

Communications Covenanted Ministry Team

by Rick Oberle

The Communications Covenanted Ministry Team was chartered on October 15, 2016 to operate under the guidance of the Local Church Ministries Standing Committee of the Conference Council to develop and maintain an infrastructure for communications activity in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and to discern means of communications support and interaction among our churches.

For the past two and a half years, the CCM has embarked upon various endeavors to strengthen the web of connectivity between facets of the Conference. We have worked with Conference Staff to develop infrastructure including assisting in the development of directories, websites, newsletters, communications centers and paper mailings.

Over the course of two and a half years, this Ministry Team sent nine paper mailings to over 400 addresses in the Conference: including Pastors, Churches and lay leaders. We give thanks to several local churches who helped collate those mailings including: St. John's, Bem; Zion, Union; St. Peter's, Washington; St. Lucas, St. Louis; Peace, Hartsburg; St. Paul's, St. Louis (Giles & Potomac); Bethel, Kansas City; Grace, O'Fallon; and Columbia United Church of Christ in Columbia, MO. These mailings not only strengthened communications between facets of the Conference, they also provided local churches with a way to engage in the wider church setting, by physically contributing to the communications efforts of the Conference. In 2019, it was determined that the Conference Office would take over production of these mailings.

This team has conducted three Conference-wide surveys; with limited results. Our last survey, sent to every church in the Conference, yielded only 8 responses. Each person responding was contacted by a member of the CCM to continue the dialogue further. Many great joys were discovered.

The CCM spent the past year working on a one-sheet piece to be distributed to churches in the Conference, reproducing e-Courier stories in a paper format that could be used as a bulletin insert, a newsletter insert, or another piece of publicity. After some assessment, it was determined that continued production of this insert was not feasible in the long run.

The team led several workshops at Conference Annual Gatherings and at other Conference events. These workshops were very valuable, as the voices and opinions, dreams and vision of the Conference were heard and many new connections were made.

In April, 2019 a determination was made that it was time for the Communications Covenanted Ministry team to come to an end. Many thanks to all who have served on this very valuable Covenanted Ministry Team.