

Lay Ministry Team

April 17, 2018

Minutes

Members Present: Terry Sullivan (via phone), Jody Thone, Jane Stone, Susan Cafferty, Marion Hansen, Barry Swanson, Ric Arbuckle, Pastor Sam Kautz, Samantha Evans, Bob Newman, Joel Charlson, Jack Rogers

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Sullivan at 10 a.m. at Cross Winds UMC in Maple Grove. Introductions were made. It was wonderful to have new members of our team! Jane offered a devotion from the book *If You Know who You Are, You Will Know What to Do*.

Minutes of the January 16 meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Bob and second by Jack.

Old Business

Team Make-Up: We welcome new members, Barry Swanson of Big Waters and Samantha Evans and Ric Arbuckle of Southern Prairie. All districts now have representation on our team.

Lay Speaker Interviews: Interviews have been held in River Valley, Southern Prairie, and Big Waters Districts. A Twin Cities interview will take place May 5. There are several who need to wait with assignments and interviews due to health issues.

Training Resources: Please send resources to Jody.

National Conferences: Carol Ottoson attended the national conferences for CLMs and for the ACDLSM (Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries). Terry will send the reports to new members of this team.

Sam's Sub-committee: Pastor Sam Kautz shared the report of the Certified Lay Speakers Sub-Group. Other members of the group were Susan Cafferty and Bob Newman. Clergy were surveyed about lay speaking, and results were generally positive. Clergy would like lay speakers to know United Methodism and theology. They should be well trained. Communication is essential! There was considerable discussion about listing references for lay speakers, listing their particular areas of interest, and the geographic areas they would cover. There was also discussion about the Form 2. Could it be electronically submitted to the local church? Jody will check with Christa (MAC Communications) to see if that is possible. Also, we have no CLM Form 2. A Form 2 Team may be formed.

New Business

Team Coordinators: There is a proposal to have team coordinators for various work groups in the ministry areas—certified lay servant, certified lay speaker, certified lay minister, as well as a communication coordinator. Members were asked for their areas of interest, with the following results:

Terry – certified lay minister

Marion – certified lay speaker

Barry – certified lay speaker

Ric – anything, with training

Pastor Sam – any, especially certified lay servant or CLM

Samantha – dreaming, training

Bob – communications

Joel – going off the team, but interested in certified lay servant

Jody – all

Jack – certified lay speaker or CLM

Jane –continue as registrar; interested in all

Susan – any, especially communications

Training: We need to offer training for certified lay speakers, many of whom are now due for classes. The UMC theology course was mentioned, and a couple people were mentioned as trainers. Jody, Terry, Marion, and Samantha will meet to discuss classes for lay speakers. Members are to advise Terry and Jane of any trainings taking place in their districts. Marion mentioned the UMW Mission u & u Too & will advise the dates. **Please send information on trainings to Terry and Jane within the next week—Terry will forward to Jody no later than May 1.**

Lay Ministry Website: Jody reported on the update taking place on the lay ministry website. It is intended to be a one-stop shop. It may include explanations for the positions of local church lay leader and district lay leader and perhaps an introduction to lay leadership. A video?

Conference Display: We will have an enhanced presence at Annual Conference this year. Joelle Anderson of the conference office is working on the design. The theme is “All Are Called,” with banners, photos, profiles, information on classes, etc. A give-away is yet to be determined. We would like visitors to complete a card with their name, contact info, area of interest or

questions. LMT members would then do follow-up. Jane gave flyers from Be a Disciple to Jody to give to Joelle for handouts at our display.

Laity Session: Dave Nuckols, our one conference co-lay leader at this time, is getting ideas from Jody for the Annual Conference Laity Session. Ideas are (a) small groups and (b) a fire starter to ignite laity—possibilities include Walk to Emmaus and a ConneXion exercise.

Lay Ministry Luncheon: We believe the lay ministry luncheon at Annual Conference will be on Thursday. Terry will check on this.

LMT Dinner: Members of this Lay Ministry Team will plan to have dinner together Thursday evening of Annual Conference. We will then attend the Laity Session, where we will be introduced. Marion suggested we wear district colors. She will send that information to us.

Next Meeting: A July meeting had been planned, but summer is difficult. It was decided that our small groups will meet during the summer. The next meeting of the full team will be Tuesday, September 18. Jody will check to see if we can meet at the conference office.

Decertification of Lay Speakers: Four certified lay speakers have not turned in Form 2 reports. They are:

Crystal Yearous – Southern Prairie – 2 years without reports (Samantha will check with her)

Danai Chowwiwat – Twin Cities – 1 year without report

Dee Klawitter – WI/Twin Cities – 2 years without reports

Hein Vo – Twin Cities – 2 years without reports

Jane made a motion to decertify these lay speakers. The motion was seconded by Joel and unanimously approved. Before advising them of decertification, Jane will check with their churches to see if they received church conference approval.

Other: Bob Lucas of the Twin Cities District is in the process of withdrawing his membership from his church. He wonders if he can remain a certified lay speaker. According to the *Book of Discipline*, certified lay speakers must be professing members of their local churches, plus the church must approve the annual Form 2 report. Jane will advise Bob that he will remain on the certified lay speaker list this year; after that we need to hear his plans for church membership.

It was noted that we need a process and policy related to certification of those who come from other conferences. This will be a future agenda item.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone