

Lay Ministry Team

January 15, 2019

Minutes

Members Present: Jody Thone, Jane Stone, Carol Ottoson, Marion Hansen, Ric Arbuckle, Pastor Sam Kautz, and Terry Sullivan via phone. Susan Cafferty listened in by phone, but we could not hear her.

Terry opened the meeting with a devotion, and members shared those things about lay ministry that excite them.

Minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting were approved by consensus.

Additional Agenda Item: It was noted by Jane that district chaplains are being eliminated. Could we help? Jody informed us that various options are being considered, and she will keep us informed.

Certified Lay Servants

A ConneXion Retreat was held September 5-7, 2018 in Rochester. It was a success!

The next ConneXion Retreat will be held April 5-7, 2019 at Northern Pines. Facilitators are needed; contact Jody if interested in helping with training. Jia Starr Brown of Park Avenue UMC is interested in holding a retreat at her church. Local church integration points are being considered. It would be wonderful for churches to host their laity. Training & delivery for the future may include videos. A Twin Cities location will probably be next, with Duluth as another possibility. The team would like to see both retreats and local churches used.

Certified Lay Speakers

The recent Lay Speaker Retreat was held November 16-18, 2018 at Koronis Ministries. Interviews will be held this spring, probably March & April, as soon as all assignments have been submitted. There are 11 potential lay speakers from the 2017 retreat who have not completed certification. Jane will contact them to determine whether they are still interested. Most of us will assist with interviews, dependent on scheduling. Carol offered Holy Trinity UMC in Prior Lake for Twin Cities District candidates. Susan and Jane will also help interview, as well as Marion, who will enlist the help of Jayne Koskiniemi.

Marion recommended that we determine how to blend the experienced and inexperienced lay speakers, who are increasingly diverse. We should be at the end of those lay speakers who were under the "old" system, since it's been over three years. Marion noted that no summary survey report was done; that will be done to provide information for the future. She also noted that Clay Oglesbee was "the best I've heard," and the hope is to have our previous instructors

participate again. Jody will contact Cindy Gregorson, and Marion will contact Tom Biatek and Clay Oglesbee. Marion mentioned that retreat attendees have a hunger to be with the clergy. We will consider having other clergy attend as mentors. There seemed to be some confusion about communication, which needs to be resolved. Terry mentioned the book report, previously required but eliminated at this retreat. It was part of the required hours in the past.

Jody noted that Bruce Forbes of the Dakotas Conference will offer a workshop on UM history and Wesleyan theology on a Thursday in March. It will be offered on an annual basis and is specifically intended for non-UM pastors and laity. The polity session will be videotaped, but it was noted that video training opportunities are a need in our conference. Be a Disciple online courses were also mentioned as good opportunities.

Sermon videos need to be uploaded on personal You Tube or Google accounts and shared with us. They are to be sent to Jane, who will share them with team members. Terry will contact Dale Baruth, who has the expertise to write instructions. A disclaimer will be included stating that we will not view videos other than the sermons.

Carol suggested that we require ConneXion as a prerequisite to the Lay Speaker Retreat. There will be two opportunities to attend ConneXion in 2019. Consensus was to make this policy for 2020 and a strong recommendation for 2019. This prerequisite will be sent to Gail.

Ideas for the future of lay speaking include possibly having modules such as there are for CLM and coaching & mentoring by pastors. Ric noted that he has provided messages only at nursing homes; he is not being asked to do pulpit supply at churches. We would like to know if others are experiencing this and will include a survey of experience at the "Nuts & Bolts" workshop. Marion stated that those doing pulpit supply should not identify themselves as lay speakers if they are not certified. There have been many this year who are submitting Form 2 Lay Speaker Reports even though they are not certified lay speakers.

The next Lay Speaker Retreat will be held November 8-10, 2019. Jody will clarify logistics.

Marion will develop a to-do list for lay and clergy facilitators. Communication is essential!

Pastor Sam mentioned that some churches do their own training. How does this fit in?

Jack, who gives his 500th sermon this month, will lead the "Nuts and Bolts" workshop, scheduled for April 27. Marion noted that there are three spring UMW gatherings that day. In addition, Jody will be attending "Peaceful Earthkeepers." The "Nuts & Bolts" workshop will include resource binders and several presenters.

Certified Lay Ministers

Jane shared an email from CLM Del Larson, who has a friend who's frustrated due to being unable to complete the Be A Disciple online Module 1 within the two-week timeframe. Terry will check on this, but we believe it is timebound, so we need to emphasize this. Susan has completed all modules online and enjoyed it.

Carol will serve as our CLM Coordinator. She has developed documents that will be added to our web page at the conference site. There will be links to a 30-page book with forms and also to the CLM Form 2.

One of the seven conference CLMs has not submitted his Form 2 CLM Report. How do we handle this? This is being referred to the CLM action group, but our recommendation is to put the CLM on probation for one year with a recommendation to the dCOM for decertification after that. Jane will report to the dCOMs as to the status of both CLMs and Certified Lay Speakers.

ACDLSM & CLM Conventions

Carol will represent our conference at both national meetings this year. Terry will attend the next two years. We will continue this two-year cycle.

Communication

Communication will take place through Terry and Gail Johnson at the conference office.

Registrar's Report

Jane reported that we lost five certified lay speakers during 2018. Three were decertified, one currently does not belong to a church, one became an LLP, and one became a missionary in Thailand. We currently have 54 certified lay speakers and seven certified lay ministers. We lost one CLM, who moved to another district and has decided not to continue at this time. There are 444 laity in our database, which includes all who are certified plus anyone who has taken a class within our conference. Form 2 reports continue to come in, and Jane received a request for help with a church audit.

It was noted that Steve Osborn, who attended the Lay Speaker Retreat, has said that he is taking CLM courses. We are unsure of this.

Financial Responsibility

Jody reported that during 2018 we spent \$6000+ (final figures not yet in) and took in \$4010, resulting in a net expenditure of approximately \$2000, which covered the registrar's stipend and expertise for retreats, etc. Changes are being made in how the budget presents. In 2019 our budget will not be over \$5000.

Our team members may submit mileage for these meetings and any official travel for our group (lay speaker interviews, etc.).

LMT Branding

Ric is working on branding—some logo or figure that will identify who we are. Jody indicated that this would need to go through conference Communications (Karla Hovde & Christa Meland). All should bring their ideas and feedback to the next meeting.

Annual Conference

Jody advised us that lunches will be done differently at Annual Conference this year, June 18-20.

Website Update

No updates have been made at this time, but the goal is to update during 2019. Jody will get the timeline to share with us.

Upcoming Training

Please get dates to Terry. Ric had planned to attend the care ministry seminar at COR, but now will be helping with ConneXion.

Jane shared training information from the Church of the Resurrection: The Congregational Care Ministries Seminar is now known as Empowered: A Model of Care, to be held at the Church of the Resurrection on April 4 – 5. A new conference, The Art of Radical Hospitality, will take place at the same time.

Our Journey of Hope is a free cancer care leadership training. The nearest training is in Zion, Illinois, and we would like to have a group attend the training June 27-28.

Jane asked if Breakthrough Workshops will be offered this year. Jody informed us that nothing has been scheduled.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will take place Tuesday, May 14, 10-1:30, at the conference office. Prior to that meeting, sub-teams will meet. There will also be work done on a virtual plan for the conference.

Terry offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone

