

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

*Love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ, here and everywhere we go.*

Core Team Meeting

March 18, 2019

Present: Mike Huss (Chair), Darla Bauchle, Sharon Saunders, Collan Zehnder, Deanna Hawkins, Jeff Erlandson (Finance), Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Carol Ottoson, Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Absent: Troy Banitt

**AGENDA: (highlighted areas indicate action items)**

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Old Agenda Items**
  - **4<sup>th</sup> Monday Core Team Meeting:** To make meeting planning more consistent Core Team will tentatively plan 4<sup>th</sup> Monday as meeting days, anticipating changes for holidays, etc.
  - **FISH update:** pending
  - **Soup Supper update:** all Wednesday nights are covered, Darla is making vegetable beef soup this week.
  - **Wesley Meal update:** (Deanna) 120 bag lunches will be prepped 6:30 p.m. Friday evening to be taken downtown 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Turkey sandwich + roast beef sandwich + veggies + fruit + girl scout cookies. Meals being provided at Wesley and two other locations on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays (which is when most need arises) until kitchen renovation is complete.
  - **Finance:** full financial reports with pledges, other giving and expenses will be delivered to Core Team in March. **Audit** will be taking place in April/May.
  - **Roundabout on Eagle Creek/185<sup>th</sup> St. and Arcadia** update. A church conference was held Sunday, March 10 for the last stage of approval for the sale of a portion of HT property for the work planned by Scott County to create a roundabout at Arcadia and 185<sup>th</sup>. The proposal was unanimously approved.
  - **BOM update:** the mixer is fixed and has been bolted to the counter securely. The team made 58 bread bowls this past weekend as a gift to Rotary members, and will bake more bread bowls on April 5<sup>th</sup> to serve with soup on April 10<sup>th</sup> (last soup supper.) The BOM team needs help with fire-starting and tending for that bake and the one on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Rene will invite Rotarians to help with the Bread Oven, and other Methodist churches in the area could also be a resource for volunteers.
  - **Recording worship/Live streaming:** (Collan) lots of options exist from the recording of a worship service and embedding a link, to full live streaming, to hiring a company to do it all, to buying (and managing) our own equipment. Collan shared the Hennepin Avenue UMC website with links, and interesting other options including giving. He will be talking to them about how many employees or contractors they have working on recording and livestreaming and the budget for that. Will also look at Crossroads (UMC in Lakeville).

- **Congregational Care** ministry: The care team attended the Stephen Ministry intro session and had a follow up conversation. They felt that the Stephen ministry approach is more involved and expensive than is needed by this congregation at this time. The team is meeting regularly and talking about how they are beginning to provide care to homebound and people in care. Lois and Don visited people today, Lois and Karen will be visiting others later this week. Planning to offer communion (blessed by clergy) on future visits. Planning a system to clarify what they are inviting other people to do, and make the best use of volunteers. Holy Helpers and the card and prayer shawl ministry will be connected with this ministry. Continued updates will be brought as needed.
- **General Conference update:** it has been a couple of weeks since the vote, and responses from jurisdictional conferences, bishops, pastors have been fast and furious. Change is in the air. Pastor Chad attended an all-clergy gathering hosted by Bishop Ough to hear about the General Conference and have discussion. Bishop Ough offered no definite plan for change, but said “we as an annual conference have the opportunity to define what kind of annual conference we want to be.” A proposal is expected in June that will help lay out options, and challenging clergy to decide “whether we want to be legalistic in nature, watching and reporting on each other, or are we (clergy) going to be grace-filled and allow each other to do ministry the best they can.” On Tuesday an open letter addressed to Bishop Ough came out signed by various clergy ([www.MinnesotaMethodists.org](http://www.MinnesotaMethodists.org)) that supports LGBTQIA+ people in the full life of the church and rejects the outcome of the General Conference. See the site for full letter. Pastor Chad and 202 other clergy (active and retired) have signed this letter. Movements for change include meetings hosted by Hennepin Ave UMC working with reconciling congregations, clergy and laity, to discuss next steps. It is said that “a split is inevitable,” that “UMC governance is broken.” The question is how do we remain true to our Wesleyan roots but also be legally able to do ministry in a more centrist way. The case of Bishop Oliveto was used to describe some of the complexities of functioning within the previous UMC system. Before the vote, there were many “thou shalt nots” in the Book of Discipline, but few penalties, and the bishops were allowed to define a “just resolution” for clergy that operated outside those rules. The new system is much more punitive. Some clergy and congregations are content with the changes, some may choose to stay within the UMC system and fight, others may choose to leave and start anew. There will be broken hearts and budget issues either way. Some churches have spoken about withholding apportionments, but countering arguments point out the good that those apportionments do (UMCOR, essential leadership of bishops). Could also withhold 20% of apportionments in escrow (amount that goes to the general church) as a statement of protest and also as a way to buffer future financial issues. Adam Hamilton has hosted town hall broadcasts about an alternative way forward and is dedicating this year’s leadership conference to the issue of a way forward. Pastor Chad is doing a lot of praying, reading, and listening to what is on the hearts and minds of people, and wants to schedule a series of meetings with people from the congregation what their heart is leading them to do. It is urgently needed to put together a public statement for and from our congregation, using the \$1,000 grant from the annual conference to clarify and publicize our stand. We will at some time need to make a decision about which way this church will go. We want to minimize the pain of the resolution, but will be unable to eliminate it. We

want to be able to listen to our brothers and sisters, even the ones who disagree with us and build a comfort level to freely share beliefs. Chad asked for a team to help begin to draft a statement, while continuing the conversations with people in the congregation. He asks that we (Core Team and the congregation in general) be honest with Chad about the best way he can help us move forward, particularly around this issue. There are many unknowns yet in the follow-up to the General Conference vote: what is going to happen in April when the judicial review of the Traditionalist changes comes back, what the bishop's statement in June is going to say, what will happen at the General Conference in Minneapolis in 2020 (though likely nothing new without a large change in membership,) or how the tremendous amount of assets and resources will be split, in this anticipated divorce of conservative and liberal factions of the church body.

- New agenda items
  - **Liaison updates:** people are in conversation but no new issues have been raised at this time.
    - Carol Ottoson is liaison for Church Operations (all the volunteers who make things like communion, sanctuary management, etc. happen).
    - Darla Bauchle is liaison to Missions (led by Paula Green) and Marketing (led by Larry Nace),
    - Sharon Saunders is liaison to SPRT (led by Otilie Castriotta, assisted by Don Oram),
    - Deanna Hawkins is liaison to Finance (led by Jeff Erlandson),
    - Collan Zehnder is liaison to Trustees (led by Randy Taatjes),
    - new Volunteer Coordinators are being recruited.

Core Team Corner: