

Subj: **[MSDUPTeams] UP! Conference Call Notes Included**
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From: Embenton@aol.com
Reply-to: msdupteams@googlegroups.com
To: msdupteams@googlegroups.com

NOTES from UP! Conference Call -- September 23, 2008

Eunice Benton -- Moderator

Connie Goodbread -- Note-taker

Norm Horofker -- Timekeeper

AGENDA:

- Welcome and Quick Announcements -- 5 minutes
- Roll-call of participants -- 10 minutes
- How are UP! TEAMS INTERACTING with congregations? -- 15 minutes
- What's to ask or share about WEB SITES? Challenges? Great ideas? -- 15 minutes
- Announcement about "SNAPSHOTS" for UP! Congregations -- 5 minutes
- Review of UP!coming events and UP! Calendar -- 5 minutes
- Sign-Off for all, with RSVP for HCC Conference * -- 10 minutes

(*We'll ask for a preliminary 'nose count' of folks planning to attend the Healthy Congregation Conference, especially the Friday evening supper for UP! folks.)

NOTES:

Role Call::

ALABAMA -- nobody from Florence, Camp Hill, Mobile or Tuscaloosa

FLORIDA -- nobody from Panama City

GEORGIA -- nobody from First E (but they sent regrets)

Canon -- Ellen Davenport

Columbus -- Norm Horofker

Ellijay/Mtn. Light -- Gerry Barker

MISSISSIPPI -- nobody from Hattiesburg, Tupelo, or Gulfport

Our Home/Ellisville -- Linda Foshee

Jackson -- Liz Steere

Oxford -- Pat Miller and Gail Stratton

TENNESSEE -- all represented!

Murfreesboro -- Jill Austin

Clarksville -- Mike Tino-Cunniffiee

Cookeville -- Ivan Cordrey, Jeff Cawthon, Danielle Swank

How to work as the UP! Team

Norm – Columbus – mid-range planning team and LRP are the same as the Up! Team. Dinner meetings, then reporting to the Board. General announcements to the congregation.

Linda – Our Home – feeling like she doesn't know what is going on or how to relate it back to the congregation – wants to know more. Hasn't been much talk about this yet in Our Home.

Eunice and Connie – this will reveal itself as we go. Organic process. Google Group (msdupteams@googlegroups.com) – will allow conversation - ask and answer questions. Notes for newsletters are good.

Bottom of the WHAT'S UP! E-newsletter is a button for you to forward the newsletter to others – like folks and leaders in your congregation that might need it.

Gail Stratton -- Oxford – UP! newsletter is model that a congregation can use.

Eunice – Constant Contact is the software program we are using, and is affordable and user-friendly. Congregations can use it, and it is printable. Site is: www.ConstantContact.com

Frank G. -- Dahlonga – Board Retreat and congregation newsletter will get reports and information about UP!

Norm – Columbus: Congregation had a crisis in RE Program – Columbus reached out to others

for advice. If UP! Team list had been up and running, the UP! list could have been consulted for ideas.

Linda – Our Home/Ellisville -- Is this like a list serve? Where I get and share information?

Eunice – yes – post to the list.. Get and give information. (msdupteams@googlegroups.com)

Websites

Eunice – they are important!! Now we know they are really our 'front door.'

What are the challenges you are finding with web sites?

Linda – Our Home/Ellisville -- Hoping that Jill, the person who is doing the web site for Our Home, would be on this call. Concerned about how quickly the updating happens. Are others having problems getting and keeping sites updated and current?

Gerry– Ellijay/MountainLight -- We have several very talented web site people – one individual not totally in contact with the congregation = communications break down. We had a visioning workshop and one of the products is a new website!! New people are now keeping it updated. It is more useful.

Eunice – this is our new front door – give the website a big priority!!

Be sure that your congregation owns the website -- not member!

Liz – Jackson -- Also be sure your congregation owns the domain name! Too often the web site is an afterthought. Board needs to see how important it is! Board needs to ensure communication with web team.

Eunice – communication both ways very important.

Mike – Clarksville -- We had the nightmare with the domain name. Did not own the domain name and had issues connecting. Recommend you check in every now and then and makes sure it is current! Also, have a couple of people who can do the work. Not the whole congregation, but two of three savvy people. So it doesn't all fall on one person.

Linda – Our Home/Ellisville -- We have a hard time finding more than one person, having two or three people. ---Also: Are we calling UP! team members leaders.

Eunice – yes the UP! Team members are leaders.

Jeff - Cookeville -- Several people can now help update the web site. It's better!

Danielle – Cookeville -- I'm the web person, and I get emails from the website and I send them out to those who need to get them. Important to have the site password protected, but having several people to update is very helpful.

Eunice – having more than one person who can help update can be very helpful.

** Remember that you can't do it all. And remember that your web site has two contingencies: 1) those who are trying to find you -- newcomers-- and 2) members. *The front page is for new people. Get all the info that they will need on the front page!!

Norm – Columbus was paying an outside person – but there was little contact – did not work!

Norm -- Do all congregations here have web sites?

Eunice -- Yes, although very small congregations struggle to keep them current.

Ellen – Canon -- having problems keeping web site up and current

Liz – Jackson -- More important to have a web site that is small and current than large and not current!! But, be sure there's an email and/or phone number! Contact info. a must!

Frank – Dahlonga -- We're putting together an 'internal website' using google tech. Putting all the documents and directory etc on the web for members who have a password to access this. **Will write up how they did it.

Mike – we did a similar thing, using Google. ** Will write up how they did this.

"Snapshot"

Survey Monkey questionnaire will go out next week to ask all UP! congregations to contribute information to create a 'snapshot' of each congregation in the UP! Program.

Healthy Congregation Conference: Norm will give all of the UP! folks the info from the snapshot questionnaire.

Liz – Jackson -- Will you send out questions separately from just the survey -- so we could go and look for data??

Eunice – yes

Liz – Jackson -- She's web savvy... and will help as much as she can, although she's really busy.

Eunice – everyone post as much as you can – share information

Remember to visit the Mid-South web site -- www.msduua.org -- Link for UP! on the right side!!

Healthy Congregation Conference – Saturday October 11 in Birmingham
Friday night October 10 Up! dinner begins at 6pm

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to msdup teams+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com
For more options, visit this group at <http://groups.google.com/group/msdup teams?hl=en>

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