Bob Winstead would be a good resource.

A cruise on the Friendship II party boat on the Reservoir was suggested as a venue for a reunion of Kairos volunteers, perhaps in conjunction with the golf tourney. Barbara McDonald was asked to check on prices.

It was reemphasized that emails regarding the health of MDOC residents or staff should not include names or illness. Also, volunteers should not use Kairos email lists for political purposes.

**State Financial Report:**

Julian Crawford reported a checking account balance of \$48,555.96 as of June 30 compared to \$28,591.49 the same date last year. He noted that volunteers have raised \$101,000 this year compared to \$71,000 last year. The savings account balance is \$9,915.65.

**Closing:**

Following a closing prayer by Gennia Varnado, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Barbara McDonald