

## Lay Ministry Team

April 7, 2020

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Jody Thone, Susan Cafferty, Carol Ottoson, Marion Hansen, Pastor Sam Kautz, Eric Kreiner, Terry Sullivan, Jane Stone (all via Blue Jeans)

Chair Terry called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and offered an opening prayer. Members shared how they and their churches are ministering during this Covid-19 pandemic:

- Susan – Worship is online. She has sent cards to all members and has been making calls. A weekly newsletter is being sent. Meetings are via Zoom.
- Marion – Echo that. She has been sewing & distributing masks. Her church is helping families in need.
- Pastor Sam – Likewise. He’s learning new things! His church started HCI in February and postponed it in March.
- Eric – His church has partnered with the Food Shelf to provide weekend meals for kids. Small groups are meeting online. They are partnering with North Branch for worship.
- Carol – Another echo. Sunday video services. They have always done a weekly newsletter, which continues. Members are reaching out. Bible study continues. Meetings are via Zoom.
- Jane – Ditto—online worship, including a virtual palm parade, and meetings via Zoom. She created a resource list (restaurants, grocery stores, etc.) and sent it with a letter to members aged 80+ and those who are health compromised. There’s no jail ministry, but devotions, cards, and goodies are being delivered to the MN Correctional Facility. Many phone calls are being made.
- Jody – She has been listening to several church services on Sundays and is participating in a virtual study through Wesley House in England.
- Terry – She’s still a snowbird! She’s been watching online services for her AZ and MN churches plus her son’s church. There will be an AZ Easter sunrise service at 5:58 a.m. but no potluck. Someone she knew found a “Geezers for Jesus” apron. Appropriate!

**January 7, 2020 Minutes** – Minutes are assumed to be okay; they were sent in.

**2020 Trainings – What will they look like?** Jody shared that the conference is planning for several different scenarios. What can start dates be? What if nothing can be done in person? What are the financial ramifications? What if this lasts 12-18 months?

Laity must be resourced. Restrictions may be like an accordion—back and forth. We need to look at both short- and long-term possibilities. Jody gave this analogy: It could be like a blizzard that comes and then is over, like winter that lasts for several months, or like an ice age that lasts for years. This is NOT business as usual!

The ConneXion group will explore a virtual retreat. It can offer beautiful experiences, perhaps in several evenings rather than a weekend.

Jody indicated that it is 90% certain (plus or minus) that Annual Conference will not be held in June. It might be a shorter event in September or October to handle essential business. It could bump REACH. There are impacts on contracts and finances.

Both Jane and Carol spoke to the desire by laity for online opportunities due to distance. Online interviews were very successful. Susan suggested several weekly sessions for training, with the church possibly providing a computer hook-up for those without computers. Marion noted that most lay speaker courses are online through Be A Disciple, although a preaching course is not available there. She feels that an online Lay Speaker Retreat is a distinct possibility, as some presenters already have Power Point presentations that they use. She would like to have a decision made on the Lay Speaker Retreat by July. Terry would like to provide an opportunity for CLMs to get together to share.

Marion asked about Nuts & Bolts. No decision has been made, although a decision will be needed soon. **Jack, Terry, and Jane will discuss.** Carol suggested it could be done via Zoom. Jody noted that anything over 40 minutes has a cost on Zoom. Blue Jeans is available for church leadership meetings/trainings. She has done meetings with breakout rooms and shared whiteboards. Eric says this is possible via the \$14.95 Zoom option. Both he and Carol have Zoom. Everything the conference is planning for April and May is virtual. **Terry will check with Gail Johnson on options through Blue Jeans.** We need to be creative! We would like to see ConneXion go forward both in person and virtually.

**ConneXion: The team is scheduled to meet April 17.**

**Nuts & Bolts: The team (Jack, Terry, Jane) will meet and make decisions.**

**CLM: The team (Carol, Terry, Susan) will meet and make decisions.**

**Lay Speaker Retreat: Marion will ask Clay to add audio to his Power Point. She will ask Tom for a Power Point and audio for virtual sharing. Marion will add her virtual piece.**

Susan asked if we have goals for the number of lay speakers around the conference. What is the demand? Sam spoke of the survey done a couple years ago. Marion anticipates changes with churches closing or consolidating due to financial issues. She sees many lay opportunities and more lay-led churches. We should encourage pulpit supply. **Jane will go through Form 2 reports to see who is doing pulpit supply and where.** Marion noted that Georgia Thometz has database experience, which could be helpful to us.

**Registrar's Report**—Jane shared these numbers:

62 Certified Lay Speakers (6 new in 2020)

10 CLMs (3 new in 2019)

181 Certified Lay Servants

2 Form 2 Lay Speaker Form 2s not in (Paul Hoekstra – TC and Karen Buttery – BW)

8 Certified Lay Speakers left lay speaking in 2019 (3 became LLPs, 1 on hold—moved & is attending a Lutheran church, 1 who has no church at this time, and 3 withdrew)

**CLMs** – Carol reiterated frustration over not knowing who is taking the online CLM training through Be A Disciple. She is aware that Angela Jenniges (Glenwood United Parish, NS District) started, then stopped. (Note from Jane: Our records indicated she took Modules 1-3 in 2019.) Orintha Winter has expressed interest or started CLM training. Carol also talked with Christian Doggett (Brunswick UMC in Crystal; referred by DS Dan Johnson) and discussed various options with him. Terry noted that it was mentioned at the national CLM conference that contacting the conference is a missing piece when laity begin CLM training via Be A Disciple. That should be remedied in the future.

**Website** – The info is there, especially for CLM, but it should be cleaned up. **Terry will check on this.** Jody noted that specific resources are needed on grief, anxiety, job loss/transitions, etc. She has already sent a follow-up email. Jody said no additions to the website are being made at this time. We would like to find new persons to highlight as lay servants, lay speakers, and lay ministers. **Marion, Jane, and Carol will find a new lay speaker (or two ) to highlight on the website—perhaps one of the Twin Cities District newly certified lay speakers. Terry and Carol will find a new CLM to highlight.** A photo and write-up will be needed for each.

**Certified Lay Speaker Recertification** – This is being put on hold as we spent our time and energies on virtual offerings. We could have a virtual conversation room to offer support; this would not be an interview situation. Pastor Sam noted that we have a gap in accountability.

**ACDLSM/CLM Annual Conventions Report** – Terry will have this written and sent this week. She learned that most conferences are training their CLMs for pulpit supply. Training is taking place both online and in person. There were no decisions made on Lay Servant Ministries. The North Central Jurisdiction attendees are doing group emails. Each conference creates their own program; there is much independence. Terry will not be able to attend the national conventions next year and asks that another member of our team volunteer for this. There is a budget freeze per Jody, so we'll need to see whether this is in the budget.

**Postponements:**

General Conference – to be held Fall, 2021, probably in Minneapolis

Annual Conference – probably will be postponed; possibly a fall shorter business-only event  
Jurisdictional Conference – postponed, probably until 2021 (interim bishop will be needed)

We sadly noted the resignation of Ric Arbuckle from our team. Although we were asked not to call or email, we were all encouraged to send cards.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m. via Blue Jeans (assuming no Annual Conference)**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone