

Lay Ministries Team

May 14, 2019

Minutes

Members Present: Terry Sullivan, Jack Rogers, Susan Cafferty, Jane Stone, Jody Thone, Moua Yang, Carol Ottoson, Marion Hansen, Pastor Sam Kautz, Dale Baruth (via Blue Jeans)

Because we have new members of our team, **introductions** were made. Members also shared what they love about spring. Welcome, Moua and Dale!

Chair Terry provided an **opening devotion**, “Hey Christian, It’s Okay to Love Yourself.” Prayers were said for our LMT member, Ric Arbuckle, who is having an angiogram today.

Minutes of our January 15, 2019 meeting were approved following a motion by Jack and second by Marion.

Jane provided information on current **numbers of certified laity**. There are:

10 Certified Lay Ministers (This is counting the 3 new CLMs this spring. We will actually recognize 4 at Annual Conference in June, since somehow Jerry Jensen, who became a CLM a year ago, was missed at last year’s AC. Also, one CLM withdrew; after moving from one district to another, he decided not to continue as a CLM. He is not included in this number.)

61 Certified Lay Speakers (8 new in 2019. 6 withdrew in 2018-2019—due to age, moving from the conference, or concentration on other ministries. There are a couple still to be interviewed this spring. All but two are available for pulpit supply; one is a nursing home chaplain, and the other is serving only her own church. One is temporarily off the list due to serving as a missionary in Thailand.)

186 Certified Lay Servants (21 were newly certified in fall, 2018 + 1 in spring, 2019)

459 in the Lay Ministries Database (These are all the certified laity plus those who have taken lay ministries classes/workshops. They receive the lay ministries updates that are sent.)

Since the conference became responsible for certified lay ministries (end of August, 2014; officially January, 2015), 13 certified lay speakers have become LLPs and 4 have become CLMs. We are SO PLEASED to see the ministries of our laity evolve from one opportunity to another!

Jody provided information on **ConneXion**. The spring retreat was cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. The fall retreat will be held September 21-22 at Coon Rapids UMC. Members there have offered to open their homes for attendees so costs can be reduced.

Marion gave an update on **Lay Speakers**. Interviews are mostly done; these new lay speakers have ministry in their hearts. The ConneXion retreat must be taken prior to the Lay Speaker Retreat. Koronis has been scheduled for November 22-24; a contract will need to be signed. Those who have led the retreat in the past have the dates. There were five survey responses; attendees last fall seemed starved for ministerial contact, which makes Marion wonder if they are being fed in their local churches. They are looking for guidance and help. It was noted that Rev. Clay Oglesbee's PowerPoint presentation is available and was useful. There was some question about communication prior to the retreat; some things were unclear. Dale mentioned that the lay speaker retreat was very helpful when he took the CLM modules. There is some interest in having clergy mentors available at the retreat.

Jody suggested that the lay speaker retreat be revamped for the future; this would be for 2020 onward. She sees a greater role for laity as leaders of churches in the future. Many churches are now led by laity rather than elders. We would like to see information on our Minnesota Conference churches: church size and leadership (elder, LLP, lay-led). Marion's group will examine where the lay speaker program is now and where it should be going in 2020. Pastor Sam's survey will also be used. We need a job description for the Lay Speaker Coordinator.

Jack reported on the **Nuts & Bolts Workshop**. The binders are available to our LMT members and district offices. Jack will meet with Bishop Ough on May 20 and present him with a Nuts & Bolts binder. The leaders of the retreat have 60 years of combined experience as lay speakers. The binders will provide ongoing equipping for laity. Survey results were shared. It was noted that Tom Biatek's resources should be added to the Nuts & Bolts "Resources" section of the binder.

Carol reported that **Certified Lay Minister (CLM)** training is really taking off. Three CLMs will be approved at Annual Conference, for a total of ten, and others are either in the program or ready to start. A difficulty is that we don't know who is taking the modules online until they tell us. It would be helpful to be able to link with the online training.

Susan and Dale commented on the **online CLM training**. Expectations were clear, and class communication was helpful. It was noted that it's necessary to connect with the local church through the Mutual Ministry Team. Terry mentioned Free Conference Call is a good way to do this.

Communications was addressed by Jane. Confusion still exists about the changes that have taken place in lay ministries over the past several years. Candidates are encouraged to contact the coordinator for the specific lay ministry. It is unknown at this time how the current changes in the United Methodist Church will affect our lay ministries.

Jody addressed **LMT presence at Annual Conference**. The booth will be the same as last year, with some additional "oomph" provided by colorful fabric. Dale and Marion offered to help with set-up. Terry will be sending a sign-up sheet for staffing the booth during times we are not in session.

The Annual Conference **Laity Session** will be led by Conference Lay Leader Dave Nuckols and Terry Sullivan, LMT Chair. Lay Ministries Team members will be recognized, and newly certified laity will also be recognized. There will be a band for singing and worship. There will be respectful conversation. The first item will be a vote for General Conference 2020 lay delegates, which will be led by Bishop Ough. It was noted that a joint 2020 Annual Conference will be held in Sioux Falls June 10-12, 2020.

Ric was working on **branding**, but this is postponed because he is ill. Terry is working on LMT **T-shirts for Annual Conference**. We decided on navy blue shirts that will say, "Now that's laity!" on the front and "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called" on the back. We will wear buttons that have the Minnesota Annual Conference logo and "Lay Ministries Team" on them. Jack will get shirt prices and order them, since he has a vendor.

The **Website Update** is in process.

General Conference 2019 impact for lay ministry training is unknown. We can only deal with the present. We do the training to serve the Lord. We have respectful conversations and continue to be in conversation about our identity and purpose. The current situation was referred to like a brother and sister going off to college. They are going in different directions but still have the same parents.

Our Journey of Hope cancer care training takes place June 27-28 and September 26-27 in Zion, Illinois. Pastor recommendation is required. Terry plans to attend in September; Jane is also interested in attending. Jody will be going to the Church of the Resurrection in September. Becky Boland will be there in May.

Jane indicated that a **new registrar** will be required sometime in the future, since this will be her sixth year in the position.

Pastor Sam led us in communion and a closing prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the conference office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Stone, Lay Ministries Registrar

