

## Lay Ministry Action Team Minutes

Feb. 10, 2017 at Cross Winds UMC, Maple Grove

Present: Joel Charlson, Jane Stone, Marion Hanson, Janet Beard, Bob Kutter, Jody Thone, Carol Otterson, Velda Maine. Via Blue Jeans: Sam Kautz and Terry Sullivan. Absent: Brent Cottington, Susan Cafferty and Carolyn Smith.

1. The meeting was called to order by co-chair, Janet Beard, who led devotions.
2. Jody Thone, Conference Director of Leadership Development, introduced herself and her work. She talked about her thinking around systems, boldly and creatively dreaming about where we are going and gaining a strategic sense of what we can accomplish. She explained her professional background with her work in non-profits, women's career development, work in the corporate world, etc. She has done executive leadership coaching and started her own business. With a large Twin Cities ELCA church she has worked in equipping ministry by helping people identify their strengths and values including a program for youth. She helped to launch 300 to 400 leaders, and she has been a director of organizational development for that church. That church went through some difficult financial issues which led to staff issues. She talked about the joys of collaboration and the fruits that result from that effort. She talked about the use of assessment tools to show people their strengths and gifts for ministry.
3. Jane Stone reported on a 50 percent response for Form 2's that were due Feb. 1. She will focus on communicating with certified lay speakers who need to keep their credentials or be removed from the list of available speakers. There will be more effort to help clergy understand how the Form 2 has changed. We discussed ways to limit Jane's workload with various members willing to identify people in the district who no longer want to remain in the database.
4. Bob Kutter identified four potential themes for the 2017 conference laity session: (1) Dave Nuchols reporting on the human sexuality task force, (2) Chuck Bell on the role of laity in planning and helping deliver effective worship, (3) Jody Thone on the role of laity education (4) Dave and Bob on the conference Journey Toward Vitality plan.
5. We discussed the Ministry Discernment Retreats acknowledging that pastor recruitment of laity is key to participation. We discussed who the audience is for this course and whether the course is meeting their needs. Do we have clear expectations for results of the course? Effort are underway to recruit participants for a fall 2017 Lay Speaker Retreat. There are 15 people on a list thus far. We plan to create a video to get the message out about lay speaking. We decided that licensed local pastors not under appointment could be listed as lay speakers on the conference website. We will let the District Superintendents know of that change.
6. We identified the strengths of the LMAT: the offering of conference Breakthrough Workshops for lay servant and lay speaker credits, the effectiveness of the lay speaker retreats and interviews, the aging class and quality of trainers, the course registration process, help from the conference office, Jane's communication with people and that we are a statewide group.
7. We identified some ways we could improve our efforts: promote offerings in various formats included print and video, Rename MDR and change the curriculum to meet the needs of the audience, generate classes the meet the real-life needs of laity.
8. We discussed the role of the LMAT. Jody in her role will help to structure the work before us.  
We
  - Are the conference-wide umbrella group for lay ministry.

- Will engage laity in ministry to their communities.
- Will partner with pastors.
- Will provide excellent training opportunities.
- Will inspire and equip laity in ministry.
- Will, from our collective wisdom, different voices and different perspectives, be a bridge between the local church and the conference.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Kutter, LMAT co-chair