

## **Lay Ministry Team**

**January 16, 2018**

### **Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jody Thone, Carol Ottoson, Joel Charlson, Marion Hansen, Jane Stone, Bob Newman, Pastor Sam Kautz, Jack Rogers (late), and Terry Sullivan and Susan Cafferty via phone

The conference Lay Ministry Team met at Cross Winds UMC in Maple Grove. The Blue Jeans video connection did not work. Terry and Susan were connected to each other by phone, and Terry was on speakerphone with those present in person. Due to the time spent trying to connect with Blue Jeans, the meeting was not called to order until 10:25 a.m. by Chair Terry. Members introduced themselves by sharing their passions

Minutes of the September meeting were approved. It was noted that agendas and minutes must be submitted to the conference office. We will do this through Gail Johnson.

#### **Old Business**

**Team Makeup** – Handouts were shared listing team members and their contact information and also a list of team members by district. Representation by district is unbalanced. River Valley has four (Jane, as Registrar, could be considered conference-wide), Southern Prairie has two (both are pastors), Twin Cities has one, North Star has three, and Big Waters has none. We need to add members in the Twin Cities, Big Waters, and Southern Prairie Districts. Terry and Jody will work together to create an email to send to our District Superintendents requesting suggestions of possible members.

**Lay Speaker Retreat and ConneXion Updates** – Jody indicated that both of these retreats were very well received. The question now is whether to do another ConneXion retreat or possibly something on equipping based on strengths—possibly as soon as April.

**Assignments & Interviews of Lay Speakers** – Written assignments and sermon videos are coming in. Jane provided a handout of assignments received to date, and she will continue to update team members. She will send team members the rubric for evaluating sermons. All assignments are due February 15. Interviews will be scheduled for March or April in each district. The challenge will be Big Waters District, which has no representation on our team. They will have six (possibly eight) to interview. We will fit those lay speakers into other districts whenever possible, and some of us will probably need to travel to conduct some interviews. It was noted that six certified lay speakers volunteered to help the team with interviews: two from North Star District, two from Twin Cities District, and two from River Valley District.

Jane will double check the certified lay speaker list on the conference website to be sure all are up to date with annual reports and classes.

**Survey Responses** – Terry briefly reviewed the survey of certified lay speakers. Pastor Sam explained the two surveys of pastors, one was to those who have used certified lay speakers (9 responses received) and one was to pastors randomly selected (22 responses from 60 invited). Responses were favorable from those who have used certified lay speakers. Three of them had been certified lay speakers prior to becoming pastors. Seven of the 22 have used lay speakers, while 15 have not. More than half indicated that they did not know where to find lay speakers. There was substantial discussion about comments made on the surveys by pastors.

A group volunteered to work on looking more closely at the surveys and coming up with recommendations. They are Marion, Sam, Bob, and Susan. Recommendations will be shared with district superintendents to improve the program.

**Training Resources** – We would like to have training resources available for lay servants/speakers on the conference website. Articles, blogs, websites, webinars, programs would all be valuable. The Church Resource Center has great things, and a list has been started. New churches, in particular, are looking for information. Marion indicated that the UM Parish Nurses Association has resources on their website to post, and Jane mentioned the webinars and articles available through Discipleship Ministries. We are to send recommendations to Jody. The goal, per Jody, is to review resources during February and add resources to the webpage in March, with an April 1 target date for the website to be ready.

**CLS Mentors** – There was mention at one time of mentors for certified lay speakers. The feeling at this time is that a formal mentorship program is not needed; instead, members of our team will make themselves available to answer questions and provide resources as needed to certified lay speakers who desire help.

### **New Business**

**National Meetings in February** – Carol will represent the Minnesota Conference at both the CLM (Certified Lay Minister) and ACDLSM (Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries) national conferences at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, February 13-17. She will send a report of her experiences to this team. Jane noted that for the first time last year jurisdictional gatherings were a part of the ACDLSM gathering, followed up by a phone meeting. This is expected to happen again this year.

**2018 Meetings Dates & Locations** – Our meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday on a quarterly basis. Dates are April 17, July 17, and October 16. The April and October meetings will be held at Cross Winds UMC, but another location is needed for the July meeting.

**Communication Opportunities** – District Lay Leaders will be key persons in communications for our group. Jody indicated that attempts are being made to align district superintendents and district days. Some dates will be proposed for quarterly meetings of district superintendents,

district lay leaders, and members of our team. District superintendents are currently enmeshed in appointments; the Cabinet will discuss this in March or April.

Terry mentioned that we hope to do more with technology. Perhaps Jack can help with that.

**Lay Ministry Presence at Annual Conference** – Plans for lay ministry involvement are unknown at this time. We enjoyed the district lunches last year. We will request a display space next to the parish nurse display, since we share some commonalities. We would like the laity session to focus on the idea that all are called. We might share information from the recent surveys, share what is currently in place, and provide testimonies to the training. Not only would we like to have information available for laity, but we would also like to share information, possibly via a handout, with pastors. There seems to be a lack of knowledge of lay ministries among our pastors.

Jack, Joel, Jody, and Jane (the J-Team) will work on creating a display for Annual Conference.

**Future Classes, Workshops, Retreats for LSM Credit** – Jane shared Gail Johnson’s email about scheduled events for the future. There is not much there for laity. Jane is working with retired pastor Cooper Wiggen,, who is planning “Holy Listening 2,” a follow-up to last fall’s “Holy Listening” class. This class, scheduled for Saturday, March 17, will dig deeper and will include break-out sessions. Pastor Cooper is also proposing a two- to three-day workshop on care ministries during the summer. Jane, Jack, and Jody will serve on the planning team.

It was noted that we already provide LSM credit for the Summer Theology Workshop, Walk to Emmaus, and UMW Mission u. We should add Annual Conference sessions and Mission u2 and perhaps webinars through Discipleship Ministries.

Jody gave basic information on the REACH event scheduled for October, 2018. The plan is to hold the REACH event every other year, with Breakthrough Workshops on opposite years. REACH will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on a Thursday through Saturday. There will be national-level speakers and different tracks for which to register. Ben Ingebretson is in charge.

A ConneXion or equipping/living your strengths event would be held April at the earliest.

We will not keep a list of those interested in classes. We will provide information and advertising and attempt to offer classes in central locations. It was suggested that classes on sermons and prayer be considered.

**Lay Servants who are not Up to Date** – Those who have been inactive might receive a note to hopefully bring them back to lay ministries. They can be invited to Annual Conference. At our April meeting we will continue to explore possibilities to renew interest of the inactive.

**Additional Items** – Jane shared an article titled “Toward a Compelling Theology of Lay Ministry” from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. She also had expense vouchers available for members to claim their mileage and/or other expenses for this meeting.

Pastor Sam will be exempt from interviewing lay speakers.

**Next Meeting** – Our April 17 meeting will be held at Cross Winds UMC in Maple Grove. Jody will present a draft of a competency model.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone