

Kairos Prison Ministry - 2009 Winter Conference Communiqué

-- A concise summary Conference highlights --

The 2009 Winter Conference was held on February 6-7, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. Over 100 members of the Kairos community attended. The Board meeting was preceded by several musical entertainment, a spiritual gathering, committee meetings and a banquet. Following are some of the highlights.

I. Election of Board Officers (Nominating Committee)

- Currently, the Board has 56 members, including four at-large members and two ex-officio members elected at this meeting.
- Officers for 2009: President Steve Gabriel (Colorado), Vice-President Lauren Wiebe (Ohio), Vice-President Bill Young (Virginia), Treasurer George Brown (California) and Secretary Chuck Pollak (South Carolina).
- The 13-member Executive Committee was also elected.

II. Organization Structure Transition (Bill Young, ad hoc Committee Chair)

- Distributed *Organization Structure and Functionality* document to the Board on January 23. Describes proposed structure of small Board and representative International Council.
- Held workshop on February 7 involving all Board members and many members of Kairos Community. Group discussion and feedback on the proposal along with remaining outstanding issues and questions.
- Timeline for moving forward: update document, prepare Transition Plan, draft By-Laws for action at the 2009 Summer Conference and implement the new structure by the Winter Meeting in 2010.

III. Financial Report (George Brown, Treasurer)

- Financial reporting by the States greatly improved in 2008. During 2009 there will be an increased emphasis on payment of Affiliation Fees and Audit Fees by the quarterly deadlines.
- It is anticipated that all the 2008 4th Quarter Financial Reports will be submitted by the March 2, 2009 deadline. This will enable the preparation of a consolidated, detailed ministry-wide Financial Report for 2008.
- Budgets must be prepared by Advisory Councils, Area Committees and State Chapter Committees; a consolidated State Budget is to be submitted to the KPMI Office.
- It is important for all Board members to financially support the KPMI Office and to make a pledge for an annual contribution. It greatly helps our Resource Development Director in his fund raising efforts to be able to state that 100% of the Board contributes.
- The Finance/Audit Committee reported that in 2009 there will be an audit of the 2008 financial condition of 3 States. This will move us toward the objective of a ministry wide audit in early 2010.
- Our Chief Financial Officer is planning a series of training sessions on the subject of consolidations (i.e. the process of eliminating double counting of income and expenses).

IV. Staff Plans for 2009 (John Thompson, Executive Director)

- The KPMI Office's books were successfully audited.
- The KPMI Office budget for 2009 is \$1.5M; expenses are expected to exceed income by \$33,000; the Budget was approved by the Board.
- The Executive Director's Action Plan for 2009 focuses on (a) growth through collaboration with other prison ministries, (b) objective evidence of financial integrity, (c) operational effectiveness with the Excellence Initiative, (d) increase public awareness of Kairos, (e) recruitment of a more diverse volunteer base, (f) enhancement of our spirituality through prayer, and (g) tell God's story in your life.

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V. Operations Update (John Thompson, Executive Director)

- Kairos is currently active in eight countries outside the U.S. (Peru #1 occurred in December 2008); also 31 U.S. states -- total of 402 ministries.
- The 2008 Annual Report has been published; it is available on the KPMI Web site or in printed form from the KPMI Office.
- The Summer Conference will be held on July 28 to August 2, 2009 in Ontario, Canada.
- Ronan Dillard reported on the progress of the Re-entry / aftercare Pilot Programs being tried in Maryland and Texas.
- New Hampshire was approved as the site of the 2011 Summer Conference.

VI. Long-Range Planning (Steve Gabriel, Committee Chair)

- A workshop was held on February 6 for the whole Board to review the draft Strategic Plan.
- Based on the discussion and comments received, the 2009-2012 Plan will be revised and submitted for approval via electronic balloting in March.

VII. Orientation & Training Committee (Steve Thomas, Chair)

- Membership on the KPMI Board is a call to ministry (just as service at any level of the ministry is). In order to respond to this call in love, it is most helpful to deepen our spirituality, to increase our prayer time and the time we spend in God's word.
- Board membership does require an expenditure of time, perhaps a minimum of 4 hours a week.
- Board members need to be willing to devote the necessary time and effort it takes to carefully consider issues brought to their attention by either the President of the Board or the Executive Director.
- Board members should respond in a timely manner to all communications which request a response.
- All board members should discern which committee they are being called to serve, contact the appropriate committee chair, and become involved in committee activities.
- A new Orientation Program was introduced on February 5th for new members of the Board. The response was good with many commenting "a great start to a much needed communications tool."

VIII. International Committee (Wayne Park, Chair)

- In an effort to support and sustain the international development of KPMI, Wayne Park (Kairos liaison to Latin America) in conjunction with the four Kairos communities in this region, prepared a white paper entitled "SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR KAIROS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS." The objective of the paper was to propose a KPMI policy for the funding of Kairos startups in developing countries that would assure startup success and their eventual financial self-sufficiency.
- The paper recommends funding guidelines for the existing programs in Latin America as well as guidelines for the funding of new startups. It also suggested specific support mechanisms by which KPMI could assist international Kairos startups in achieving self-sufficiency.
- The International Committee unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the Self-Sufficiency Policy as a guideline for financial accountability for new and existing international startups. The Board will take up this motion later in the spring.

IX. Recruiting & Outreach (Mike Springer, Chair)

- The Recruiting & Outreach "Best Practices" program is maturing. Initial products have been posted on the KPMI Web site.

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X. Program Committee (Lauren Wiebe, Chair)

- Two program-related motions were presented to the Board and approved. One added the Kairos Outside “Walking in Love” activity as an alternative method for gaining community support during the Outside Weekend; the other approved a variance for Oklahoma’s Kairos Inside ministry to alter the requirements for retreat attendees as a near term solution.