

PIFF – Partners in Faith Formation
2017 – 2018

The Partners sponsored the bookstore at the Annual Meeting at California University. Sales were good and the new merchandise was well received. Valarie Poole ordered the items and organized the bookstore. There was a reduced price table as well as free books from the resource center which had not been used in the last year. A huge thank you to Valarie for all the work she devoted to this project.

At the July 31 meeting, we recognized that we needed to make some changes to provide more support to our Associate for Youth Ministry. We took our concerns to the Board of Directors, who encouraged Valarie Poole and Rev. David Ackerman to work together to create an Associate for Youth Ministry Team. This team would provide both support and accountability to Valarie at a level that we have not had after the departure of key members in recent times. The new team of six members from different parts of the Conference met on December 4. The new team had a good start with some lively discussion. However, some follow-up concerns from Partners in Faith Formation remained.

Those attending the next meeting were Chairperson Mary Alice, Valarie, and Rev. David. There was a discussion about the bookstore at the Conference Office and at Annual Meeting as well as concerns about curricula/resource opportunities for churches. It was decided to draft a letter to PIFF members explaining these issues.

A letter was e-mailed to team members explaining that if a bookstore was continued a Bookstore Team would be needed to do ordering, pricing, set-up, transporting, and selling items at Annual Meeting. Also since Partners in Faith Formation as a national movement has been ended for some time, the team has not been asked to be consultants for churches. The Partners Team would be discontinued. The letter stated if anyone had suggestions, questions, concerns, or wishes to be on a bookstore team, or a consultants list they were to contact Rev. David.

Mary Alice has joined the Associates for Youth Ministry Team and is volunteering for Regional Youth Event. No other responses were received.

This will be the last Partners report and the last bookstore unless another team is formed for the bookstore. A consulting group for curricula/resource opportunities is also a possibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Alice Lynn, chairperson