**Tactical Teams-Funding/Facilities/Location/Place**

**November 20 2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

**People Present: Terrell McTyer, Rick Reisinger, Rosario Ibarra, Josh Esparza, Mary Beth Becker, Carla Leon, Jeff Zimmerman**

**Video Playback:** <https://youtu.be/AjaeDhX3dRc>

* Terrell reviewed what was covered in the last meeting and talked about the working document.
* Introductions
  + Rick-President of DCEF.
  + Rosario-Building and Capital Services Advisor at DCEF.
  + Mary Beth-Works with New Church in Oklahoma.
  + Josh Esparza-Based in Dallas, TX, Pastor in the United Methodist Conference in North Texas. Working at Owenwood Farm and Neighbor Space. Josh talked about this project. He said they acquired the property after white flight happened to try and develop a different type of faith community. Work collectively with other nonprofits to help with expenses and also do things like co-writing grants. This isn’t just about sharing overhead, really looking for collaboration. Talked about how the faith component has changed due to COVID, they did have a dinner church portion.
* Terrell talked about wanting to focus on finishing up the vision.
* Terrell wants to focus on finance and funding first.
  + Carla-Talked about the funding in The United Church of Canada. Studies show it takes a new church start 8 years to be financially stable, but The United Church of Canada only does funding for 3 years. They have other programs for grants and are trying to teach bootstrapping. So do small grants before the growth grant. Discussed the process of how the funding structure works. Start with a $5,000 grant, if that does well then they can get the growth grant, which is $25,000 and then look at other options. Have a repayable grant that has a 0 interest rate and they have 3 years to pay it back.
  + Josh-There is a one to one match for funding, so anything they raise then it will be matched, but no other conference funding. Have focused heavily on development and grant fundraising.
  + Terrell-What is the drawback or con at the way their denomination does funding? Josh talked about how the conference is like regions and he doesn’t think the larger general church gives money. Talked about how you can get money if you go through the residency program, which is only about $12,000. Carla talked about how they are divided up by regions. EDGE has been framed and positioned about knowing about innovation. So she talked about the innovators in the various regions being told to the region along with a quarterly report talking about what kind of funding has been given. Regions and EDGE still have a tenuous relationship. Worries that the regions don’t have as much transparency and there is not a centralized location or knowledge. EDGE is thinking about giving the regions the money to make decisions so that it is more localized. Josh talked about how the conferences have decided that if you are young then you are primed to be a planter, so they are putting people in that role whether they feel called to it or not. He points out that the conferences need to then provide the training such as fundraising and budgeting in order to be successful.
  + Jeff-Talked about how there is a similar dynamic within the Disciples.
  + Josh-By 2025 we will prepare pastors to have some type of methodology to develop their work so it is highly contextual. Talked about how the work is done differently in different areas.
  + Carla-How do we increase the size of the pie? Talked about how a small percentage of churches were applying for grants within the denomination and outside of the denomination, so it isn’t that they can’t do it, they just aren’t aware of the resources. One of the things The United Church of Canada does is ask how did you take the money we granted you and use it to leverage for more money?
  + Terrell-We should be helping the planter find additional sources of income rather than just depending on the region be the sole source of funding.
  + Rick-Agreed with having the resources, not necessarily money, but having people that could do the grant writing or other people that can help with the things the planter is missing. Talked about the need to have multiple people, like multiple grant writers, available to help the various regions. Talked about maybe having someone do that exclusively by region. Talked about some denominations have churches that are closing give their assets back to the region so that that money could be used for new churches.
  + Rosario-Asked about doing grants according to different needs and doing them in different combinations. How do we tell these stories of how the churches that are successful are sustaining themselves.
  + Terrell and Rick: Talked about how it is decided on what grants would be gone after and if there are people that are actively seeking out grants.
* Terrell moved the conversation towards facilities and location.
  + Terrell talked about existing congregations with facilities and new churches sharing spaces better.
  + Rick-Talked about partnerships that you can build with the city. The church goes to the city and asking what the community needs. Also went on to say how it has been hard to convince new churches that they do not need to get a building right away. Would welcome the understanding that we need smaller spaces or can share, don’t necessarily have to own.
  + Terrell-Feels like everyone is talking about having church in shared space that would have multiple uses. Discussed how there are churches that are opening a brewery and having churches out of that.
  + Rosario-Many churches want to be community centers.
  + Rick-Shared about with his own church how they are looking to partner and share with others, which is providing excitement and helping his current church.
  + Josh-Talked about making a coffee shop a social enterprise for the Owenwood Farm and Neighbor Space. He feels like we need to work to shift people’s mindset on what a place looks like.



Terrell L McTyer

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