



5) City/County Planning which addresses rapid development, affordable housing, and environmental stewardship.

The priorities were developed from the concerns expressed in individual congregation house meetings and then all concerns were combined and prioritized by the organizing committee. The broad “goal areas” actually encompass every concern brought to the table by the member organizations.

OLAMOS has formed an action team for each priority area with volunteers from the member churches. The first task will be to gather information about what is available in each goal area. They will identify resources such as community agencies, government agencies, and officials who are connected with the goal area.

In the training meeting, Gerald Taylor from the IAF national staff explained how to collect information and how to conduct “relational meetings” to establish a working relationship with community leaders. He said that our success will depend on the quality of our intelligence, and he added that the Amos Network is known for the high quality of their intelligence gathering and research.

This fall the teams will conduct neighborhood “audits” in which the team members go into the neighborhoods and institutions in their goal area to determine actual needs and current circumstances.

The Amos Network, a faith-based community action organization founded in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1994, has had a number of impressive successes in home-delivered meals service for the elderly, Hope Community Credit Union for banking and credit services, and the Amos Network Senior Citizens Prescription Discount Card. You can read about the Amos Network in the Ad Books on the entry hall table in UU Hall.

The next general training meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, at OU-United Methodist Church in Wesley Hall at 7:00 PM. At these meetings new people are always welcome and you can sign up at the door or even wait until you hear more about it and sign up later. If any of these action areas speaks to your heart, I encourage you to come. The meetings are fun and you will see many of your friends and neighbors. Working together we can make a real difference in our world.