

| February 1, 2014 |

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, CARMEL

SHTD *update*

Reinvigoration Community

Meeting

in attendance

- Paul Weis (Tres Dias International)
- Frank Yarbrough (Tres Dias International)
- Karen Wallis (SHTD President)
- Margery Amato
- Glen Bucher
- Marilyn Bucher
- Teddi Cox
- Sandy Gardinier
- Susan Hardman
- Christy Pischedda
- Hank Schrot
- Jean Spadaccia
- Gary White

A meeting of the Reinvigoration Committee was held on Saturday, February 1, 2014. This meeting was a direct result from an item that appeared in the Tres Dias International newsletter that appeared in October. Bruce Cato, President of Tres Dias International Secretariat wrote, "...we have resources we can bring to bear to assist that community in recharging its activity level and getting back to that dynamic status that will help it reach out to the world with the message of God's Grace!" The suggestion to follow this up was brought forth at our November 13th Secretariat agenda and Margery Amato graciously volunteered to head up this committee.

The meeting was held at Gilead Presbyterian Church in Carmel, NY and began at 10:00 a.m. with breakfast, then officially started at 10:15 with prayer and scripture (John 21: 15-17) led by Karen Wallis (SHTD president). Special guests from Tres Dias International, Paul Weiss from Illinois and Frank Yarbrough

from South Carolina, flew in to meet with interested Pescadores from the SHTD community who wanted to learn more about what our community could do to increase attendance on weekends and secuelas, and to get more Pescadores involved in the workings of our organization. Many ideas were shared and questions from our community that were gathered at the January 2014 secuela were shared. All of these items will need further discussion with our community. The items appear in no particular order. I tried to group similar topics together no matter where they appeared throughout the discussion of the day.

Tres Dias International has been working toward becoming more of a service organization for communities. They work with communities who are sponsoring new/emerging communities and with communities who are struggling.

We must look at Tres Dias as *more than just a weekend*.
It is a community that is ongoing!

SHTDupdate

Remove “secrets” and “surprises” from our vocabulary

In communities that are struggling, one thing to look at is the essentials training versus the traditions of the community. As long as the traditions do not go against the essentials, then they can be followed. We look at the letter of the law versus the heart of the law.

Tres Dias should be transparent. Some people are not attending weekends because they don't know enough about them.

Therefore:

Secuelas:

1. **All** secuelas should be **open** secuelas that anyone can attend. The same format as the “old closed secuelas” will be followed – including 4th Day Speaker and Question-Discussion in small groups. Only give the “What is Tres Dias Talk” if there are a significant number of non-Pescadores at the meeting.
2. Consider open prayer time.
3. Offer daycare. Secuelas should be a family affair.
4. Consider having dinner before the secuela.
5. Consider always having the secuela on the same day of the month (i.e. the 3rd Friday of the month) so people can plan for it.
6. Consider having theme based secuelas

(Mexican night, St. Paddy's Day, etc.).

7. Secuela committee – someone in charge of getting musicians (the church's praise band is fine), someone for ensuring a pastor will be there for liturgy, someone for getting volunteers for clean-up and setup, someone to help in matching up people for reunion groups, someone to get churches
8. At secuelas sign up to pray for others, sign up to be a candidate - for someone to contact you
9. Consider passing the basket (just like in church service), rather than having an offering basket off to the side. More people may donate. The offering could go towards helping to defray the costs of future weekends.

Tres Dias should be transparent

Some things to consider when calling team

1. Don't tell them what position you are calling them for, just ask them if they would be willing to serve on team, and, attend all the meetings
2. Expand the team – some communities have 100 team members!
3. Get new Pescadores to serve on team while they are still “on fire” rather than having to wait for a year
4. Adding more auxiliaries – Prayer team, chapel team, music team – one head aux for each position: prayer auxes (one assigned to each table, praying for team and candidates individually throughout the weekend); chapel team takes

care of all the necessities of setting up the chapel, music team – all they do is play music, they do not give rollos; rollo room - assign one aux for each table, have a technology aux (more on this later), Rollista aux (lights the candle, puts up the name of the Rollista and the name of the rollo),

5. Increase number of spiritual directors to 3-4 – they have less rollos to prepare and more time to minister to candidates and team (yes, even team); ask other communities if their spiritual directors would be willing to serve on your weekends
6. If childcare is prohibiting someone from serving, consider allowing children at team meetings – provide babysitting
7. At team meetings in preparation for the team to resemble what will

happen in the rollo room – set up tables in small groups, after rollo have Rollista leave room, critique rollo in small groups, record comments, have one reporter from each group to share out information, give sheet to Rollista

8. Consider having 4 Saturday meetings – hold them every 2-3 weeks, 8:30-3:00 (the team meetings should total approximately 25 hours of preparation for the entire team meeting together); there should be a liturgy performed in at least one of the meetings.
9. Have a pre-meeting with all the “heads” before the actual first team meeting
10. Skyping into team meetings should be allowed on a case by case basis.

SHTDupdate

In the Rector's guide remove the words "silent retreat", get rid of all the fluff – stick to the essentials, make more time for music. Some teams have become dry and uninspired because they are doing things the same way for over 30 years. Times have changed. By infusing new music into the weekends we would be bringing together all generations. (We're not getting rid of the old stuff, just adding to it.)

Cell phones – It is the candidate's right to "self-determination" in following the "no cell phone rule". Cell phones should not be collected in a basket when you walk in the door (we don't do that).

Make time for more music

Music

Music directors may bring in their own music and make copies if their community has the special music copyright license. There is a special program called Media Shouts that allows for multimedia presentations (both for music and PowerPoint to accompany rollos). The mobile CCLI license is about \$400 for two years and can be put on four laptops. It gives the right to reproduce songs from Christian artists. It can be used on a weekend, then removed from that person's laptop (this is where

the technology auxiliary comes in). Be careful about overusing PowerPoint presentations as the focus should be on the rollo. The Media Shouts program allows the word to be projected on a screen or white wall – that way you don't have to photocopy. To purchase a laptop and projector that would be used solely on the weekend the expense may be \$400-\$500.

Palanca

There is a website www.3dayol.org (Three day weekends on-line) where the palanca coordinator (or someone from the community) can plug in the weekend, the date, the community, and **people from around the world** will sign up to pray for ½ hour slots.

sharing ideas

Sponsoring

This method of sponsoring was suggested by Frank Yarbrough – it is thoughtfully couched in prayer. Before Frank sponsors someone, he prays for 30 days for a name to be brought to his mind. Once the Lord has delivered a name to him, he then begins to pray for that person for 30 days – he prays for their family, their finances, their health, etc. **Then**, he calls the person. Next he becomes really involved with their family. After the weekend he brings them to secuelas and other activities. He helps them with their direction after the weekend. He assists them in getting involved in a reunion group.

Opening (Thursday night) and Closing (Sunday afternoon)

Consider **opening** this up to anyone. Technically the weekend has not

begun on Thursday at the Opening, so, technically, anyone can attend – including spouses and children. If opening this up helps someone to see the facility, where they are going, etc. before they "really" go, this may help to alleviate some fears. The Closing – the impact of seeing a new Pescadore get up and share what the weekend has meant to them may make someone say, "I want that!" and then they will be more likely to agree to go on a weekend.

Spiritual Directors

Invite another pastor to a secuela so they can see what we are all about! SDs who are retired can still serve as a SD. Are we putting "man-made qualifications" on our SDs? They all went to school and got their degree/license (sorry don't know the technical term); just because they are no longer actively pastoring a church

does not mean they have lost their qualifications. If a SD has stated that they will never be a pastor again – they have changed their "career", and then it is up to the local secretariat to decide if that person can serve as a lay person on a team and give a rollo or be an aux. The person must choose if they are going to serve in a lay or clergy role from that point on. There is no switching back and forth.

It was recommended that we look at the Kansas City Tres Dias website for ideas on how to promote our community to others. Kansas City Tres Dias <http://www.kctd.org/> community's webpage

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e24bn-FL2ho> very short video clip of someone's testimony

SHTDupdate

Finances

Paul and Frank thought we looked financially secure (they read our meeting minutes). They said that there is no limit on how much we can have in our accounts as long as all of the money is always spent on Tres Dias expenses.

The Sermon on the Amount – it was suggested that because we say the cost of the weekend is tax deductible because “no goods or services have been given in return”, we must emphasize to candidates and team, that the weekend was “a gift *paid for you* by someone else”. Discussion ensued on the negative effect on some candidates and some team members in using the term “gift”. We discussed explaining that the weekends are paid for in advance and that their donations are needed to enable us to have our next weekends. This is a concern that has come up repeatedly. We should consider explaining the donation, not calling it a gift. It is still a tax deductible donation. Other communities do not have this fee as a tax deduction so all team and candidates are required to pay the weekend expense. Some communities have a benefactor who donates to their community. They have paid for entire weekends. Fundraising ideas were discussed (benefit dinner, silent auction, concert, etc.). If a candidate or team member is having difficulty extending their “gift” to a future team member or candidate, then perhaps a church can sponsor the person, a small group, the person can pay a portion of the gift, etc.

Communication

Some communities send out monthly newsletters. Reminders should be sent out about upcoming weekends, secuelas, etc. (we do that). The reminders could be a very visually catching flyer that someone can print out and post in their church, on their refrigerator or wherever.

The De Colores song – sorry, it’s a myth! There are more than 90 verses to the song!

It was suggested that Tres Dias presidents from surrounding communities have a joint presidents’ meeting. Perhaps have an annual joint secuela with surrounding communities (maybe each year a different community could host it). Perhaps Spiritual Directors might do the same thing.

We did stop for lunch around noon. Of course, being a Tres Dias event, there was plenty of food! Frank Yarbrough closed us in prayer around 5:00 p.m. From our meeting Frank and Paul went on to meet with John McKinney and then flew out early Sunday morning (before the Super Bowl crowds and the snow) to return back home.

We all felt our meeting was richly blessed. I thank our SHTD team and Frank and Paul for coming together to thoughtfully discuss the future of the SHTD organization.

De Colores!

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Wallis
2/5/14



PS – When I was driving to the meeting on Route 6 early Saturday morning, I passed a GIANT inflatable rooster in front of Planet Wings. Not that I had any doubt before, but I knew our meeting was going to be richly blessed! God certainly puts amazing “signs” in front of us each day – we need to open our eyes to see them (you couldn’t miss this one!).