

**Draft of National Leadership Council (NLC) Agenda**

**April 2-5, 2013**

**Green Lake, Wisconsin**

**Draft Date: January 16, 2013**

***Pre-NLC meetings:***

- Multi-Region Corporation – 9am to noon on April 2
- REMC – noon to 4:30 pm on April 2

**Timeframe:** NLC begins on Tuesday evening with dinner at 6 pm and concludes at noon on Friday

**Worship Theme:** “We are the Body”

**Worship Team:** Joan Friesen (chair), Virginia Holmstrom, Michael Birdsall, Frank Frischkorn, Robin Stoops

**Building upon 2012:** Please stay mindful of the learnings from 2012 (Appendix B)

**NLC AGENDA**

**Tuesday Evening – Farewell Dinner**

- Farewell Dinner Celebrations for:
  - Riley Walker (team: Marshall Peters, Al Fletcher)
  - Sumner Grant (team: Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Louis Barbarin, Perry Hopper)

**Wednesday – April 3** – Consultant Richard Burnham will join us for the day

**Purpose:** To surface ways that we can work together as the NLC in serving congregations, given the changing nature of denominational life

**Wednesday Morning** (8:45 am to 11:45 am)

- Worship (30 minutes)
- Forming small groups – Jeff Woods
- “The Wilderness Requires Wandering” – PowerPoint presentation by Richard Burnham on the changing nature of denominations in the U.S.
  - What seems to be the shape of the life of congregations and denominations in the U.S. going forward?
  - What do congregations need and desire from judicatories and national agencies?
  - What are some of the greatest opportunities and challenges for denominations today?
- Break  
Scripture Reading

- Panel Discussion regarding the book, *Journey in the Wilderness* – led by Richard Burnham. Opening question to the panelists, “As you consider the concepts in the book *Journey in the Wilderness*, what questions are raised in relation to your ministry?”
  - Panel:
    - Richard Burnham (moderator)
    - Al Fletcher
    - Soozie Ford
    - Debora Jackson
    - Dwight Stinnett
    - Marilyn Turner

*Lunch – noon*

Wednesday Afternoon – (1:15 pm to 5:00 pm)

Scripture Reading

- Small group conversation...
  - What are we learning from both our engaged and resistant congregations?
  - What are pastoral leaders saying to us?
  - What impact is the changing demographics having on our denominational life together?
  - How is our current “Transformed by the Spirit” initiative shaping our life together?
  - How is our current structure facilitating or inhibiting our denomination?
- Break
- Small group conversation...
  - What are the benefits to ABC congregations and to ABC denominational life of the NLC participants being in the same room with one another?
  - What can the NLC participants learn from one another that is beneficial to serving congregations?
  - In an ideal world, how can the NLC help one another do our jobs better?
- Wrapping up – Roy Medley
  - Ending process questions (10 minutes)
    - What did we learn today?
    - What are we taking away from this conversation?
    - What are the implications of our work?
  - Closing worship (10 minutes)

Wednesday Evening – Movie Night – (Optional)

**Thursday – April 4**

Purpose: To Share our activities and learnings with one another

Thursday Morning (8:45 am to 11:45 am)

- Worship (30 minutes)
- Opportunity for Open Space Dialogue – Alan Newton
- Advance Questions Related to Open Space Dialogue:
  - What are you excited about regarding ministry in your organization?
  - What challenges is your region/organization currently facing?
  - What would you like to discuss with other NLC participants?
- Break
- Transition Moment - TBD
- Opportunity for Open Space Dialogue – Alan Newton

*Lunch – noon*

Thursday Afternoon – (1:15 pm to 5:00 pm)

- Update on Hurricane Sandy
  - Lee Spitzer
  - Judy Allbee
  - Aidsand Wright-Riggins
  - James Stallings
  - A Rep from IM – not yet confirmed
- Transformed by the Spirit update – Roy Medley and Members of the Journey Team
  - Discussion: How is TbyS shaping our life as a denomination?
- ABA update – Ben Mott
- Break – a “High Tea” experience – Ben Mott
- Transition Moment – TBD
- ABC Restructuring Update - NEC
- Mission Summit
  - Update – Leo Thorne
  - Mission Summit Design and NLC role – Jeff Woods

- Small Group Discussion: The NLC will have an opportunity to give feedback regarding the proposed Mission Summit Conversations small group process
- Mission Table – Nov. 11-13, 2013 at Green Lake
  - The NLC will be asked to engage in a process to generate desired outcomes for their future Mission Table work – Jeff Woods
- Wrapping up – Roy Medley
  - Ending process questions (10 minutes)
    - What did we learn today?
    - What are we taking away from this conversation?
    - What are the implications of our work?
  - Closing worship (10 minutes)

Thursday Evening – Free

**Friday – April 5**

Purpose: To discuss and make “God honoring” decisions regarding our structure, systems, and life together

Possible breakfast buffet in meeting room (If this takes place the WCC conversation and worship will be moved to the end of the morning).

Friday Morning (8:45 am to 11:45 am)

- Worship (30 minutes)
- Reflection on WCC Paper entitled, “The Church – Towards a Common Vision” – Roy Medley
  - Members of the NLC will be asked to read a specific portion of the paper with those sections led by designated NLC members.
- Historical Society Update – Deborah Van Broekhoven
  - The Historical Society will share the results of a recently developed strategic plan
- Minister Council – The newly called director of the Ministers Council, Debora Jackson, will address the NLC
- MMBB – It is anticipated that MMBB will have a new director by the time of the NLC meeting. If this occurs, the new director will be invited to address the NLC
- Wrapping up – Roy Medley
  - Ending process questions (10 minutes)
    - What did we learn today?
    - What are we taking away from this conversation?
    - What are the implications of our work?
  - Closing worship (10 minutes)
- Blessing and Benediction

Survey Online Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NLC2013>

## **Appendix A**

### **National Leadership Council (NLC) Survey 2013**

In anticipation of our National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting in Green Lake, April 2-5, we would like to gather some feedback from you in order to help frame our time together. Please take a few moments to respond to the brief set of questions below. The information that you provide will shape our conversations and time together. Please respond by Friday, March 22, 2013.

**What is the name of your region/organization?** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part One – Tell us what is going on with your organization...**

1. What are you excited about regarding your ministry in your region/organization?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What challenges is your region/organization currently facing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What would you like to discuss with other NLC participants?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Have you recently produced a multi-media piece that you would like to show to the NLC at our upcoming meeting? If so, would you please send a copy to Jeff Woods in advance of the meeting?

**Part Two – In what areas of denominational and congregational life would you like an outside perspective?**

During the meeting, we will have an opportunity to dialogue with Richard Burnham about the changing nature of denominations in the U.S. Some of the questions that Richard has been asked to address are shown below:

1. What seems to be the shape of the life of congregations and denominations in the U.S. going forward?
2. What do congregations need and desire from judicatories and national agencies?
3. What are some of the greatest opportunities and challenges for denominations today?

What additional questions would you like for Richard to address during his presentation?

**Part Three – Under the umbrella of “the role of U.S. denominations moving forward,” what would you like to dialogue about with other NLC participants?**

Our time with the consultant will also include small group dialogue among our NLC participants. Some of the questions that we might discuss are listed below.

1. What are we learning from both our engaged and resistant congregations?
2. What are pastoral leaders saying to us?
3. What impact is the changing demographics having on our denominational life together?
4. How is our current “Transformed by the Spirit” initiative shaping our life together?
5. How is our current structure facilitating or inhibiting our denomination?

What additional questions would you like to discuss with NLC participants regarding this topic?

**Part Four:**

1. The NLC worship team is would like to put together an NLC choir. Would you like to sing in the NLC choir? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no name\_\_\_\_\_
2. The NLC worship team would also like to put together an NLC band. Would you like to sing in the NLC band? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no name\_\_\_\_\_
3. Would you like to suggest a movie for NLC movie night? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix B**

### **Learnings and Suggestions from our 2012 National Leadership Council Meeting**

Ways to improve our time together:

- Use processes, such as small group conversation, so every voice is heard
- Use the same small groups throughout the meeting
- Invite persons to share the most important activities of their organization with others
- Create a worship planning team
- Include reflection throughout the meeting
- Make it fun
- Seek input into the agenda
- Use the participant experience in the room
- Include times of prayer and scripture reading
- Talk about how God is alive and active in the world
- We need to learn from what other groups are doing
- Include time for relationship building
- We need to share more of our authentic selves
- We need to do theological reflection on key issues as a group

Defaults that we wish to avoid:

- A few voices dominating the conversation
- The loudest voices get the most attention
- Talking that does not lead to action
- Low investment among participants