

Lay Ministries Team

October 1, 2019

Minutes

Members present: Terry Sullivan, Marion Hansen, Susan Cafferty, Eric Kreiner, Ric Arbuckle, Dale Baruth, Jane Stone, Jack Rogers, Jody Thone

Chair Terry called the meeting to order. Marion mentioned that she had participated in the Motley Mission Summit. Susan presented a devotion based on Luke 16. We need to see those in need and then respond.

Minutes of our May 14, 2019, meeting were approved.

Annual Conference

Jody shared information and a tentative schedule for Annual Conference 2020, to be held in Sioux Falls June 10-12, 2020. This will be a shared annual conference with the Dakotas Conference. There will be no clergy or laity sessions. Minnesota clergy will meet separately the end of May. We will consider doing laity training during the Wednesday morning workshops for both Minnesota and Dakotas laity. **Task Force to plan this will be Jack, Susan, Marion, Jane, and Terry, with Ric as alternate.** The plan, according to Jody, is for collaboration between the two conferences on all facets of the conference. It was also noted that many of our laity and clergy will be involved in volunteering for General Conference 2020 in Minneapolis May 5-15, 2020.

Certified Lay Servants

Eric and Jody reported on the September ConneXion Retreat. There were 26 participants, including the four facilitators. They delved into their strengths & values and how to use them. Coon Rapids UMC set the bar high for hospitality and integrated ConneXion into their Sunday service. The focus was on "All are called." Several participants had previously attended a training session similar to ConneXion, attesting to our need for ongoing discernment. It was suggested that we promote ConneXion at the Walk to Emmaus weekends; Ric said the board is already in conversation about this.

We have not been successful in offering a spring ConneXion, but the fall event has been very successful. Options for the next retreat include Detroit Lakes, Duluth, or Mankato. Although this event can be ecumenical, our first focus is on United Methodists.

ConneXion is required in addition to the Lay Speaker Retreat for those who wish to become certified lay speakers. There was discussion as to whether it should be required BEFORE the lay

speaker retreat or allowed AFTER the lay speaker retreat. **The Lay Servant Team will meet and make a decision.** Lay speakers who complete the lay speaker retreat and assignments might be accepted pending completion of the ConneXion Retreat.

Certified Lay Servant Goals:

- **Continue to consider an alternative process, such as video training. However, video training is not being pursued at this time.**
- **Examine the possibility of offering two ConneXion Retreats during 2020.**
- **Get the fall, 2020 dates as soon as possible.**
- **Consider a summer ConneXion Retreat.**

Certified Lay Speakers

Marion shared a draft Lay Speaker Retreat 2019 schedule. Susan offered to attend as the second Lay Ministries Team representative. Jody suggested that clergy facilitators be paid their stipend ahead of the retreat. Jack will probably attend as a participant. No book report is required, and sermon length is suggested at 10-12 minutes.

Certified Lay Speaker Goals:

- **Dale will work on writing directions for submitting sermon videos and will send them to Marion so she can instruct the attendees at the fall Certified Lay Speaker retreat.**
- **Interview current certified lay speakers in the spring for recertification. (See below)**
- **Create a flyer for clergy. Terry and Sam will work on this and present a draft at our January meeting.**

Nuts & Bolts

Jack has had requests for additional Nuts & Bolts workshops; we need to offer it again. It was suggested that we include hospice care. Another possibility is funerals; Jack teaches new clergy how to officiate at a funeral. Shall we put the binder online? Copyright is an issue; we'll need to check entries.

Nuts and Bolts Goals:

- **Jack will confer with Susan on information on hospice care and with Susan and Jane on information for funerals.**
- **Jody suggested printing the workbook with spiral binder at the Conference office.**
- **Another possibility is putting the workbook on our website. Jack, Jane, Ric and Terry will check for copyright issues.**

Recertification of Previous Lay Speakers

We are required to **re-interview certified lay speakers** every three years. This can be done when we interview new lay speakers in the spring.

There was discussion of payment to lay speakers. According to the *Book of Discipline*, certified lay speakers should be paid when providing pulpit supply in other churches but not in their own.

Certified Lay Ministers

CLM steps must be clear and in order; the **checklist must be submitted for publication by January**. It was noted that we need to know who is in the program, and the district also needs to be aware. Information should be sent to both the DS and the DAA. CLMs need to have a mentor. Online classes are not required to be taken in order, and it is helpful to take the needed time to complete them. CLM recognition should be with other pastoral leaders rather than missional leaders. There is a great need for laity to serve in this role.

Certified Lay Minister Goals:

- **Dale and Susan will work on the checklist for publication on the website and present a draft at our January meeting.**

Communication

All communication should go through Terry and Jody. We need updated brochures and instructions for submitting sermon videos. (See goals for Certified Lay Speaker.)

Communication Goals:

- **Dale will write instructions for You Tube submittal of sermon videos.** (See above.)
- **A lay ministries flyer will be created for clergy by Sam and Terry.**
- **Jane will send a list of winter/spring events for our brochure; deadline is November.**

Team Details

Moua resigned from our team after leaving his church. He may return to our team in the future.

There are four deaconesses in the Minnesota Conference. They would like to be a part of our laity displays. We may add a deaconess to our team in the future.

Team Goals

- **Add a deaconess to our team.**
- **Include information on deaconess in our displays.**

Website Update

Jody reported that a website update will not take place before fall, 2020. It was also noted that there is no Facebook page for Minnesota laity. The page should be open but must be tended, and approval would be needed prior to postings. It was also noted that pastors would

appreciate having certified lay speakers listed by district. A note would be needed that lay speakers may cross district lines to provide pulpit supply.

Website Update Goals:

- **Terry will send a list of certified lay speakers by district to the conference office. Jane will send the spreadsheet list to Terry and Jack. The map showing districts will be included on the conference online pulpit supply list.**
- **Resources are needed by Jody. Ric will partner with her on this project.**

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 10 A.M.

Cancer Care Ministry Leadership Training

Terry, Ric, and Jane attended Cancer Care Ministry training in Zion, Illinois, last week. Terry brought resources from the training, which is highly recommended.

Dale provided a closing prayer before lunch. Jack mentioned Rosh Hashanah, which ends this evening, October 1. Happy New Year to our Jewish friends!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone