



Camp & Conference Ministry Team 2007 Annual Report

During 2007, the Camp & Conference Ministry Team focused much of its attention on the basics. Paul Fogg, began his work as the new Executive Director of Calvin Center in February 2007. The Ministry Team quickly began drafting a new Mission Statement for Calvin Center. Through much discernment and discussion, the Ministry Team came to a consensus on the following statement that we believe accurately reflects the nature, purpose and future direction of Calvin Center:

*“As a ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (PC USA),
Calvin Center offers a welcoming sanctuary for re-creation and Christian nurture.”*

Along with a new mission statement the Ministry Team approved new job descriptions for the Ministry Team, its chair, and its members. Over the course of the year, the Ministry Team then approved a new way of doing its business through the development of three committees: Site & Safety, Program & Marketing, Administration & Finance. Job descriptions were also developed to help guide the work of each of these three committees. (Long Range Planning Report #C05).

At the same time, great work was being done to create a new Personnel Policy Handbook for the staff at Calvin Center. The Handbook was approved by the Ministry Team during its August meeting and was put into effect on September 1st. (Long Range Planning Report #L05)

The staff continues to do an excellent job and deserve our utmost appreciation and praise as they remain devoted to providing quality ministry opportunities through Calvin Center. In May, a search-committee for the new Equestrian Director position was formed and has since completed their work with the exciting news that our new Equestrian Director will be joining the Calvin Center team on March 1, 2008.

Program Highlights

- Calvin Center was honored to host the PCCCA (Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association) Annual meeting in November 2007. A lot of hard work went into this meeting as it was an opportunity to showcase Calvin Center to Camp & Conference Ministry professionals across the country.

- Calvin Center continues to host Interim Pastor Training retreats as part of our support of the ministry of our congregations. Week 1 training was hosted in the middle of September with Angus McGregor leading.
- Summer Camp was again a success this year. We had 562 total campers representing an increase of 30 campers for both Day Camp and Middle School while Senior High Leadership numbers remained the same as last year. Of the 34 summer staff, 17 are from PGA churches, two continue to serve with Paul from his first summer in 2001 and some of the staff used to be campers at Calvin Center. From pottery to the climbing wall, from canoeing to field games, new skills were learned, new friends were made, and memories were stored for a lifetime. The high caliber Calvin Center staff cared for and nurtured our campers—leading them in Bible studies and worship.
- We have started “Project Playground” a weekly program where we go into Arnold Elementary School each Wednesday & Thursday mornings to work with their 4th graders in getting them more active and outside.
- CELP has been hugely successful this fall with the following schools participation from the following schools: Lovett School (100 5th graders), Lakeview Academy (70 9th & 10th graders), St Paul’s Lutheran School (100 6th, 7th, & 8th graders), Arnold Elementary (80 4th graders), and Landmark School (50 7th & 8th Graders). The C.E.L.P. Program (Calvin Environmental & Leadership Program) continues to succeed in inviting school groups to come and experience Outdoor and Environmental Education in our 548 acre natural setting. This outdoor classroom provides the Calvin Center an opportunity to teach our children about the beautiful natural surroundings God has given us and how we can be good stewards of this gift. Here, students experience lessons about lake life, the forest, reptiles, teamwork, and compass work. In addition, they come and experience campfires, cook outs, stargazing and so much more.
- Our Global Village continues its success. The Global Village is a combined project of Calvin Center and P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) that seeks to help young people and mission teams gain a better understanding of life in developing countries. They have constructed five different “villages”, representative of life in Haiti, Nicaragua, Palestine, Kenya and a “barrio”. Guests live and work in one of these villages with all the limitations that so many in this world have to cope with every day. The Global Village offers mission teams the chance to prepare themselves for upcoming trips to foreign countries.
- Mission work camp has the highest registrations ever, with a high percentage of new participants. This is a program that allows church and youth groups the opportunity to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ through fellowship and service to elderly in local communities. Through an established connection with ‘Meals on Wheels’, we identify elderly who need renovation to their homes. The renovation projects consist primarily of painting, simple carpentry, yard work, and cleaning. Each morning groups begin with worship. They head out to their work site for the day and then return in the evening to the Calvin Center where recreational activities are provided each night.
- A new “High Ropes” element was added to our repertoire with the installation of a “Pamper Pole”.
- Calvin Center purchased five Sunfish sail boats that has allowed us to include sailing as part of our programming

- Annual Middle School, High School and Confirmation retreats were a success.
- Many people returned for and enjoyed the Christmas (Summer Camp) Reunion this year
- The program staff members of Calvin Center are looking into new retreat/conference projects for Educators, Church Musicians, Collegiates, Older Adults, Youth and Pastors. (Long Range Planning Report #L06)

Facilities Highlights

- The kitchen received a much needed cleaning and facelift during 2007 with the installation of new paneling and a new freezer. The food-service staff continues to do an excellent job providing high quality meals for our guests.
- The bathrooms in the dining hall were completely renovated and look great.
- A new water tower was constructed and new distribution pipes are still being installed from the tower to the bridge.
- The meeting room of Geneva has been given a long overdue facelift and can now compete with Lakeview and Conference Lodge.
- The Calvin Center Office was renovated and the landscaping out front was freshened up.

Administration Highlights

- In July, \$87,000 of the \$250,000 line of credit was paid off.
- A new phone system has been purchased replacing an 18 year old phone system. This new system will give better service for less cost (approximately \$400/month savings).
- Computer Network has been purchased. Networking of computers will facilitate daily backups of all data and sharing of information between users.
- A new network copier\printer has been leased for 36 months. Monthly maintenance agreement went from \$203/month to \$42/month. This is available to all computers on the network, eliminating need for individual printer cartages. Laser quality will enable Calvin Center to do some in-house brochures (reducing printing cost).
- Our online registration for summer camp was a big success. Most of our registrations are coming in online, and we have been able to send most of the campers' confirmations back by E-Mail.
- We continue to work on the transition of accounting responsibilities from the Presbytery office to Calvin Center. Completion of monthly statements currently remains with the Presbytery.
- Calvin Center is grateful for the support of individuals, congregations and the Presbytery for their continued support of scholarships and other projects

2007 Ministry Team Members: Brent Anderson (Chair), Richard Gillespie, Tom Hanlon, Robert Matthews, Rebecca Parker, Cheryl Gans, Rogers Harrison, Marc Karasek, Stephanie Medlin, Sarah Reams, Robert Chambless, Melissa Daniell, A.C. Hutson, Leslee Kirkconnell, and Caroline Leach.