

REPORT TO THE SENATE
FEBRUARY, 2010
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Acting Executive Director

In February, I led 4 workshop/retreats for constituent councils.

Date	Region
8-10	Michigan
18	Indiana/Kentucky
22-23	Chicago
24-25	Rocky Mountains

No two workshops were exactly the same length and therefore the design for each was distinctive. The reason is that I asked the leaders in each region, what will work in your place and in each place, it works a bit differently. In Chicago, all the participants could drive to the retreat center in an hour or less. But in the Rocky Mountain region, two participants drove 6-8 hours, one way, to participate.

I believe that the focus on the ministerial leader as a practitioner is helpful. The designation helps us to identify some of the distinctive qualities of Ministerial Leadership and to name some of the distinctive qualities that are needed.

In each workshop, as time allows, we focus on nourishing our spiritual core. The Ministers Council mission statement says that we “covenant together to deepen our spiritual journeys” and to increase our effectiveness as leaders. It’s been a gratifying learning experience to be with colleagues as we intentionally gave serious time to prayer and engaging the scriptures both in solitude and together. I’ve come to the conclusion that it is important to talk less and to do more to engage spiritual practice as a community of Ministerial Leaders. Feedback consistently suggests that engaging our spiritual centers is an important part of the workshop/retreat experience.

I am also beginning to believe strongly that our successful engagement of the issues of ministry that confront us in 2010 is fully dependent upon our capacity for spiritual nurture. Here is my current hypothesis: When we as individuals neglect the habits of spiritual practice in the engagement of ministerial leadership, we are likely to self-destruct. When we as a community of ministerial leaders fail to nurture our spiritual core together, we will likely do harm both to ourselves and to one another.

I have also experienced the bridging of theological differences as we engage ministry as fellow practitioners. Men and women who are clearly different theologically are willing to engage one another seriously as we name the ministry issues that are most compelling to ourselves and our colleagues.

Finally, I continue to be impressed that each region has its own distinctive culture, its own way of engaging ministry and building community. So, while every

workshop/retreat has elements in common with all of the others, each process has come to its own distinctive conclusion as to how the significant issues look and how they should be addressed.

Finally two other matters: We have begun the process of seriously examining our long-term financial stability and looking for ways to strengthen it. You'll read more as we go and there will be a very complete report at the senate in August.

And I serve on the Board of Trustees at CRCDS and I spent 2 days in meetings there. I continue to pray that women and men will hear the call to ministerial leadership and that we'll find ways to nurture those who respond.

Grace and Peace to you all,