

New England Board of Directors
Board Meeting, September 4, 2016 - 2:03 PM -
Agenda

Present: Greg Andersen, Jim Bjornstad, Dan Demarais, Jeff Doherty, Dave Howe, Don Rost, Mark Vincent, Joshua Robinson, Brian Smoker, Aaron Warner.

I. Call to Order, Devotions, Prayer

- Hebrews 12:2 - Focus on the Christian life - the focal point is Jesus.
- Luke 14:28 - Discipleship, put Christ first.

II. Minutes from July 16 Meeting

- Minutes will be compiled and distributed via email.

III. Director's Report

Updates:

1) Concerts / Bible Conferences

- a. Excellent speakers
- b. Concerts were difficult due to cancelations.

2) Camps / Retreat + Groups

- a. Northern AG - Move back to 2 weeks
- b. Retreat groups - Strong relationships
- c. Labor Day Weekend - 75 attendees
- d. 5K RACE - 40 participants

3) Upcoming Events

- September 11 - Mass Impact
- September 15-16 South Shore Christian Academy
- September 16-18 Slavic Gospel
- September 23 - 25 Ladies Retreat
- October 6 - 8 - Myles Wedding Weekend

- October 14 - 16 - Freedom Hill Community Church
- October 21-23 - Dad's Legacy Weekend
- October 25 - Trip to Summit University (Internship)
- November 4 - 5 - Youth Explosion

It was asked that Aaron work on setting a clear criteria for future wedding events on the RBC grounds or Happy T Ranch.

A. What will NEF look like in 2 years?

- See attached documents.

Joshua Robinson motioned to move forward on Aaron Warners proposed vision for the Rumney Bible Conference. Dan Demarais seconded. A 5 - 3 vote in favor of the vision was passed.

B. Contract negotiations with SNED AGs?

- Aaron will be meeting with the finance committee.
- Aaron will be working with the Assembly's of God to set 2016 - 2017 contract.

To increase communication the board will communicate using an online tool between board meetings.

IV. Financial Report

A. **As of August 30, 2016**

- All bills are paid up to date.

- 990 for 14/15 done and in to IRS
- Current Balance in checking account - August 31, 2016 - \$96,590
- Basic Monthly Expenses = \$21,000
- Balance in Money Market = \$22,365
- Balance for Servants Camp fund = \$16,221
- Balance for Pool fund = \$6,144

It was moved by Jim Bjornstad and seconded by Don Rost that the Financial report be accepted. The report was unimously accepted.

- B. Proposed Budget for 2016-2017
- See attached (Budget for 2016 - 2017)

Dan Demaris moved that the budget be accepted with Ammendments. Brian Smoker seconded. The board voted unimously to accept the budget.

V. Facilities Committee

- A. Continuing water problems at the Ranch and the conference grounds
- Discussion: Need to address this problem. We have had issues with the water during camp for three years in a row. It was decided we need to get a quote from a mechanical engineer in order to move forward.
- C. Maximum/Minimum for Snow Camp?
- Minimum - 50
 - Maximum - Did not set a maximum at this time.
- D. Close Bethany?

- Discussion was held around the use of RBC apartments in exchange for work on the grounds for the winter camps. They would be responsible for utilities.

Jeff Doherty made a motion to open Bethany for staff housing this winter with the criteria that the staff pay utilities. Dan Demarais seconds the motion. The motion moved forward in favor of allowing Aaron to use Bethany for staff 6 - 2.

VI. Nominating Committee - Recommendation(s) for Board

- George Buck was brought forward to be nominated to the board by the Nominating Committee. There was a 6 - 3 vote against his nomination.
- Dan Demarais made a motion to nominate Charlene Dorothy. The board voted 5 - 4 in favor of Charlene moving forward to be nominated.

VII. Bylaws Committee - To present at the Annual Meeting

(October 1, 2017).

- Discussion on membership status.
- Discussed a waiting period.
- Need to have a written ballot for the annual meeting.

It was motioned by Jim Bjornstad to present the new Bylaws at the annual meeting. The board voted unanimously to move this forward.

VIII. Other Business

IX. Adjournment, Closing Prayer

Rumney Bible Conference Proposed Vision

I have been asked to develop a vision and share it with the board. Before I get to programming, I want to start at the very foundational level of where we are striving to go. It is important to note that programming is not vision. It is just the vehicle. Over time, it may be necessary to alter the vehicle or even change vehicles, while all eyes are clearly kept looking straight ahead at that vision. It becomes all too easy to get comfortable in the vehicle we're riding in and take our eyes off from that vision. The vehicle should never be considered the end rather the means to the end. That is one thing that has always impressed me about the early founders of this ministry. They seemed willing to do whatever was necessary to proclaim the name of Christ even if it meant changing vehicles or adding a new one. Examples include (and some are clearly outside of the box):

- A newspaper
- A home for unwed mothers
- A home for abandoned children
- A home for the aged
- A christian school
- Summer camps
- The Bible conference

I have come up with a concise proposed motto that points to where I would like to see Rumney go and what I would like to see Rumney become. As you read it, I am sure that we can all agree that this is something worth striving for.

Proposed Motto

"A Loving Community Where Hearts Are Impacted By The Good News Of Jesus Christ."

Along with the proposed motto, I would like to propose the adoption of 8 core values that help to flesh out where I would like to see us go. Will we ever get there? Not completely this side of heaven, because we are an imperfect community made up of imperfect people. It does, however, give us a barometer.

Proposed Core Values

1. **Bible Based & Gospel-Centered Evangelism and Discipleship** – We have a passion for guests to have the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to continually know Him more deeply. *Philippians 3:10-11*

2. **Christ-like Service** – We strive to Maintain a Christ-like attitude; looking to the interests of others, in humility considering them better than ourselves in order to be a part of what God wants to do in their lives. *Philippians 2:3-5*
3. **Genuine Hospitality** – Visitors to Rumney Bible Conference are guests in our home and should, at all times, feel welcomed and loved. Upon arrival, you are part of our community. *Romans 12:12-13*
4. **God-Honoring Relevance** – Times change. For the sake of the Gospel, we are open to changing to see others changed. *1 Corinthians 9:22-23*
5. **Unified Teamwork** – We are committed to get all staff, guests, residents and supporters of Rumney Bible Conference involved and to take ownership of the ministry. Teamwork is the process and the product. *Romans 12:4-6, Ephesians 4:1-3*
6. **Uncompromising Integrity** – We are devoted to the idea that we do everything with integrity that can not be compromised, because that is what God expects of us. *Mt 5:37, James 1:22-25*
7. **Good Stewardship** – We believe that those things which have been entrusted to us by God – our natural environment, facilities and grounds, our finances and our staff – should be treated with utmost care and consideration. *Psalms 24:1*
8. **Personal Relationships** - Rumney Bible Conference is defined by our relationships. They are the core of who we are – first to God, then to family, to others, and to nature around us. Relationships > Programs *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

The question then becomes “what is the vehicle necessary to get us to the point described in the proposed motto?” One could argue, and rightly so, that there are many different vehicles that could be used, so it is important when selecting/changing a vehicle to use much biblical wisdom and prayer.

I am proposing that we take steps to grow Rumney Bible Conference over the next number of years by changing the vehicle we have been in. Below are 3 phases I would like to see us go through. The first one, discussed in detail with Pastor Temple, to start in the summer of 2017.

Phase 1 – Weekend Bible Conference (While still accommodating weekend retreat groups & hosting week long summer camps.)

Duration: 2-5 years possibly. Nothing we do will grow the conference overnight. It will take time of hard work and keeping our eyes on the vision.

- Through June and July, host week-long summer camps, as we have been with the AGs. (core values 1, 2, 3, 5 & 8)
- Run a 5 weekend free Bible Conference (core values 1 & 4) that starts June 30 and goes through July 30. The conference would start with check in late Friday afternoon and go through Sunday’s lunch.

- Weekends would include speakers, times of worship, bible times for the youth, meals in the Lodge, programming to promote family togetherness and relationship building. (core values 1 & 8)
- Running a weekend conference allows us to have all of our cottages available (core value 7) and over time will bring in new people to minister to (core values 1, 2 & 8) who are inhibited by the week long conference
- To continue ministering to the people on the grounds with a resident pastor. He would conduct a weekly service or more if the residents desired it. (core values 1 & 3)
- The Monday night pot-luck, morning prayer time, Thursday night game night, Friday night hot dog roast, etc would all be encouraged to continue. (core values 3 & 8)
- Beginning in August, our grounds would be opened up to outside groups for weekend retreats like it is this year. (core values 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8)
- Also beginning in August, put on a shortened concert schedule through Labor Day – 5 concerts in 2017. (core values 1, 2, 4 & 7)

Phase 2 – Weekend Bible Conference for Entire Summer (Phase out weekend retreat groups from the conference grounds during the summer but continue hosting them at the Ranch, Boys Camp & Girls Camp.

We will know when we are ready to enter this phase when:

- There is the demand to expand the number of weekends.
- Our other facilities (Ranch, Boys Camp & Camp) have been renovated and can accommodate groups comfortably.
- We are in a solid financial position to absorb the loss of some groups.
- The Lord leads us to.

Phase 3 – Full Summer of Programming (optional)

Other parts of my vision that are not aligned with any one phase or another:

Day Camp – To grow a healthy Day Camp that reaches the local population. At some point, add a bus ministry where we are reaching even more children by transporting them to us. An even longer range vision is to create a traveling Day Camp that travels around New England running 3 – 5 day Day Camps throughout the Summer in collaboration with local churches.

Overnight Camps – Once the Ranch has been renovated, I would like to see us running a full summer of camps there. To kick that off, I believe that we should strongly encourage work teams to target the Ranch for the majority of the summer of 2017, and have one week of summer camp in early August.

For younger children, I would like to resume having our own camps starting in 2018.

Missional Communities – I would like to see us begin a more intentional effort of having missional communities facilitated by various people who live on the grounds.

Training Facility – I would like us to be a training center for those God is calling into ministry. The internship program will be a great start.