

## LAY MINISTRY TEAM MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

### CROSS WINDS UMC

Present: Marion Hansen, Carolyn Smith, Susan Cafferty, Joel Charlson, Jane Stone, Sam Kautz, Jody Thone, Janet Beard and Terry Sullivan.

#### 1. Devotions

Janet led devotions, asking us how we have seen **God's majesty** in our lives over the summer. Jody recommended the book: Braving the Wilderness by Brene Brown.

#### 2. Report from **Jurisdictional Meeting** by Jane Stone

Jane report on the Jurisdictional Meeting she attended on September 11. While she sent this in an email last night I'll include her report here so it is part of the minutes of our meeting.

"Tonight I was part of the jurisdictional LSM online meeting. I can't really say I participated--I was the quiet one listening to what the others said. Here is what I learned:

- Confusion remains throughout the jurisdiction regarding the new (since 2012) terms and requirements. Confusion continues to exist for laity and pastors and DSs as well. Some are keeping local lay servants despite the fact that the designation no longer exists. They wonder what title should be given to those who complete the basic class since technically there are no local lay servants.
- Some are doing online LSM reports while others still require paper reports. Only one conference accepts electronic signatures. The *Discipline* requires written signatures.
- All others have district directors of LSM in addition to conference directors. The district directors must be laity. Some of them have become LLPs and then must give up their LSM positions.
- All have district LSM databases. One other conference has a conference-wide database. There are concerns about who's keeping the database & whether or not it's accurate.
- One district has many CLMs, while another has none. Illinois has 65. They don't accept online CLM courses; CLMs must take the academy. Most CLMs are supply pastors, while some are in specialty ministries. Some conferences are pushing laity to become LLPs rather than CLMs. Small congregations can't afford ordained clergy.
- Some become certified lay speakers because it's quicker than LLP.
- Apparently, there's a recommended software package from Missouri--Access rather than Excel. No one in this group has used it.
- One conference is sending updates twice a year via Constant Contact. Others do nothing & want examples of newsletters sent.
- Website updates are made by a variety of people--the conference director of LSM or conference staff. Websites are often not updated, which is a concern. Conference general weekly updates are sent in one conference, & they include LSM updates.

A long list of new/revised courses were mentioned. I have that info, but since we don't use those courses, I didn't want to list them here. The prayer course is being split in two-- communal prayer & personal prayer. No one likes the book *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*.

The annual meeting of ACDLSM will be held in February at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia. Another jurisdictional online meeting will be held in May after spring academies are completed.”

### **3. General thoughts and discussion about LSM – Jody and Janet**

Jody and Janet have met frequently regarding LSM, reviewing past programs, contacting participants from last year's classes for additional input, working on the pilot class, ConneXion, and looking at the future from a staff standpoint. Jody noted that we need to look at changing the model and need to build a new system. What should we respect and value from the old system. How can we use the old rules and build some new pieces? When do we honor? When do we leap? How do we navigate the gap? More discussion followed on each specific area.

### **4. Discussion on current and future plans**

#### **ConneXion**

Jody noted that this is a pilot to help inspire and assess. How will the participants find their call and build their team? Due to some scheduling issues on October 10-11, Grace and Paynesville will be partnering as two venues. Jody reported that the event will include contemplation, finding values, finding strengths, asking Who am I? Where am I going? Who's going with me? The Deep Listening model will be utilized. Prayers will center on finding one's spot in service.

Sam added that we need to search our laity's desire to serve, searching why they feel more “comfortable rather than called”.

#### **Certified Lay Speaker**

Three clergy will conduct the Certified Lay Speaker retreat on November 10-12 with Janet facilitating the weekend event. Carolyn and Jane are both willing to interview, but only within southern MN. Joel and Jane will take the lead in organizing lay speaker interviews. They will divide the interviewees by location. All LMT members who are available will be expected to help with interviews, as in the past. Those in the RV and SP districts will handle the southern region interviews, while those in the NS and BW districts will handle the northern region interviews. Any TC district lay speakers will be interviewed in whatever location works for them--if there are several people from the metro, an interview session will take place there. We've done that in the past--once at Minnehaha UMC and a couple times at Prior Lake (thank you, Carol!). As we've also done in the past, Jane will plan to receive and send out written assignments, unless someone else wishes to do that. We are hoping that Joel will receive and send out the sermon videos again. These procedures have worked well in the past, but we are certainly open to other options.

If we need help in doing the interviews for the lay speakers (due to location, timing, etc.), some of our current certified lay speakers could be contacted to help.

It was discussed that current lay speakers will need further training. Also, we need to ascertain the quality of the program and how we're meeting the needs before we discuss where we're going with it. To that end, each LMT member will be sent a list of speakers by Jane. We will ask each person, electronically or by phone, the following three questions:

**How often are you called to provide pulpit supply?**

**Where have you preached?**

**Would you be interested in or willing to interview prospective speaker candidates in the future?**

In the conversation we need to let them know that they still must fill out the Certified Lay Speaker form.

**The time line is as follows:**

**Soon:** Jane will divide the CLS list among the LMT members for them to call and record answers to the two questions above.

**By December 20:** Report findings to Terry at [tntdlake@prtel.com](mailto:tntdlake@prtel.com), sooner when possible.

**January 1:** Terry will send results to Sam, who will coordinate questions with the clergy as to utilization of lay speakers.

**January 16:** At our next LMT meeting, we hope to have information available to move ahead on this program.

We all agreed that this is a short time frame but the strength and future of this program will rely on our survey.

### **Certified Lay Minister**

Discussion ensued on the differences between this program and the Certified Lay Servant program, noting the focus on specialized ministry and more steps of accountability. Jody asked for a volunteer/s to assist with **creating a list of training resources** for various ministry opportunities or a specialized focus. Terry offered her services. Jody would welcome others.

### **Lay Ministry Team**

Jody suggested that our team be organized around needs, citing several questions:

Look at the Certified Lay Speaker program. How is it being used in the Conference? We need to coordinate follow up interviews (see above).

Communication tasks: all stake holders need to be on the same page. How do we accomplish this? How to fit this strategically into our Conference.

ConneXion: this pilot training retreat is the base for discernment, determining one's call. Resources in subject matter.

Where does the laity exist in the Minnesota Conference?

Janet showed a mock newsletter for Lay Servant Ministries that Joelle created. She showed quite a bit of talent in this creation and the communication piece can be easily accessed through the web site.

Janet and Jody noted that they are very willing to offer their gifts, training, expertise and vision to the LMT but should do so as staff. Laity should be organizing and moving this team forward.

They asked for **lay team members to chair the group**. Terry and Jane initially offered their services but want to **open it up to those who could not be present** at the meeting to do so instead/in addition. Please contact Terry should you be interested at 218-770-9573.

Future meeting dates in 2018 were set and are as follows. Unless changed in the future, all meetings will be held at Cross Winds at 10:00 am on the third Tuesday of the first month of each quarter with Blue Jeans available. January 16, April 17, July 17, October 16

The meeting ended with prayer.

Recording secretary,  
Terry Sullivan