

2012, January 29-30 NLS Mid-Year Meeting

(in conjunction with 4th Day Conference)

Orlando, Florida

Sunday, January 29, 2012

The NLS January mid-year meeting began at 8:30am following breakfast and adjourned for worship at 10:00am on Sunday, 29 January 2012. The meeting reconvened in the St. Margaret Mary conference room at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Winter Park, Florida. Present were Ed Broestl, Carolyn Hawkins, Steve Barnett, Steve Gielda, and Nancy Peterson. Ed, Nancy and Steve G had attended the Fourth Day Conference in Winter Park the two previous days. Magdala Ray joined the NLS meeting at 1pm on Sunday.

The first agenda item covered on Sunday morning was the finalization of the 2012 NLSAM schedule. In the afternoon, the ED position and its relationship with the EB was discussed first. Nancy reported that she is in contact with a little over half of the local secretariats' lay directors and has discovered an array of organizational structures and means of electing officers. In some areas, no elections are held but positions are appointed. She encouraged the EB to increase and improve our efforts to support the movement through shared materials. The current "share" site is closely guarded, and the group discussed ways to make more of that material more easily accessible. One suggestion was that we ask Rick to create a "button" on the main website indicating that tools are available for starting and supporting local secretariats within the movement. When a viewer would click on the button, a message could direct the viewer to Nancy's email to request access.

Ed also suggested a monthly or quarterly email newsletter which he could send out to the lay directors. In addition to his message as president, the issues would rotate articles from the ED, VP of Outreach, and VP of Administration. The first one will be sent in February.

As ED, Nancy has made great progress in tackling the job, although the group acknowledged that responses have been somewhat slower than anticipated. Overall, the group agreed that on a scale of 1-10, we are at a 7 or 8. Carolyn and Steve G commented that local secretariats have expressed their appreciation that the EB has taken the time to be deliberate in putting the position into place. With that foundation, Nancy and her successors in the ED position will be able to learn and grow. Nancy is working to establish the connections and relationships which are so important to the movement's future; local secretariats will come to know the ED as a person with accurate and timely information whose purpose is sharing and connecting. The group agreed that the annual performance appraisal for the ED will be a more formal written form.

Ed asked that the EB members be prepared to introduce themselves at the 2012 NSLAM with two points: 1) one thing we have each done that has been beneficial to the movement, and 2)

what we each pray and hope the NLSAM participants will take away with them. A full report of the ED position and accomplishments will be provided in the second business meeting of the 2012 NLSAM.

The group then moved on to reviewing each EB member's job description in light of the new ED position and the progress we have seen so far this year. Carolyn will type up the agreed upon changes to the job descriptions. Ed shared that what he has learned in the process since August 2011 challenges the assumption he had that teams are made strong by having a common shared experience. His new insight is that strong team relationships begin when all members are targeting and embracing the same mission – not only because we have all had a common experience. He emphasized the importance of clearly stating our policies – how we work and “do business” as a board as well as the importance of providing clear guidelines on how we work with the local secretariats. These policies and guidelines must be delineated and written clearly.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the current NLS constitution and bylaws. The group agreed that in light of the ED position and its purpose, changes should not occur at this point in time. Ed will request input on any proposed changes at the 2012 NLSAM, and the goal will be to hold a vote on any changes at the 2013 NLSAM. Key questions in this process include the dues structure, quorum procedures and how we can expand the ministry through the ED position. Ed, Nancy and Steve G reported that these were common concerns in the reports and discussion of the Fourth Day Conference. In addition, the Fourth Day Conference focused on the need to be culturally inviting – developing cultural diversity into our communities as a means of strengthening and growing the movements. Steve G will incorporate more about this into his presentation of the Leadership Survey at the 2012 NLSAM.

The group adjourned for the evening at 5:30pm and resumed meeting at 8:45am the next morning, Monday, January 30th, at the same location.

Monday, January 30, 2012

Following morning devotions and prayer, the group discussed various aspects of the 2012 NLSAM travel and meeting arrangements. The EB will need to be at Regis University by noon on Wednesday, July 25th, and will meet on Sunday, July 29th, until approximately 2pm.

The group then reviewed the action items for which each member is responsible. Under the category of database revision and construction, the group agreed that while all EB members will have individual permissions to access certain fields in the database, only the ED and Secretary will have global access. The vocabulary used in the new database will necessitate a common glossary for all local secretariats and the NLS EB to use. Eventually, the hope is that the database will provide information enabling cursillistas moving to a new area of the country to quickly connect with local secretariats and even find reunion groups. To support that effort, Nancy will begin asking lay directors about their databases, schemas, and best practices.

The group discussed the devotional booklet compiled by Pastor Doug, and Magdala agreed to work with him to edit it into a “Pilgrim’s Guide”-sized format with one devotion per page or two. The target audience for this booklet would be new pilgrims completing a weekend and would ideally contain 40 days of material.

Steve G reported that the Regional Coordinators have created two teams, one for curriculum development and one for implementation. They are currently assembling best practices and are next meeting on February 26th.

In closing, Ed thanked the group for the hard work already done and the energy demonstrated in tackling the next tasks. He pointed out that significant emotional events often are responsible for changes in a human being’s personality and that for the NLS, the significant event has been the addition of the ED position, which is now signaling new growth and excitement in the movement as we learn and grow. We are thankful that God has placed us together with Nancy on this team.

The group closed with special prayer requests and prayers for travel safety, ending with the Lord’s Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.