

Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Linda Hane, Rich Floyd, Don Ingerson, Patty Rusco, Kathy Nelson, GERALYN FISHER, Jay Tomlinson

Patty Rusco opened the meeting with a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Connections Responsibilities

- a) The need to revise the pew *Welcome Visitors* brochure was discussed in detail. Changes will be made to the brochure and the new design will be presented to the Ad Council for approval before being copied and distributed in the pews.
- b). The church listing in the Echo's church directory has been updated to change the streaming information to 'YouTube elyumc1'. A suggestion to include our church listing in the *Timber Jay*, the *Summer* and *Winter Times* as well as in the *Echo* received a favorable response, and it will be recommended to the Ad Council to make it so.
- c) We received a letter from our sponsored child from Children International. Linda Hane agreed to announce this and read the letter to our congregation during a future worship service. The committee recommended that we follow up the invitation to write back with a letter written from our church youth answering questions asked by our sponsored child and sharing what living in Ely is like for our youth. Linda will contact Chris to see if a response from our youth in Sunday School is something that works for her next September when Sunday School begins again.

2. Dinner Initiative

Discussion continued as to how couples/singles group dinners could be implemented for our congregation. Focus was centered on groups of 6 to 8 people per group (couples, singles, and/or families), allowing the group to schedule the subsequent dinners, to decide on a theme for the dinners (if any), and to decide on the locations for subsequent dinners (or lunches or breakfasts). The goal would be to have the dinner rotation completed between as early as August and ending in November or as late as December, with a restart in January with new groups and ending as late as May. No formal plan was presented, but further work on this will be continued at our next meeting. The hope would be to enjoy fellowship within the groups and get to know members of our congregation, who you might not have known, a little better.

3. More frequent Food Shelf Assistance initiative

Kathy was unable to make connections to someone who works or volunteers at the food shelf before this meeting, so no further progress was made at the meeting.

4. Adding new members to our committee

Geralyn Fisher came to this meeting to see if she would like to join connections. Other persons were invited but were unable to attend. We will continue this initiative for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Conference

- a) Laity – Derek Scott III, our guest speaker at the Annual Conference, led a session called “The future of the UMC: A Lay Perspective.” We talked how the UMC will ask more of Laity now.
- b) Fresh Expressions: We watched a video presentation from the Annual Conference on three different Fresh Expression church activities from three different churches. The point was to stimulate outside the box thinking of ideas which our church might take on as Fresh Expression

church. One suggestion was to hold a class on creating greeting cards of different type inviting anyone from the community to join in.

2. Use of the former camera

We discussed possible uses of our former video camera and determined that wasn't something that was practical. The smartphone cameras today have excellent video capabilities that would likely meet any of our video needs.

3. Pot Luck scheduled for the Sunday following the 4th of July

Linda Hane brought up the complications surrounding the Sunday following the 4th of July and that she would not be available to coordinate a Pot Luck for that Sunday. With all the worship committee is doing to organizing services, schedule substitute ministers/pastors, incorporate Laity and work around outside activities that week, it was decided not to hold a Pot Luck that Sunday.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date & Time – Tuesday, July 2, 2024 • 5:30 PM

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Jay Tomlinson – Connections Chairperson

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES. *(As of March 21, 2024)*

- 1) **Look for Ministries to encourage Church Family - Involvement/Fellowship:**
 - **Pot Luck Dinners – Sunday following New Year’s Day, Palm Sunday, Sunday following the 4th of July & Sunday before Thanksgiving:** *Linda Hane Coordinator*
 - **Develop and Promote Group Bible and Spiritual Studies:** *All*
 - **Church Monthly Calendar:** *Pastor Craig & Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship:** *Weekly Volunteers*

- 2) **Keep Membership Records up to date/current:**
 - **Birthday Club:** *Patty Rusco & Jeanne Tomlinson*
 - **Church Directory:** *Jeanne & Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Church Membership /Associate File:** *Jeanne Tomlinson*
 - **Membership Book:** *The Pastor of the Church – Pastor Craig*
 - **Google Email Groups (Church Friends & Sunday School):** *Pastor Craig & Jeanne*

- 3) **Look for Ministries to enhance Church growth:**
 - **Weekly Prayer Wall:** *Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Prayer Chain:** *Linda Hane responsible for phone notifications; Jeanne Tomlinson responsible for email notifications*
 - **Sending Appropriate Cards to our Prayer Wall Persons:** *Judy Bonderson*
 - **Keep our Church Advertisement in the Echo up to date:** *Jay Tomlinson*

- 4) **Look for ways to enhance a spirit of welcome within the Church Family:**
 - **Parish News:** *Pastor Craig*
 - **Maintain & Update Welcome Packets in Pews:** *Head Usher – Dan Johnson*
 - **Ministries to Promote Spiritual Awareness within the Congregation:** *All*
 - **Church Greeter:** *Don Ingerson*

- 5) **Look for Ministries to promote our involvement in local community:**
 - **Apartment Christmas Trees:** *Church Youth & Parents*
 - **Consider Movies to be shown:** *All*
 - **Multi-Church Service and luncheon:** *The Clergy from the respective churches*
 - **Sponsor, Support and Promote the *Jumpin’ Jehosaafats*:** *The Ely UMC*
 - **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** *Paula Mattila & Gail Haney*

- 6) **Look for Ministries to promote our involvement in worldwide community:**
 - **Personal Dignity Kits:** *UMW*
 - **Church Website:** *Jay Tomlinson / Gary Ritner*
 - **Church Facebook page:** *Anna Urbas*
 - **Video Camera Productions:** *Scott Meland*
 - **International Child Sponsorship:** *The Ely UMC*
 - **Love Offering for Annual Conference:** *Free Will Offering from the Ely UMC*

- 7) **Recommendations to Administrative Council for local & beyond ministries:**
 - **Church Benevolence Fund Distributions:** *In Ad Hoc Committee Now*

- 8) **Report to Administrative Council:** *Committee Chairperson – Jay Tomlinson*