

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023

God's purpose for River of Hope

We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles

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.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Continuing Business
 - Approval of minutes from last month's River Table Meeting

 - Financial Report

 - Pastor's Report

 - Other table minutes

3. Closing: Lord's Prayer

4. Next meeting: May 9, 2023 - 6pm where??

River of Hope

River Table Minutes

March 15, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Hans, Katy, Gerry, Sandy, Arlyn, Nina, Janette, Nancy

Meeting was called to order by Katy.

1. Minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve.
2. Table report

Finance report:

River of Hope - ELCA						
Giving and Spending Plan with a Purpose for 2023						
We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.						
	2022 Actual	Annual Budget	Monthly Bud	Actual YTD	January	February
INCOME with purpose						
River of Hope Givers						
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 245,590	\$ 259,114	\$ 21,593	\$ 44,995	\$ 18,474	\$ 26,522
SPENDING with purpose						
STAFF (Equipping Others To Be Sent: We Go Out...)						
TOTAL STAFF SPENDING	\$ 142,793	\$ 161,977	\$ 13,498	\$ 27,853	\$ 14,711	\$ 13,142
WORSHIP (Discipleship Practice)						
TOTAL WORSHIP and Office SPENDING	\$ 32,457	\$ 39,381	\$ 3,282	\$ 7,756	\$ 3,595	\$ 4,161
REACHING OUT (Invite)						
TOTAL REACHING OUT SPENDING	\$ 2,461	\$ 3,777	\$ 315	\$ 370	\$ 121	\$ 249
HOSPITALITY (Connect)						
TOTAL HOSPITALITY SPENDING	\$ 111	\$ 365	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DISCIPLESHIP (Grow)						
TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP SPENDING	\$ 1,482	\$ 8,700	\$ 725	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,546	\$ 286
GIVING MONEY AWAY (We go out.....)						
TOTAL DONATION SPENDING	\$ 23,166	\$ 33,330	\$ 2,777	\$ 6,844	\$ 3,724	\$ 3,120
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 245,590	\$ 259,114	\$ 21,593	\$ 44,995	\$ 18,474	\$ 26,522
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 213,089	\$ 247,529	\$ 20,627	\$ 45,655	\$ 24,697	\$ 20,958
NET CASH FLOW	\$ 32,502	\$ 11,585	\$ 965	\$ (660)	\$ (6,224)	\$ 5,564

There were some unusual expenses in January due to moving and some longterm savings by paying some insurance bills in full. I believe we are still in great financial shape.

Motion to approve. Motion passed

Pastors report. Given by Pastor Hans Today we had a meeting of local ELCA pastors with a Bible study, worship, lunch and sharing of Easter stories. Big thanks to Jim Nelson for helping lead worship and Heather Fischer who made a wonderful smoked chicken dinner.

This past Thursday Sandy Tracy and I went to a great anti-racism training workshop in Willmar sponsored by the SWMN synod of the ELCA. Lots of good ideas. Sandy has volunteered to be a part of the leadership team on the synod level to help with future events. River of Hope will benefit from knowing first hand some of what is available here with in our local ELCA community.

We have had several visitors over the last months. A few of them are interested to join River of Hope as new members. There was talk of a New Member Sunday this spring but that has been moved to the fall.

We have been invited by Pastor Kerri to celebrate Pentecost at good courage farm this year along with New Journey. I am going to get together to speak with Pastor Jill and Pastor Kerri next week. Jim and I are in conversation with the Worship and Music Table. Pentecost Sunday falls on May 28 this year, on Memorial Day weekend. If we have a joint service again this year, River of Hope will be much more involved in the shaping of the worship service, so it will “feel” familiar.

I am very excited to have Sara Thomsen joining us for a concert here at the Event center. It will be at 7 PM on Saturday, April 15. Please spread the word! Anyone interested in singing with Sara at the concert can come at 4 PM on Saturday to practice a couple of songs. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will go to support important ministry and good courage farm. We have added an additional confirmation Wednesday at Good Courage on Wednesday May 12th.

We have extra posters to get the word out about Sara’s concert if you’d like to take one to put up or give to a neighbor to invite them.

The Wednesday soup supper and evening prayer have been going well. Lots of tasty soup and a great midweek opportunity to sing, pray, and center ourselves around the light of Christ’s presence. If you haven’t made it yet, there is still time. A reminder that Maundy Thursday services will be at Vineyard Methodist on Thursday, April 6 at 6 PM. The next day we will host a Good Friday service at the event center at 6 PM. A pop-up choir will practice at 5:15 PM for anyone who would like to sing at that worship service.

There was a Personnel Table meeting today which went well. We thank Heather Goodrich for her years of service on this table and welcome Angie Bedard and Nancy Redetzke on board as new members.

Nancy brought a resolution to the River Table tonight: "Given the stellar performance of Katie W related to youth ministry and Headwaters, the Personnel Table recommends that her stipend be increased to \$25 per hour based on available funding." (Motion by Nancy and seconded by Jeannette. The motion was approved with Katie abstaining (and covering her ears during the vote 🙄))

Hans

Facilities Table: Motion made for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner of appropriate size to handle the worship area. Motion Passed

New business:

1. Partial brainstorming of goals for this year.

Continuing business: Follow up discussions on history statement of ROH, Welcome statement, Possible survey, and meeting with members about their faith.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 11, 2023 via Zoom Meeting

Pastors Report April 2023

Blessed Easter to you all!

Thanks to everyone who made our worship services special this past Holy Week. Thanks to our faithful staff and volunteers. It was wonderful to gather with the other Methodist churches in Hutch for two different joint services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It was such a delight to worship on Easter Sunday. There were about 160 in attendance. I loved how Jim was able to get so many of our youth to participate on so many songs in worship. It was good to see the visitors, and the families of so many of our members joining us as well.

Thanks to Katie W. for her continued leadership with Headwaters. Her organization and positive energy with our youth has made for a fantastic year with Wednesday youth activities. There are two Headwater/confirmation sessions left for the end of the year.

There will also be a final bonus additional confirmation Wednesday at Good Courage farm on Wednesday, May 11 which will involve food and fun, pie and prayer.

One final reminder about Sara Thompson's concert on this coming Saturday night at 7 PM with a choir practice before hand for any interested at 4 PM. On Sunday morning she will also join us for worship, as well as a Coffee hour before church from 9:30am to 10:15am.

In the next few weeks, as I mentioned on Sunday there will be some great youth fundraising opportunities that will help build community. The almost 20 youth and adults that are going to camp this summer will be participating in one or more of the following:

Friday Fun Night April 21st 5:00 – 8:00 pm

While have parents get some time off or a date night, youth going to camp this summer will help entertain elementary and preschoolers at the Event Center with games, crafts, movie, etc.
RSVP to help or reserve a spot with Krista Picha: kristapicha@gmail.com

Baking for the Bake Sale On Friday April 28th between 10am and 4pm youth will bake some yummy treats to be sold the following Sunday, April 30.

RSVP to help with Heather Fischer: 320-583-7287 OR heather_riegert@yahoo.com

Youth for Hire Saturday, May 6 from 8:00 am to noon.

Help out in our community with various spring projects. Adult drivers also needed.

To help RSVP with Beth Gasser: beth@vimm.com

If you know of a project contact Sue Peters: suephutch@gmail.com

Vision Table Minutes 3/14/23

4:45pm at Event Center

Members present: Dale Brandsoy, Jim Nelson, Katie Weisenberger, Pastor Hans, guest Sandy Tracy

Members absent: Elaine Quale, Ron Johnson

We talked about where we're at and steps we could take to become an even more welcoming church. Hans shared the results of a survey some of our members took and the process if we wanted to continue to discern whether River of Hope wanted to officially become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

A letter written by one member was discussed. The letter requested is that we "advertise within our worship space that it is LGBTQ+ affirming, believes Black Lives Matter, and acknowledges that we worship on solemn land."

We all agreed that we need to immediately make changes on our website and Facebook page to be more inclusive such as changing the picture on our website to reflect different ethnicities. Katie created a rough draft of River of Hope's history that we hope to put on our About page. Suggestions were given by the group, and she will have at least three other people read and make suggestions. We will revisit this again at our next meeting.

More needs to be done, but our hope is that little changes we make on our website and in our worship space might be a beginning to making it even clearer that all are welcome at River of Hope.

Our next meeting: April 25 at 4:45pm, Event Center

We Go Out Table notes for April 2023

River of Hopeful People--This group continues to meet monthly at the Crow River Winery for Lunch, Laughter, and Love. Attendance runs between 6 and 10 people each time with others reporting time/date conflicts. Discussion varies from month to month. Major topics at the March gathering including follow up discussion on the Angela Denker book. Effects of that project continues to expand as more people read the book and recommend to others. Book donations were made to New Journey and Gethsemane for their libraries. A copy was also donated to the local public library. Another major topic of discussion included an introduction to the AntiRacism Training Workshop attended in Willmar by Pastor Hans and Sandy. The event invitation for the training event included promoting a safe place where difficult discussions can take place. A workshop option at the Synod Assembly in June is being developed. Sandy serves on the Synod Task Force. The next gathering of the River of Hopeful People is scheduled for April 24 at noon at the Winery. Attendees are always encouraged to share their own hopeful stories and to be inspired by hopeful activities in other people's lives.

Hopeful Quilters. This group that meets monthly continues to draw between 4 to 8 people to work on various quilt projects. Various donations are received and prep work is completed between meetings. June 4 has been scheduled for a blessing of the quilts completed before distribution. The group is currently seeking donations for batting. Cash accepted.

Watering Can Project--Each month a different organization is focused on for receiving donations. Donations placed in the watering can on Sundays or other occasions continue to grow. Specific donation amounts per month can be obtained from the financial report. This project has drawn attention to some of the local work and donations made to groups along with an educational piece about the organization. Potential new members have commented how they appreciate help being supplied to needs within our community.

Backpack program--This group provides opportunities for families, or groups to help at Common Cup Ministries to fill backpacks with food items for kids. The schedule has been filled through the end of the year with support throughout the community. River of Hope participates when the schedule allows and groups are available. Sara Pollmann coordinates the schedule with Common Cup Ministries.

The next in person meeting of this group will occur on April 17. Discussion continues about meeting format options. New members are welcome. Current members include Sara Pollmann--chair, Sara Nelson, Nan Cray, Kay Halstrom, and Sandy Tracy--notetaker with Jane Connell on break. Sandy Tracy, Notetaker

Parish Personnel Table

3:00 p.m. March 14, 2023

1. Members attending: Angie Bedard (new member), Nan Crary, Heather Goodrich, Brian Pollmann, Nancy Redetzke (liaison to River Table) and Pastor Hans at ROH office.
2. **Check-in with Pastor Hans:** Pastor Hans reported the new office location at the Event Center is working well, providing convenience on Sunday morning for worship and for the treasurer. It has been very helpful to have Julie Lofdahl in the office routinely on Wednesdays.
3. **Headwaters development with Katie Weisenberger's leadership:** Pastor Hans observed the vitality on Wednesday evenings involving 10 – 25 children twice a month. Other areas that could involve Katie's time include a children's pop-up choir, mini retreats on a particular theme, mission trips and/or vacation Bible school. ***Parish Personnel recommends increasing Katie's stipend to \$500 per month (\$25 per hour) contingent on budget availability.***
4. **Farewell to Heather:** Heather Goodrich announced she will be stepping down from the Parish Personnel Table. We thank Heather for her service on the table.
5. **Next meeting:** The next quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday June 13 at 3:00 p.m. at the Event Center.

Respectfully submitted by Nan Crary, Chair