

# HTUMC Core Team Minutes

## November 25, 2024

Present: Pastor Leigh, Tanya Alemu (Finance Chair), Collan Zehnder (Trustee Liaison), Paula Green (Core Team Chair), Lynnette Dobberpuhl

**Finance** (Tanya): We have received 23 pledges as of Nov 25 for the amount of \$82K. Last year we received a total of 62 pledges. The congregation is encouraged to turn in pledges ASAP so a budget for 2025 can be planned. If you have not received a pledge card in the mail please contact the office. Your pledged gift of any amount will help us thrive in ministry and congregational care in the new year. According to Tina in the office, Holy Trinity has only received about 75% of what was pledged in 2024, so people fulfilling their pledged amounts would be very helpful.

A separate account at Old National Bank has been created for mission giving which will help create a clearer picture of the general fund. Last month we met our \$60K reserve limit, and still have an outstanding amount of \$10K due for apportionments. After discussion the Core Team agreed upon reallocating \$13K from interest accrued on the Building Fund to be used for apportionments and remaining expenses in 2024.

**SCA and Toy Corner** (Tanya): A 2 yr lease was negotiated beginning Jan 1 for \$1,200/mo plus taking over the expense of garbage hauling (a savings to HT of a few thousand per year). We are offering them nineteen spaces in the parking lot (as agreed by city of Prior Lake) and are responsible for ensuring they have stable WiFi. According to Collan, updating internet using "point to point" involves a \$300-500 one-time cost for equipment and would run through the north classroom to the mechanical room and provide secure, stable WiFi to the entire building. If this does not work, there are a couple of other options we can pursue. The SCA/Toy Corner board will be discussing and voting on the lease tonight (Nov 25). Loaves and Fishes is reportedly also very interested in potentially being located at HTUMC and has reached out to Pastor Leigh to set up a meeting. It is as yet unknown what kinds of renovations would be needed to bring the kitchen up to code for their requirements, and what grants might be available to cover that.

**Family and Youth** (Lynnette and Leigh): We have had some leadership building with Kids' Church and 16 children have attended the prek-5<sup>th</sup> grade program since Rally Sunday, but we are struggling to get consistency with attendance. Same with youth. Leigh is looking at joining Pastor Brenda at Glendale UMC in a Wednesday night program for confirmation and youth group.

Intergenerationally, a “Tied Fringe Blanket and Welcome Package assembly” event is being planned for January.

**Sound System** (all): some microphones (notably the lectern mic) are set too low and people have expressed frustration about not being able to hear. Additionally, the current system is very outmoded and not right sized for how we are currently doing worship. In 2023 \$20K was granted from the Annual Conference and is in the Building Fund to build our online campus capability and improving sound is part of this. It was proposed that Janean Mestnik and Don Oram work with Collin Tanner from the Annual Conference to research and propose an upgraded system. Leigh will coordinate the team.

**Process Around Visitors** (Leigh): We need welcome bags to offer new visitors (candy jar, pen, etc), including a card giving them the to share contact info and become more connected.

**Process Around Non-Attending Members** (all): Following discussion at the charge conference it was noted that here, as well as at other churches, there is often the perception that all a new pastor has to do is call people who haven’t attended for a while, and they will all come back. It is rare that people actually want a call from a stranger, but a call from a friend or acquaintance is known to be effective. If you know someone who hasn’t been to church for awhile, and you would like to see them back at Holy Trinity, please contact them and let them know. We will continue to follow the UMC policy for inactive members, but folks are always welcome to return.

**One Table** (Paula for Carol in absentia): On Sunday Dec. 15 after worship we will be enjoying the One Table event during which we have a kind of potluck where people are invited to bring a dish. Extra points awarded for people who bring food that is from their heritage, either cultural or personal. Pastor Leigh is bringing Colcannon from Ireland, Lynnette bringing something from her family tradition, Tanya is bringing traditional food from Ethiopian, and we will serve pulled pork sandwiches to round out the offerings. If you would like to add to the excitement by sharing what you plan to bring, you can add a note to the One Table displays in the narthex and the fellowship hall.

**Church Visioning** (Leigh): Visioning was originally planned for a large group on January 12, but Pastor Leigh proposed bringing in consultant Bill Lewis who focuses on destiny more than visioning. He is a dynamic facilitator and speaker with a long history in organizational leadership in business and nonprofit as well as working as an active layperson in the UMC. The proposal is for doing a session for 8-20 people including staff, leadership, and people who are well connected and involved in leadership and represent different interests and priorities.

The process involves 10 hours of Lewis' time including preparation, a 2.5 hour work session and a follow-up report that reframes what was said and identifies priorities. The plan would be to hold the work session on an evening or Saturday morning. The Core Team's response was that this seems like a good investment if the outcome includes a usable roadmap to renewal and growth in impact, so the Team asked Leigh to connect with other UMCs in Minnesota Lewis has worked with to ask what came out of the process that has helped them shift in thought and action. Leigh will touch base with the team to let them know if she is satisfied with what she finds out at which point the new Destination Process plan is approved.

Next Core Team meeting will be Monday, Jan 6, 2025 at 6:30.