



River Table Meeting: Tuesday, May 10th, 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

Opening Prayers/Devotional

Highs and Lows

Continuing Business

Approval of minutes from last month's River Table Meeting

Financial Report – Arlyn

Discussion of Table Reports

Pastor's Report

New Business

Develop a process for informing the congregation two weeks in advance of a congregational vote in the event we need to move forward quickly if we find an ideal rental space.

Closing - Lord's Prayer

Next meeting - Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm or is it possible to switch to the week prior since Pastor Hans will be on vacation that week?

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**River Table Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by President Angie.

Present: Angie Bedard, President  
Katie Weisenberger, Vice President  
Jerry Lindberg, Secretary  
Arlyn DeBruyckere, Treasurer  
Nina Appleby  
Jeannette Krommenhoek  
Kurt Schultz  
Pastor Hans  
Andrew Weisenberger, Youth Representative

In lieu of highs and lows Pastor Hans opened with a reading and a poem.

**Secretary Minutes received by everyone and approved:**

Everyone acknowledged receiving the minutes from the March meeting. There were no additions or corrections. The minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:**

Arlyn presented the treasurer's report. Income exceeded expenses last month in part because of a one time \$14,000 donation. A budget report was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting. We have raised \$1,844 to date for the Common Cup. Arlyn answered questions regarding office expenses and the fact that 10% of our income goes to the Synod. This money goes toward Synod expenses and includes things like helping with mission starts.

**Pastor's Report:**

Noted things are going well working with Jim and Emile. Having Alan in the office on Wednesdays is helpful.

**Reports from other Tables:**

Minutes from the Faith Formation Table March meeting were also emailed to everyone. No other table met in March.

**Discussion New Business:**

The Worship and Music Table will discuss decisions regarding communion (i.e. store bought bread, non-alcoholic wine vs. wine and grape juice, etc ) and make a recommendation to the River Table. Until then we will continue with the small prefilled communion cups / wafers.

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Hans led a short discussion regarding using sub-committees to make major decisions and then present the recommendations to the River Table.

Vision Table members Dale Brandsoy, Jim Nelson, Elaine Quale and Ron Johnson joined the meeting to be updated regarding our search for a new worship location. We are down to only two options at this time. New Journey UCC and Vineyard Methodist. The leadership from both of these churches seem eager to have us "rent" for worship, office and storage needs. We continue to search for other options.

The following was discussed:

Jeanette noted that returning to Vineyard could take us back to the same issues that had RoH move to the Event Center years ago. Jim commented that people at Vineyard feel differently now and may be more willing to work with us.

Concern has been voiced that UCC is a little small if we continue to grow our congregation. Parking is not ideal as well.

Nina noted she has some discomfort with having only the two options. We continue to look for space to rent that would be used only by RoH. There was discussion about having our own space vs. renting / sharing a church with another congregation.

Arlyn suggested visiting with churches who are currently sharing space. What have they learned & how is it going?

Some of the issues that may need further investigation include questions like monthly rent / cost, will we be required to share any expenses, communion issues, same sex marriages and worship times. Also details about sharing the building when both congregations have an event at the same time.

Ron commented that the Facilities Committee should make a recommendation to the River Table regarding a new worship location and there was no need for additional polling of the congregation or have any more informational meetings. Dale noted he agreed. The Facility Table should make a recommendation to the River Table. This perhaps needs further review.

John Paulsen has noted that when rental space does become available, it may be rented to others by the time our church has gone through the proper channels for a decision. A motion was made by Angie and seconded by Jeanette that the River Table have the authority to provide \$500 earnest money / holding fee to hold a property while RoH gains congregation approval. The motion passed.

Jeanette and Dale will attempt to visit with the city and the hospital personnel / leaders to determine if there is the possibility of the Event Center remaining available to us after the end of December. If the Hospital purchases the property will they staff and rent to RoH? If the sale does not go through by the end of the year, will the city continue to rent to us?

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The next regular scheduled meeting would be the second Tuesday in May. May 10, 2022.

Jerry Lindberg, River Table Secretary

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WGO Minutes  
April 18, 2022 4pm

In Attendance: Sara Nelson, Nan Crary, Andy Evenson, Sara Pollmann

Already scheduled WGO Event: May 17th Backpack Filling Program (Sara P. leading)

Andy will look into tagging along with the Bike Bonanza event in June. Using Nan's Thrivent card to buy more helmets for the event. He will also talk with Hans about doing a Blessing of the bike (or other summer fun items) event after church one Sunday.

We discussed making a Welcome bag for new members of Hutchinson to advertise RoH. Didn't land anywhere but Andy may look into how to get new resident info.

We discussed the need to reach out to LGBTQI+ kids.

Coming back to the idea of providing a meal to the 2-3 motels in town where homeless people live. It would be some type of cookout where we would eat in community with them. Nan will reach out to the hotels to begin that work.

Sara Nelson will reach out to Sara Witte at Parks & Rec to set up a Luce Line clean up in May?? And will connect with the faith formation table to see if we can team up so at the end of the clean up, we picnic together at a park.

We discussed speaker options for our mission of educating. Nan shared Heather Jeseritz's name ([Heatherj@unitedcapmn.org](mailto:Heatherj@unitedcapmn.org) 320-235-0850 ext. 1138) from United Community Action Partnership-UCAP as a possible speaker for homelessness in Hutchinson. We are also interested in speakers on racism and LGBTQI+ issues in Hutchinson.

Pens & Prayers will not be held next week, due to Heather's new work schedule. Laundry Love is this week. B&H seems to remain on hold for now. Is that season over? Are people missing it? Do we need a new venue?

Also, A few women from RoH are providing food for the nurses taking blood for the blood drive. Just another way RoH members go out to transform lives. It doesn't have to be a WGO event to count.

Next meeting May 16th. It may be in person or via email-TBD

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Parish Personnel Table

3:00 p.m. May 5, 2022

1. **Members attending:** Nan Crary, Heather Goodrich, and Pastor Hans at Heather's home. **Absent:** Brian Pollmann.
2. **Check-in with Pastor Hans:** Pastor Hans reported on the flow of work and his desire to make home visits both to congregational members and visitors to River of Hope.
3. **Additional Office Administrator hours:** Discussion was had regarding office administration hours that have been budgeted but not used year to date. Emily may be able to spend a few added hours in the office in the morning with her summer schedule. Pastor Hans will be communicating in worship and through the weekly newsletter of our search for an additional staff person for 5 hours a week perhaps starting in the fall.
4. **Staff development:** Pastor Hans shared the work staff has done with the enneagram tool and a book regarding traits of progressive theology.
5. **Performance review process:** Pastor Hans shared a self-assessment tool that can be used by all staff in conjunction with Parish Personnel, perhaps this summer.
6. **Clergy Financial:** Nan will research the time clock and PTO tracking capability of the payroll system from Clergy Financial that is used to process River of Hope staff payroll.
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.
8. **Next meeting:** The next quarterly meeting will be held in July with date and time to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by Nan Crary, Chair

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Pastor's Report for May River Table

**Pastor Support group**

I have established a group to help make sure that I am staying healthy and finding ways to get the support I need to thrive and offer my best self to River of Hope as your pastor. I would also like this group to be comprised of people who have the courage to confront me when they see an area that needs improvement. The Personnel Table also serves this latter function while the primary purpose of this support group is to ask if I am taking care of myself. I tend to be someone who spends a lot of energy on work so it is good to have a group that is making sure that I am taking a Sabbath each week and am finding ways to rejuvenate so that I do not burn out. We will meet every month or two. Thanks to the individuals in this group:

- Nan Crary
- Dale Brandsoy
- Tiff Barnard
- Angie Bedard
- Kay Halstrom
- Andy Evenson

**Festival of Homiletics**

Next week from May 16 to the 20th I am going to a preaching conference in Denver. Allen Gislason will be on call in case of a pastoral emergency. Andy Evenson is also available during that time.

**Headwaters/Confirmation**

We had our last faith formation even of the year last Wednesday. Huge thanks to mentors for confirmation and those who helped with Headwaters: Angie Elton (stories), Mike W and Justin R (games), Emma and Kris Hartman (crafts), and Jim also helped me with music. It was great to have Heather Fischer and her crew that provided food each time we met. I look forward to the fall. A reminder that the Faith formation table has decided to meet twice a month. I am really hoping we could land in a new space by the time we start fall programming.

**Develop a Timeline for our search – ONE SCENARIO pending approval by River Table**

This is not set in stone but think it would be helpful to develop a timeline for our decision regarding space. Here is one possible scenario:

- July 14 or 15 Facilities Search Table Meeting, Pastor Hans also meets with Angie, considering options
- July 19 5:30-7:30pm: Leadership Team Discernment retreat (Vision Table/Facilities Search Table and any members of River Table able to make it)
  - Solidify plan for proposal
  - Hopes and Dreams for a new space
  - Leadership team discerns pros/cons to locations
  - Discern core values and what is driving decision
  - Pray about and discuss final proposal
- July 24: Announcement and documents available in worship
- July 24 and 31: Announcement about meeting and have documents available.
- August 7: Information Session (at proposed venue if possible)
- August 14: Congregational Meeting/Vote

**Next two River Table meetings: change date?**

I will be on vacation June 14-16 would you like to meet without me or could we move the meeting to the week before on June 7?

Also, we will be in Spain visiting Nelson on July 12. Could we change that meeting date to July 19?

**Thanks to Jeannette** for checking into the Event Center as a possible space.

*Here are some things she learned from a phone convo with Matt Jaunich of the city of Hutchinson*

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1. The sale was waiting on the completion of an appraisal of the building. That result was received last week. The city will be meeting with the hospital in the very near future. The city believes that if the sale to the hospital is successful it will be completed in the next 2-3 months.
  2. **IF** the hospital or anyone else does not buy the building the city will probably continue to rent it for the next year at least. **IF** that is the case the city would consider adding office space as well as what we currently rent – and the new lease would be negotiable. We did not talk about access or money.
  3. There has been another entity (his word) that has placed an offer on the building. It was my sense that it wasn't a consideration at this point as he spoke exclusively of the sale to the hospital.

***In another conversation with someone from Hutch Health she found out that***

“Hutch Health continues to be in conversation with the city of Hutchinson regarding the sale of the Event Center. This of course involves the Hutch Health Board as well as Health Partners (parent company). Hutch Health is finalizing a short/mid/long term facilities plan. I believe this plan is to be presented to the board very soon. They have shared with the city that it will most likely be July/August before a decision is made regarding the Event Center. This could range from taking over the space immediately to easing into the facility over a period of time.

If Hutch Health buys the Event Center we talked about the possibility of RoH continuing to rent our current space as well as adding a room or two from senior center for offices. This is not out of the realm of possibility. However, all of this is very fluid right now. More concrete conversations could be held by the middle or end of summer. She did say she would keep me informed as this progresses.”



# River of Hope Stewardship Table Meeting

## April 19, 7:00pm via Zoom

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Our meetings center around the promise of God saving and loving the world.

**Our purpose:** We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

**Our Guiding Principles:** Remembering that “disciple” means learner.

God is God and we are not. We are called to grow together as disciples: to forgive, to teach, to love.

Disciples are inspired by the Holy Spirit to take risks. Disciples work for God’s justice.

Disciples serve with no strings attached. Disciples invite and welcome through loving acceptance.

We meet you where you are.

### Agenda Items

- I. What have you been reading in scripture that has you intrigued and/or Share Good News!
- II. Financial Update – Arlyn DeBruyckere
- III. Counting Procedures, Audit Discussion and May – June – July counting schedule.
- IV. Discuss/vision-purpose of Stewardship table look like moving forward?
  - Where have we been and where are we going with Stewardship?
    - o Historic calendar of events
    - o What does Stewardship mean to us?
    - o Expansion of table and or collaboration with other tables?
- V. Other
- VI. **Counting Schedule**
  - **April: Sue Peters**
  - **May: Rod Riewer**
  - **June: OPEN**
  - **July: OPEN**

**Minutes from 4.19.22** Present: Arlyn DeBruyckere, Sue Peters, Brian Tillmann, Rod Riewer, Pastor Hans. Guest: Pastor Rob Nelson

Arlyn provided update and is finalizing financial report. Estimate spending about \$1K more monthly than we are taking in. Dedicated giving recently included IRA distributions from a number of families, Thrivent Choice Dollars by four families, six increases to Simply Giving, and dedicated contributions for projects like sound system and chimes. Giving during worship also has been trending upwards. Discussed website challenges for members to increase giving. Arlyn will outline step-by-step directions and we’ll post that on website, have directions to pick-up at Service. Most Simply Giving requests are coming directly to him and he is making adjustments based on these requests. Will add Simply Giving updates to rolling slides and continue to acknowledge the numbers for increased giving.



Designated Lenten giving in Watering Can was for Common Cup and we surpassed second goal of \$2,000. May Watering Can giving will be back to Laundry Love and June giving will be designated to Erin's Kids to support Youth Camp, July and August back to Laundry Love. Recommendation to use Watering Can for special offerings 3 – 6 times per year.

Recommended to set up ROH as a donation option on Amazon Smiles. Because tax documentation and other items needed, Pastor will ask Emily to pursue this and once finalized, we will announce to congregation that a % of their purchases on Amazon Smiles can be designated back to the Church.

Quarterly updates from Table will continue in form of meetings and narrative budget highlights.

Discussed use of Recipe Cards, to encourage ideas from the congregation be collected the month of April/May. Table will prioritize ideas to support causes and passions that are important to our membership. We want the congregation to dream and share what they would like to see.

Bringing back Beer & Hymns suggested.

River Song – Ruth Hamlow is leading Ice Cream Treat. Other upcoming considerations Water Carnival June and Music in the Park.

As Guest of Hans, Pastor Rob Nelson joined the group as a mentor on Stewardship. Considerations as the Table evolves is expressing that Stewardship is giving in all forms. Time, talents, skills, education, advocacy and financial. Question we continue to ask and share, where is your heart as a Steward?

Quarterly updates allows individuals motivation to contemplate how am I giving, what's important, needs and updates. Fall is when most congregations make their appeal and ask for pledges as they plan for the new year. Transparency is very important. Encourage to continue to examine the protocol around counting (2 individuals each Sunday) and informal annual audits and a brief audit report all support good stewardship practices.

Pastor Nelson offered additional coaching as needed. Bring us together or invite him to future meetings to get his ideas and considerations based on his history working with other congregations.

The Stewardship table will meet **Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm** to review congregational input and finalize calendar and quarterly themes. Generic calendar from previous years will be shared with notes.

The next Quarterly Meeting will **be August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**.

# River of Hope Communion Proposal

April 26, 2022

The River of Hope Worship and Music Table was tasked with creating a proposal for how we will be communing moving forward from the individual sealed containers for every communicant to a method that doesn't involve intinction.

We had a special meeting on April 20, 2022 and have decided that since we don't have access to a kitchen where we can wash individual cups, we would like to use disposable cups for now. We do want to purchase bio-degradable cups, however, and not plastic. We would also like to occasionally use our pottery cups on special Sundays determined by the ROH staff and WAM table. We have also decided to purchase Grape Juice rather than wine, as it is less expensive and does not contain alcohol. Since we will be using small cups it was decided that we will pre-pour the grape juice before worship and place them on platters and bring them forward to the Altar before communion begins. The people serving the bread and grape juice will use hand sanitizer immediately before serving the communicants. The bread that we use can be home-made or store bought, as long as the person creating the bread has not had any of the following symptoms in the prior 48 hours:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

We have also decided that we will continue to purchase and offer the individual sealed containers for any persons who will prefer this method of communing.