

## June 28, 2017 All Church Conference Meeting of Mt Bethel Church

Attending: Linda Emerson, Vern Emerson, Kathy Behrendt, Craig Bonn, Don Roberts, Ardi Roberts, Ken Alich, Judy Alich, Dean Freer, Shirley Tresselt, Shirley Draine, JoAnn Nelson, Vaughn Winter, Karen Stephan, Joann Larson, Ron Larson, Mary Anich, Al Ashley, Dan Glenn, Rolland Eck, Dick Larson, Sandy Larson, Paula Larson, Jake Tabbert, Lora Gregg, Jamie Gregg, Barbara Mahovlich, Jackie Tschida, Clyde Cress, Polly Tabbert, Pastor David Brown, Rev Cynthia Williams.

- A) 6:38pm Call to order and Prayer by District Superintendent Rev, Cynthia Williams of River Bend District, opening prayer
- B) Faith in Action slide show: Pastor Dave Brown introduction of 100 images -slide show from June 2016 to June 2017 ministry year. Click here for link to slide show View website Outreach 2016 and 2017 pages for specific details of ministry activities.
- C) Pastor's report see packet
  - a) Mt Bethel congregation does many good things, hard workers/dedicated servants.
  - b) Can improve upon narrowing or becoming more specific for our congregation's FOCUS of making disciples for Christ.
  - c) Mission of United Methodist Church is - making Disciples of Christ to transform the world. The church is meant to be a Body of Christ, a growing organism, not an institution.

### D) Elections

- a) Administrative Board leaders for 2017-2018
  - i) Discussion/conversation of leaders, note: Board of Trustees & Endowment elects Chair to Ad Board per Book of Discipline.
  - ii) Vacancy remains leadership of MOE Mission Outreach Evangelism.
  - iii) no nominations from floor of open positions

Motion Made, Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. Cynthia Williams/Mary Anich, discussion, Approved.

- b) Work Area Teams for 2017-2018: (Finance, Staff Pastor Parish Relations, Board of Trustees, Endowment, Nominating) Additions to presented work areas document:
  - i) Ken Alich Endowment Team,
  - ii) Darlene Ashley to Nomination Team
  - iii) Open position remains on SPPR, Nominations Team will continue to seek to fill position.

Motion Made, Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. Cynthia Williams/Mary Anich, discussion, Approved.

- E) Treasure Report see packet Linda Emerson presented verbal summary of report.
- F) Membership Report see packet, Pastor Dave presented verbal summery discussion conversation.
  - a) Name Correction to Withdrawn Membership: Erin ~~Farber~~ Roesler, Cody ~~Farber~~ Roesler
  - b) New Members Detail: Karen Stephan Confession of Faith
  - c) Two Years or More Inactive, retaining membership:

Remove from Inactive to active: Mike Monjeau Sr., Janna Monjeau, Gary Wallerich, Kris Wallerich Motion Made, Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mary Anich/Vern Emerson, discussion, Approved.

- i) Nine names on Two-year Inactive list, Congregation be purposeful in reaching out to persons inviting them to participate in ministry, life of Church.

### G) Questions, Discussion, Conversation facilitated by District Superintendent Rev, Cynthia Williams.

- i) Focus of questions, conversation centered around Pastoral appointment process of Untied Methodist Church and what it will look like for Mt Bethel Church with Pastor Dave's announced retirement 12/31/2017
- ii) Appointment process is saturated in prayer, best missional match available to the MN Cabinet and Bishop Ough. Bishop appoints the candidate to the church, from pool of candidates from Minnesota and The Dakotas' – IGH, Mt Bethel Church is a rich mission field. The Appointment's gifts and graces best possible alignment to Mt Bethel's mission field. The SPPR Team approves the missional intention.
- iii) The process is deeply saturated in prayer. Trust.
- iv) District Superintendent Williams encouraged our next steps as a congregation to:
  - (1) Prayerfully listen to The Spirit and each other
  - (2) Meditate on why Mt Bethel exist in this IGH mission field.

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(a) Why we (Mt Bethel congregation) matter – what we (Mt Bethel congregation) do and what we (Mt Bethel congregation) need.

v) This will take courage, listen, prayer that a new pastor will lead us,

vi) Mt Bethel's mission field, cultivating relationships, making disciples for Christ.

H) Pastor Dave introduced information- skills inventory hand out, Most items on list focus on how to assist, support, help Trustees care for the building/facility

Adjourned 7:37pm by District Superintendent Rev, Cynthia Williams

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Polly Tabbert

### **Mount Bethel United Methodist Church Mid-Year All Church Conference Report June 28, 2017 Pastor's Report**

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ.

We all know that transitions and change are a part of life. We experience them regularly in our families, community, workplaces, and church. Some are easier than others. Congregations often resist change, focusing on the "dark side" rather than the Light that could illuminate new ministry opportunities and new ways of living. Preparing for the changes to come over the next year is important for the future of Mt Bethel.

My reflections on the 2016-2017 ministry year illuminate some of the core values that we hold and that I think are worth retaining:

- Our seasonal worship services have been a joy to plan and carry out. They are meaningful, focused and thought provoking.
- Our engagement with local missions like Back to School Bash, Feed My Starving Children, Neighbors and Hilltop Elementary communicate to Inver Grove that we care about them.
- Our emphasis on prayer in worship and our Monday prayer group recognize that God is at work in our lives and those that we lift up. The testimonies we receive to answered prayer encourage all of us.
- Our generosity is noted through the financial gifts to greater missions beyond our community. Also our commitment to paying down our debt and maintaining our building shows that we care about ongoing giving and continual improvement.
- Communication takes place on a number of levels for those who are participating in our life together.

There are other areas, however, that need our attention:

- There has been a decrease in the participation level of church activities and tasks. It seems to me that people are easily offended and jump to conclusions on misinformation. We need to do the hard work of healthy communication and working through differences, acknowledging that we won't always agree but we can always be united and committed to one another in Christ Jesus.
- We must figure out how we can invite newcomers to participate in our life together and then retain them as members and friends. This is the responsibility of all of us.
- Along these lines, we must be willing to make the administrative, program, and worship changes that may need to take place in order to accommodate a less traditional approach to "church". Our neighborhood is changing and we must change with it. In the words of the denomination a few years ago that spurred me to start house churches "Rethink Church"!

Opportunities for Mt Bethel UMC abound. You are hard workers. You are committed. You are grounded in Jesus. While we have accomplished a number of things in the past four years, I feel that we lack a clear focus for ministry. We do a lot of good things, but I am not sure that they are always connected to what we want to be about.

The main thing is that we make disciples of Jesus. Everything we do should be looked at through that lens...How does this help us or someone else become a better follower of Jesus? When we start doing that, and living as disciples, I think we will begin to see the positive, healthy changes that we all long for.

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I was meditating today on the fact that the church is not an institution but an organism. It is alive and growing...and that means changing and adapting. Institutions die. The church continues to live. When we are clear about that, we will move forward.

Over these next six months I trust we will be able to lay the groundwork in our own lives and in our congregational life to prepare the way for the next pastor to lead us into our healthy, life giving future. That is exciting!  
Pastor Dave.

### **Administrative Council 2017-2018** \* elected at 6/2017 meeting

Administrative Council Chair .....	Dan Glenn	2016
Vice Chair .....	Dick Larson	2017*
Lay Leader .....	Judy Alich	2016
Lay Delegate .....	Jake Tabbert	2016
Secretary/Communication Coordinator .....	Polly Tabbert	2016
Membership Secretary .....	Sandy Larson	2017*
Staff/Parish Relations .....	Lora Gregg	2016
Treasurer .....	Linda Emerson	2017*
Financial Secretary .....	Darlene Ashley	2014
Finance Team Chair .....	Paul Willig	2017*
Mission/Outreach/Evangelism .....	_____	2017*
Board of Trustees Chair .....	_____	2017*
Worship Team .....	Kathy Behrendt	2017*
Endowment Team .....	_____	2017

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2017-2018 Leaders and Teams

**Finance Team**

Paul Willig           Chair  
Darlene Ashley   Financial Secretary  
Linda Emerson    Treasurer  
Judy Alich         Lay Leader  
Lora Gregg         SPR Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_ Trustees Chair  
Dan Glenn         Council Chair  
Jake Tabbert       Lay Delegate  
Pastor

**Nominating Team**

Pastor  
Mark Zahn         (2018)  
Shirley Tresselt   (2019)  
Judy Alich         (2019) Lay Lead  
Darlene Ashley    (2020)

**Staff/Pastor Parish Relations (SPPR)**

Lora Gregg         (2018) Chair  
Clyde Cress       (2018)  
Jackie Tschida    (2019)  
Cyndi Zahn       (2019)  
Judy Alich         (2019) Lay Leader  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2020)  
Jake Tabbert       (2020) Lay Delegate

**Outreach/Mission/Evangelism MOE**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair  
Deloris Hammer   Card Ministry  
JoAnn Nelson       Neighbors Inc  
Linda Brausen      FMSC  
Polly Tabbert      Back to School  
Ellen Bomstad      Op Christmas  
Kathy Behrendt     Garden  
Ellen Kirchner     Bread Delivery  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hilltop Elm  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Night Out  
\_\_\_\_\_ Apple Picking

**Board of Trustees**

Al Oferosky       (2018)  
Sandy Larson      (2018)  
Jamie Gregg       (2019)  
Joe Brausen       (2019)  
Craig Bonn         (2020)  
Karen Stephan     (2020)

**Worship Team\***

Kathy Behrendt    Chair  
JoAnn Nelson       Kitchen Supply  
Vern Emerson      Altar Care  
Ken Alich          A/V, Sound  
Jill Lewis         Pianist  
Judy Alich         Organ  
Frank/Connie Dorniden Communion  
Craig Bonn         Communion

**Endowment Team**

Craig Bonn         (2018)  
David Eshelman    (2018)  
Mark Zahn         (2019)  
Rollie Eck         (2019)  
Jill Lewis         (2020)  
Ken Alich         (2020)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Trustees Chair  
Linda Emerson     Treasurer  
Pastor

\*There is room for more volunteers on both MOE Team and Worship Team. Please talk to the chairpersons of each.

**FINANCE REPORT: May 2017**                      Respectfully Submitted Linda Emerson, Treasurer

**General Ministry Fund and Mortgage Fund:**

Income for past 12 months           \$ 191,038.43  
Expense for past 12 months          \$ 182,643.76  
Income vs Expense                    \$ 8,394.67

We currently have \$23,308 available to support the General Ministry Budget and Mortgage Fund

- We try to maintain a 1 month reserve to cover General Ministry Fund / Mortgage Fund shortages that may

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occur. That figure would be about \$16,200. We currently have a bit more than that but the end of the year will see additional expenses due to the change from single person pastoral medical insurance to family insurance.

- Our current Mortgage balance is \$ 307,353. \$2,340 of our \$3,444 payment is currently being applied to the principal. The mortgage was rewritten in August and will have to be done again in 2021. The current rate is 4.17%. We are scheduled to pay the mortgage off in 9 years.
- We have \$26,000 in designated funds (memorial, trustee, missions, etc.)
- The organ was replaced with a newer model for \$5,200. This was a significant savings over the purchase of a new unit. The funds remaining in the organ fund have been reassigned to other accounts.
- Trustees have changed to a different property insurance company for a savings of about \$600 per year.
- I signed the church up for Amazon Smile. If you use Amazon, you can sign in under Smile Amazon and designate Mount Bethel United Methodist Church as your charity. Amazon will return 0.5% of qualifying orders to Mount Bethel. We just got our first payment of \$7.64. If you use Amazon and don't have another charity listed, please consider designating Mount Bethel.  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0878258>
- ShopWithScrip contributed \$800 to the General Budget. Gertens Plant sale and Fall Bazaar contributed another \$800. We appreciate your support of these fundraising opportunities. New participants are always welcomed.
- You can give to Mt Bethel in a variety of ways
  1. Use the giving envelopes available in the sanctuary chairs or get a supply to take home
  2. Place a check in the offering plate without using an envelope
  3. Use Bill Pay to schedule a weekly or monthly gift automatically through your bank. No fees for you or for the church.
  4. Sign up with Vanco. You can then schedule a recurring payment or one time payments from your checking account or a credit card. Once signed in via a computer, you can scan the GIVE NOW QR code in the bulletin with your cell phone and give to the church. The church pays a 3-4% fee for this service.

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss vs Budget are available if you are interested. If you have any questions, I will answer them to the best of my ability.

### Membership Report

#### Transfers Out:

Travis / Amy Anderson	Transfer to Advent United Methodist Church, Eagan
Dan / Barb Hamilton	Transfer to St Pauls' United Methodist Church, Mendota Heights
Jeff Fredrickson	Transfer to Windom United Methodist Church, Windom MN
Maura Kibbe	Transfer to The Well United Methodist Church Rosemount, MN

#### Deaths:

Don Lawrence 7-25-2016

#### Withdrawn

Mark Roesler, Pam Roesler, Cody ~~Farber~~ Roesler, Erin ~~Farber~~ Roesler.

#### New Members:

Shelby Gregg	Confession of Faith	12-11-2016
Paula Larson	Confession of Faith	12-11-2016
Lukas Rich	Confession of Faith	12-11-2016
Karen Stephan	Confession of Faith	12-11-2016
Sherry Zweerink	Transfer Detroit Lakes	12-11-2016
Lorna Nester	Confession of Faith	12-11-2016
Judy Woods	Confession of Faith	12-18-2016

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Two Years or More Inactive, retain membership

Mike Monjeau Sr., Janna Monjeau, Gary Wallerich, Kris Wallerich.

Two Years or More Inactive, retaining membership-

Ben Bomstad, Isaac Bomstad, Jeff Lubich, Kyle Lubich, Mike Monjeau Jr., Sandy Monjeau, Lindsey Oferosky, Diane Needham, Tim Needham.

Currently 107 Full-time Members

Averaging 46 persons in worship.

### **Endowment Fund** Ken Alich The Endowment Committee Chair

The interest in being of help to our fellow humankind beyond our mortal lives is still growing. The annual gain giving plus investment, ending May 31, 2017 has been 35% ending with \$23,988 in value for the year.

Briefly explained, all giving to the endowment fund will remain in perpetuity invested with all gains available to be passed on to those in need, according to the SOP of the Endowment Fund. This distribution will begin after the giving reaches the \$50,000 point and beyond. So we are almost ½ way to the Christian giving distribution that has no end and keeps growing with our shared giving to The Endowment Fund today, and through our wills after we pass on. Thank you all for making The Endowment possible and helping human kind through your giving and caring.

More information is available through the Mount Bethel Endowment Committee members.

### **Lay Leader Report** Respectfully submitted by Judy Alich, Lay Leader

Over the last year I have seen areas of positive growth as a result of Pastor Dave's direction. He has shown us ways we can be more involved in the community, such as hilltop school involvement, welcoming new neighbors in our area, and the night-to-unite event. We also remain involved in further outreach activities, such as Feed My Starving Children, the community backpack bash, shoe box for kids, and many other opportunities to serve as they come up throughout the year.

As we go forward, it is my prayer that Mt. Bethel may be led and guided by the Holy Spirit and find even more ways of working together with the goal of being disciples as taught by Jesus.

### **Annual Church Conference June 28, 2017 Trustees Team Report**, Barb Mahovlich

Over the last year, there have been three areas of emphasis for the Trustees. They are regular maintenance, improvements and enhancement and reduction and moderation of costs for the church building and property. Trustees have also worked with individuals and others who, with their vision, dedication and effort have helped the Trustees.

The regular maintenance of the church included fall and spring seasonal preparation, professional carpet cleaning of the Fellowship Hall and South Room (Infant Care of Preschool), and light repairs to lower level classrooms. In our storage area, closets were organized, and painted and useful items such as Boy Scout equipment, including the trailer have found a new home. Items no longer useful were recycled or discarded. New batteries were purchased and installed in the emergency exit signs and light was restored to the outdoor sign. The men's upstairs bathroom received a new coat of paint and leaking/broken toilets and sinks were repaired/replaced.

Upon the direction of the Ad Board, a "wish list" of improvements was created and with the leadership of many individuals, new improvement and enhancements were completed. They include sound enhancing panels, improved microphones and a new organ for the sanctuary and our worship experience. Research into improvements to the church kitchen led to purchase of a new, larger commercial refrigerator, chest freezer and soon a stainless steel food preparation counter. Also in the kitchen, an assessment by inspectors allowed us to plan for changes to the stove/oven. On the exterior, the community garden was tended and food donated to Neighbors. New mulch and plants were added to the east garden and railing were painted. The Trustees also worked closely with the director of the preschool to address specific needs for their area based on professional facility assessment done for the preschool.

In a constant effort to keep expenses down, the Trustees worked with Finance to refinance the church mortgage at a more favorable rate, with a goal of paying off the mortgage in seven years. The costs of the telephone/internet/WiFi was reduced to keep the monthly payment manageable and the modem was purchased. Mt Bethel was also able to have the electricity bill return to a discounted charge that we had lost due to usage surcharges. We were also able to negotiate an increase in the rent with ABM Preschool creating a bit more income

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for the church.

There are still improvement and things that need to be done. We need to get our window air conditions installed, Several estimates were received for repaving and seal coating the driveway/parking lot which is in need of repair. We will soon need to paint the soffits and trim on the exterior of the church as it is peeling and chipping. We will also be incurring the additional costs of a new storm sewer assessment proposed by the city. At some point soon, the narthex carpet will need to be cleaned as well.

It has been a privilege to serve the Trustees and work together with so many dedicated, talented, and supportive people of our Mt Bethel Church family and my deepest thanks to all of you. God Bless Mt Bethel

### **Communications Reports** Polly Tabbert, Communications Coordinator

Mt Bethel Church uses multiple avenues to communicate Faith in Action. Yet, nothing is superior to daily prayer and scripture reading to be connected to God.

#### **Mt Bethel UMC, Inver Grove Heights MN YouTube Channel**

In February 2017 Pastor Dave, Ken Alich and Polly Tabbert join together in offering Pastor's weekly message posted online on Mt Bethel UMC, Inver Grove Heights MN YouTube channel. Worship attender can re-hear Sunday messages or members and friends who are not able to attend worship can be connected to Worship wherever they are when ever they want as to not be isolated from our family of faith.

Evaluation: There has been a learning curve. Four of the strongest lessons being learned: a) Posting process/rendering the video recording online with the equipment at hand. b) The value of connecting to worship attenders outside the Sunday morn Sanctuary's walls. c) Failure of an occasional message not being posted to the YouTube channel and into our web page. d) We are practicing being bold and courage in offering Christ to others in a new way.

The quality of the production, specifically sound process is amateur for the tools/equipment being used is dated. Currently there has not been any additional financial cost in posting Pastor's weekly Message online to the YouTube channel with the current tools – other than time, and the learning curve.

Currently time is a factor. Initially at the launch of posting messages to YouTube (Feb 2017) viewing data began positive with double digit viewing in the three first weeks of posting. This is also a time of year worship attenders who migrate South were most likely viewing. Currently views are single digit. A variable to that single digit viewing of the past six weeks could be inconsistent posting of the Sunday's message or a message inadvertently not being recorded for posting or both, resulting in the viewing of Sunday's message from Pastor not becoming a habit.

There is a solution to inconsistent posting of message – 1) sharing the load of video & rendering to YouTube. Additionally an upgrade in video equipment with sound external microphone input feature to improve sound quality would prove helpful.

#### **[www.facebook.com/MtBethelUMChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/MtBethelUMChurch/)**

August 2016 the Mt Bethel United Methodist Church Facebook page was launched. In the process there was a learning curve with the strongest lessons in oops or failure in the first 3-4 months. From a communication standpoint Ministry activity is being communicated to the greater community. The page is kept current in regard to weekly updates. Occasional posting of ministry outcomes of an event are posted. Being connected to the community regular ministry outcome posts would prove helpful. Observation from "like" of an event or making comment to the page, we are connecting to the community outside the church facility's walls of serving in the Kingdome.

#### **[www.mtbethelchurchhigh.org/](http://www.mtbethelchurchhigh.org/)**

Continues to be the most current relevant resource of Mt Bethel Church happenings past and present. Now have archived five years of faith in action on our yearly OUTREACH pages. Additionally the website is a helpful resource of communicating leadership and Ad Board meeting minutes; under the About Us page, Our History. The Home page is loaded with multiple quick link resources. General Google analytics of past 12 months 5,337 pageviews, top 10 website page views: 2,153 Home page, 515 Worship/bulletin page, 334 Calendar page, 214 Hospitality/Server link, 209 Ad Meeting Minutes page, 193 2016Outreach review page, 171 Pastor Dave page, 150 Watch page (only 4 months old), 128 e-newsletter page, 129 Leadership-team page.

#### **eNewsletter weekly blast.**

Readers know about the latest news and events happening in our church community. Each week Mt Bethel Church distributes a weekly eNewsletter via email and 8 members receive a hard copy of the email by mail. Typically a weekly eNewsletter is sent out on Wednesdays.

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MailChimp, our online email source statistics: The average open rate of the Mt Bethel Church 111 emails sent is 49.3%, religion industry average is 25.9%. The average rate to click on an embedded link for greater information for our eNewsletter is 7.8%, industry average for a religious organization is 2.8%. We are Above Average!

Content in the eNewsletter is what is communicated to the current creator PT. Prior to the Church secretary leaving PT generated the eNewsletter with PR. Currently Prayers feature of the eNewsletter embodies all the verbal and written prayer communications from Sunday morning prayer time, prayer requests communicated on the weekly worship card and emailed to the church office. Less time could go into creating the eNewsletter if Sunday's prayer joys & concerns were written on communication card saving time in investigating accurate hearing and spelling of names. Or changes in current prayer posting practice to only written or email prayer requests are communicated in the eNewsletter. When persons write down their prayer requests it is a huge help in communication clarity. Verbal communication misheard typically results in immediate critical feedback of the eNewsletter.

There is no cost in sending the weekly eNewsletter using MailChimp host site that goes to 111 email addresses. Sharing the load in the eNewsletter process could prove advantageous. Approximately 3-5 hours weekly goes into creating of the newsletter to provide accurate timely information.

### **Communication TV**

Weekly an updated flash drive is placed in the three smart tvs to communicate who we are and ministry happenings to those in the building. Prior to February the tv's were launched Monday – Thursday by Office secretary. The tvs are consistently launched on Sunday mornings but now are inconsistently launched week days. There is a solution to inconsistent launching of the tv's – a) sharing the load of training more persons in the process of turning on the tv visual/colorful communication: selecting the usb port, photo select option and launching the communication slide show. Remote and directions are located in the office mailbox shelf.

### **A picture is worth a 1000 words.**

Mt Bethel church using Google Photo is establishing multiple photo albums documenting ministry. Often the photos are communicated within an eNewsletter and to Facebook. All photo albums are archived within the church website, under the About Us, History tab. Often the photos are also used in the communication slides on the building's tv.

### **Monthly Ad Board meeting minutes**

A week prior to the Ad Board meeting leadership is emailed a meeting reminder and included in the email-meeting reminder is an attachment of the past month's meeting minutes. All members of the leadership are requested to submit monthly work area summary via email to full Ad Board leadership prior to the scheduled meeting; identifying potential or needed motions needing full Board Approval. In doing so Ad Board meeting time it purposefully spent addressing action items and futures planning of cultivating spiritual vitality of Mt Bethel Church.

Within five days of an Ad Board meeting Mt Bethel leadership is sent a Monthly meeting minute summary specific to motions/actions/consensus also including an outline of motion/actions/consensus discussion – information process.

Meeting minutes are posted to the website and a few hard copy's are placed in the narthex kiosk for the taking each month. Ad Board meeting minute location reminder is occasionally communicated in the weekly eNewsletter and each week a link to Ad Board meeting minutes is posted at the bottom of each weekly eNewsletter.

### **Mission/Outreach/Evangelism** Submitted by Pastor Dave.

Pastor Dave chaired this important team in the life of our church this past year. Unfortunately, no one had stepped forward to lead the way. Here is a brief summary of their work.

Deloris Hammer continues to send out cards to members on special occasions and in need of encouragement. Well over 200 each year! She also has knitted scarves for Hilltop Elementary, well over 100 this past year. Thanks, Deloris.

JoAnn Nelson has been our church representative at Neighbors for many years. This past year \$727 was collected by our church for food at the food shelf along with many pounds of goods delivered by JoAnn and other church members. Thanks, JoAnn.

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Linda Brausen plans our outings to Feed My Starving Children. This past year we have been serving two times a month, one in the early afternoon and one in the evening. Between ten and twenty people participate. We have had our friends from STORM Faith Community and from New Heights join us on occasion. We have contributed \$400 to FMSC. Thanks, Linda.

Polly Tabbert has been our point person for the Back to School Bash. We have collected numerous school supplies and contributed \$500 for this ecumenical ministry of the IGH churches. Over 1,000 local students receive a backpack filled with supplies. The morning is a blessed event with fun games, booths, Fire and Police Departments, food and entertainment. Thanks, Polly.

Ellen and Tim Bomstad have been leading our Operation Christmas Child ministry for a couple of years now. The number of shoeboxes collected has increased each year. This past year we tried a different thing, asking members to bring things to fill shoeboxes. Then, the Saturday before they were due, about 12 people gathered to fill as many boxes as we could. We had a great time filling about 61 boxes. \$427 was also given by church members and the MOE team to provide for shipping. Thanks, Tim and Ellen.

Kathy Behrendt works with a solid team of others to make our community garden a success. Last year saw us taking to Neighbors about 200 pounds of food. The garden is planted and a schedule is made for caring for it through the summer. Continue to pray for good, fresh food for our friends in need. Thanks, Kathy.

Ellen Kirchner has volunteered to line up bread deliveries to new comers to our worship service. We have only had a handful this year. We hope and pray this ministry will grow. Thanks, Ellen, for stepping up.

Judy Alich, our Lay Leader, and Polly Tabbert have been delivering welcome packets to new residents. Each month we receive a listing of homes sold in the last 30 days. The last few months have seen great increases in home sales in IGH, just within 2 miles of the church. These two have delivered over 150 packets of information. Keep this ministry in your prayers.

A number of people helped out with the second year of hosting the National Night Out. We had about double the number of visitors enjoying games, food and fellowship. We invested about \$360 in letting our neighbors know we are here. Thanks to all who helped!

Polly Tabbert has been faithful this past year in organizing gifts to the teachers at Hilltop School on a regular basis. We received a grant from the Annual Conference to help us with this ministry. The thank you notes we receive from the teachers and staff show that we are making a difference in their lives as they feel appreciated by the community. Many, many people help write notes of encouragement after worship. We invested about \$800 this past year in building relationships with Hilltop. We have also contributed clothing for the nurses and social workers to use for students who have accidents. We were also called by the social worker to help out a homeless family...single mom and three kids. We were able to put them up for a few days in a local hotel so they could get reoriented and find appropriate housing. Thanks to everyone who is participating in service events at Hilltop: teacher luncheons, first day of summer school help, national reading day, writing notes, volunteering to help teachers.

Members of Mt Bethel and the MOE team have also contributed the following dollars to various missions:

UMCOR Flood Relief:	\$ 500
Be The Tool Service Ministry:	\$ 250
Wycliffe Bible Translators:	\$ 250
Indigenous Ministries	\$1,000
UMC Missions/Graners	\$ 500
Help for Church friend	\$ 100
Daniel Yang/Laos UMC	\$ 500
Minnesota Teen Challenge	\$ 710

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Listening House Shelter	\$ 250	
East African Outreach	\$ 100	Lent Worship Guest
Wycliffe (Gilmores)	\$ 100	Lent Worship Guest
Se Luz Ministry	\$ 100	Lent Worship Guest
Charity Water	\$ 100	Lent Worship Guest
Overseas Mission (Israel)	\$ 100	Lent Worship Guest
Be The Tool (scholarship)	\$ 200	

Thank you to everyone who gives time, talent, finances, prayer, energy to make a Kingdom impact on our world through missions giving. God bless you richly!

### **Worship Team Report** Respectfully submitted, Kathy Behrendt - chair

This past year the Worship Team has followed traditional protocols during fall-Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent-Easter, and Pentecost planning and decorating.

- Our Advent theme of “Angels We Have Heard on High” was inspiring as we filled the sanctuary with various angels. Pastor Dave’s messages focused on the words of angels to Zechariah, Mary, Elizabeth and Joseph.
- During Wednesdays in Lent we had five different missionary speakers. Our horizons were broadened as we heard stories from Africa, Israel, Guatemala and Somali immigrants.
- Our guest preachers are always well received in Pastor Dave’s absence. We have had a few services together with New Heights church as we continue to build relationships with them.
- We also hosted the Teen Challenge Choir for the second January in a row. They also are well received by our congregation.
- Mother and Father's days were acknowledged.
- Ushers, Greeters, Communion preparers, all served faithfully and are greatly appreciated.

### **Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Report** Jake Tabbert

• **Theme:** The theme of this year’s Annual Conference was “Encounter the Spirit: Live Expectantly!” We focused on what it means to be an Acts 2 church and to fully claim our identity as people of Pentecost—filled with the Holy Spirit and called out into the world to share our faith and be the presence of Christ to others. We explored the importance of being evangelistic disciples and sharing our stories with others—and just like the earliest followers of Jesus in Acts 2, we came together for teaching, breaking bread, fellowship, and prayer.

• **Bishop’s Episcopal Address:** Bishop Ough’s Episcopal Address Wednesday morning encouraged Minnesota United Methodists to live expectantly by claiming and putting into practice the dynamics that led to vitality, growth, and missional passion in the primitive church. He explored five characteristics of fruitful, Acts 2 Congregations—radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity—and provided a snapshot of how Minnesota congregations are embracing and living out those practices. A few examples: In 2016, our conference saw an 11 percent increase in the number of youth and adults baptized; a 4 percent increase in the number of people in small groups; a 15 percent increase in the number of people reached through community outreach, justice, and mercy ministries; and a 4 percent increase in the amount given to serve others.

• **Missional Report:** On Tuesday afternoon, through a spoken Missional Report, Annual Conference attendees learned about and celebrated a variety of Holy Spirit breakthroughs in our midst—places where God is on the move. A few examples: Four churches have launched public worship within the past year, a Hmong ministry in Robbinsdale baptized 18 people in a single day, there are more than 50 church-school partnerships in the conference, and Fridley UMC started a new worship service to reach Liberian immigrants in its community.

• **Camp revival at the park:** On Tuesday evening, attendees gathered at Lake George Park to celebrate and enjoy fellowship. They listened to live music from the choir at Brooklyn UMC in Brooklyn Center, assembled birthing kits to be distributed around the world, enjoyed food and drinks, and heard from Rev. Junius B. Dotson, Discipleship Ministries’ general secretary, who talked about reordering our priorities and relentlessly focusing on

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making disciples.

• **Teaching session with Rev. Junius B. Dotson:** Rev. Junius B. Dotson, Discipleship Ministries' general secretary, gave a teaching session that was about the importance of focusing on the "why." He said many churches have lost focus and mistake activity for accomplishment. Discipleship begins when churches and church leaders reconnect with the "why" of their processes, and as a result develop mature disciples that can repeat the processes with others. He said churches must be intentional, innovative, relentless in their pursuit of the "why" of discipleship, and hopeful. "We should always be asking: What role does this activity, event, or program have in helping us make disciples?" he said.

• **Acts 2 Talks:** Four individuals shared TED-style Acts 2 Talks that painted a bold, provocative vision for the church. (Including our Pastor Dave). The talks focused on everything from embracing failure to how to make disciples to a personal faith journey to a church's fruit tree program that's helping it reach out to its neighbors. A couple of quotes: · Rev. Cullen Tanner: "The life of ministry should be like music in the ears of our world... We need to offer one another enough grace to hit some wrong notes—maybe even a lot of wrong notes—if we want to create the kind of music that makes the world want to sing along." · Steve Fredlund: "People like me are looking for a place... with a grounded perspective of God and faith—but where questions are not only allowed but welcomed and celebrated... where the primary goal is not to convince everyone to think the same way instead to hear and share different perspectives from each person's own journey... where everyone is invited to participate in this redemptive movement."

• **Recognizing those entering new chapter of ministry:** At a Celebration of Life in Ministry worship service Wednesday night, close to 1,000 Minnesota United Methodists gathered to remember 34 friends and colleagues who have died over the past year, honor 20 retiring clergy, and celebrate 7 people being ordained, 10 being commissioned as provisional members, 12 newly licensed local pastors, one person being recognized as an associate member, and one person who completed the course of study for licensed local pastor. Thanks be to God for this group of dedicated leaders!

• **Love Offering:** As of the end of Annual Conference, \$73,192 had been given to the 2017 Love Offering. This year's Love Offering will go to the United Methodist University of Sierra Leone—School of Applied Health Sciences (60 percent), Emma Norton Services (30 percent), and Volunteers in Mission scholarships (10 percent). Donations can continue to be given to the Love Offering throughout the remainder of this year.