**RCN Spring meeting**

**Via Conference Call, April 10, 2014, 9 AM Central Time**

**Roll call of participants:**

**Mark Yackel-Juleen**

**Alvin Luedke**

**Judy Hill**

**Dave Ruesink**

**Ed Kyle**

**Excused:**

**John Young**

**Lon Oliver**

**Opening prayer—Judy Hill**

**Secretary report—Dave Ruesink**

  Since last fall’s meeting, efforts have concentrated on: - Making phone contacts with primary funders with email follow up as recommended afterwards.  - When contributions are received, they are recorded and mailed to the Treasurer.  - The email list was wiped out so it was re-done from scratch.  Those on the current list were and are still requested to go to the website at ruralchurchnetwork.org to see if all who are on that list are correct or if additions, deletions, or corrections are needed.  - Minimal supervision has been provided for the webmaster.  - Emails and other sites are monitored for information that might be useful to forward to the RCN listserv.  Communication and RSSE project has been a major emphasis.

**Treasurer’s report**

Bank changing

**RCN archives**

Dave updated us on progress with archiving.

**Website**

Jake wants new pictures to depict the visual communication about RSSE for the front page. Community forum conversion to a chat room. Need a “room monitor” to be sure it is used properly. Good internal resource for our organization. Needs to be more of a resource for town and country ministers. RSSE may be a connection that will provide a portal for access of resources. Rural Church Renewal of is about 20 years old. Concept needs to be refreshed. Most new pastors are looking for on-line resources. Creativity needed is to use the example of the book and build in links to access further data for their context. I.e.: updated reports from congregations. Express appreciation to Jake for his work.

**RSSE**

Birmingham meeting to sort out historical material to retain and which needs to be updated. What are the holes to fill in the gaps. What do the folks in rural and small town situations need to know?

Will get a game plan. House and rename material. Variety of processes for engagement for forming a group and working together. Lay out areas to be covered of what needs to be exposed. Will there be a prescribed direction for the participation? What is a priority for how to convert material? Old system was to have facilitator training with peer group formation. How best to walk through the material in an on-line environment? On line process--how to train on-line facilitators and what will that group look like? How to build a platform for this. Make sure that the program is economically sustainable for updating and management of resources and training. How to charge for the program for personal “buy in” and a commitment to stick with the program after signing up for the plan? What are the logistics for how to manage the support for longer term viability? Will this be a RCN pocket or get another financial entity to handle it? There are legal implications to be considered. Lexington Theological has a rather vigorous on-line program now. Need to be careful about what commitments. The latter concerns will primarily involve Lon and Lexington Theological.

**IRCA**

Global rep for ELCA to Southern Africa is Rev. Dr. Phil Knutson and there are other ELCA Synod companions in Africa that may want to connect with this. Mark will contact Dr. Knutson.

**Fall Meeting—Oct. 2-4**

Meeting of UMRA for registration of RCN to welcome participation at Embassy Suites. David Leslie, ED of Oregon Ecumenical Ministry Program. How to have RCN and UMRA meet together. UMRA Thursday evening is usually “fun and fellowship” Friday combined worship service.

Could meet on Sat morning, but need to check schedules. Business on Fri. evening. Want some intentional conversation between both groups. Thursday afternoon might be best time to consider for joint meeting with Oregon Ministry group. Hope that RCN group arrive on Thurs am.

**Other items**

Mark--SHF leadership and parish leadership has given him time as Chair of RCN to “get-away” to make courtesy visits to help reconnect key institutions and individuals with RCN. Mark asked for ideas about who to visit such as Gil Waldkoenig, Gary Goreham, Shannon Jung, Ag Missions, Washington organizations. There was strong encouragement to pursue connections with Sewanee School of Theology, Eva Slayton of PCA Small Church & Community Ministry, and TAMU. Perhaps a Kentucky/Tennessee swing to touch base with Sewanee, AMERC, Lexington Theological working with RSSE, and Eva Slayton of PCA. Then perhaps a trip south to TAMU to put eyes on the archives.

**Closing prayer Judy Hill**

**Adjourned at 10:50**