

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023, 6pm

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 -Budget for presentation at annual celebration of ministries: Riverpalooza
- Review of Table Reports
- Pastor's Report
- River of Hope Files project proposed

3. New Business

- Meet in December? If so, who meets: 2023 River Table or 2024 River Table
- Approve Lisa Tschimperle as a second check signer

4. Closing: Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6pm in person @Event Center

River Table Minutes 9/12/23 6:00pm at Event Center

Members present: Nina Appleby, Gerry Connell, Arlyn DeBruyckere, Jeanette Krommenhoek, Nancy Redetzke, Sandy Tracy, Katie Weisenberger, Pastor Hans, and Kay Halstrom (invited guest)

Approval was made of the River Table Minutes from 8/15/23 with an amendment noted.

Financial Report:

- Arlyn reported on our current financial situation. Overall, we have a positive balance of \$27,853.04.
- Arlyn provided the entire report this time so we could see how things were broken down in our budget. This brought up discussion about our need to have a secure location for a collection of important documents, such as employee contracts and handbooks.
- A motion was made and seconded to begin the process of determining what should be included in this collection. Jeanette and Nancy will start a list of items they believe should be included.
- Our intention is to be clear and organized so we have a record of our past which will also help future River Table members (and RoH members) better understand our processes. More will be discussed at the next meeting.

Reconciling in Christ:

- Many interviews have occurred with RoH members. A suggestion was made by Kay to include the 5 interviewers' names and numbers in the River Source so anyone who has not participated in an interview can reach out and be part of the process.
- The River Table recommends holding an open forum after church on Nov. 5 to begin a large group discussion about the Reconciling in Christ process. Hopefully people will attend and ask any questions they may have.
- Kay's friend, Jim, from her former church, might be a good resource for talking to our congregation about the Bible and the LGBTQIA community. Their church has also gone through the Reconciling in Christ process, so he could give us insight on that as well.
- Nina brought up the documentary film titled "For the Bible Tells Me So" as a recommendation for our church to watch.
- Maybe we could find/make short videos of someone who's gone through the process and what it means to them.

- We'd rather go slow to give the journey time to take shape. We don't want to rush through the process to check it off our list. Talk was had about voting closer to Easter. No date was set for the vote.

Other topics:

- There are at least 3 youth and 2 adults planning on attending the National Youth Convention in New Orleans this summer with Hans. More may be interested but have not committed yet.
- A \$3,000 donation was made towards Headwaters. Hans is looking for more donations to try and reach the \$6,000-\$7,000 range.
- An idea was brought up pertaining to the Trick or Treat for the Foodshelf night. People could set out plastic bags for our sleeping mat project along with the food items already being collected. Maybe Hans could talk with pastors from the other churches to possibly spread the word to their members.

To respect people's time, our meeting was adjourned without going through the Pastor's Report and other table minutes. Those reports were all seen by the River Table members ahead of time, and no further discussion was had.

Our next meeting: October 10th at 6:00pm (in person or online TBD)

We Go Out Table Agenda
September 18, 5:00 Cashwise Caribou

Devotion/Highs and Lows

We Go Out to serve:

The mattress assembly project has been introduced. Multiple groups have received instruction: River of Hopeful People, Women of Hope Bible Study, and the congregation attending church on September 10. A collection tote will be placed in the entryway for receiving bag donations. A table had been set up at the back of the worship space for samples and placed to drop off strips, plarn, and other supplies. Completed mats will be given to Jeff Schmidt for final distribution.

Other ideas for serving?

We Go Out to Educate:

The book by Emmy Kegler called One Coin Found has been selected by the Reconciling Core Team. Pastor Hans has set up a discussion schedule and obtained a study guide which had been distributed. He wrote a grant to cover the cost of 22 books. The first discussion was attended by Pastor Hans and Sandy. The second live discussion was attended by 4 plus Pastor Hans.

No further action has taken place on the Louise Erdrich book discussion.

T shirts were suggested as a project. No response yet from River Table about this project.

We Go Out to Advocate:

Sandy tuned in to the August 29 Zoom call sponsored by the Minnesota Homeless Coalition. Representative from Bemidji, St Cloud and Mankato gave presentations about their work. Excellent suggestions.

Sandy also filled the group in on networking activity taking place locally with the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Child Care Coalition. At this time, the project is mainly focused on increasing the number of child care spots available in Hutchinson. Currently, there is a shortage of 400 spots. The effort is mainly focused on the provider side. JoEllen Kimball,

Susan Kasal, myself, and someone from UCAP represent the low income side of the child care issue.

October 30 workshop sponsored by McLeod County Health and Services. Sandy is registered to attend. It is called Moving Beyond Us and Them--Working Toward a Belonging Framework. The workshop is organized by Kerry Ward of the McLeod County Department of Health and Services.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23 at the Caribou Cashwise.

The meeting was closed with individual contemplative prayer.

Prayerfully submitted,
Sandy Tracy, Note Taker

Parish Personnel Table

3:00 p.m. Sept. 12, 2023

1. Members attending: Angie Bedard, Nan Crary, Brian Pollmann, Nancy Redetzke and Pastor Hans at ROH office.
2. **Check-in with Pastor Hans:** Pastor Hans reported Lisa Tschimperle began the office administrator position in August. She and Emily are working on communication to coordinate their activities.
3. **Headwaters funding:** a synod grant was not forthcoming for the current year. Pastor Hans reported a donation from outside the congregation will provide for about half of the \$6,000 - \$7,000 needed annually to fund Headwaters going forward.
4. **Health insurance/compensation:** A change in status for one of Pastor Hans family members effective in September prompted review of health insurance options through Portico. Synod recommendations for 2024 salary adjustments were reviewed. Brian Pollmann volunteered to prepare a spreadsheet with three scenarios for total cost for review at the next meeting.
5. **Staff review:** Pastor Hans will reach out for a Parish Personnel representative to sit on staff review conversations.
6. **Congregational feedback to Pastor Hans:** A randomly selected survey group of congregational members will be invited to provide feedback to Pastor Hans.
7. **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday October 10 at 3:15 p.m. at the Event Center.

Respectfully submitted by Nan Crary, Chair

Pastor Report October 2023

I enjoyed the SW MN Pastor conference meeting in Sioux Falls which was Oct 8-10. It is always good to connect with other pastors to sense the breadth of the community of ELCA leaders in this region as well as share ideas. I found a few other churches going to New Orleans to the National youth gathering that may be interested in sharing transportation.

The main speaker spoke a lot about technology and online presence and accessibility to visitors. He invited us to evaluate and consider the words we use. Sometimes we use insider language that might be foreign to visitors. So, he offered some things to be aware of and be careful about...ie unexplained rituals, forced interactions, using terms that a visitor wouldn't understand.

Headwaters is off to a great start. I believe there were about 25 children there for the first session and a few less for the second session. Huge thanks to Katie W. for her continued coordination as well as all the volunteers. There are more middle school and high school youth helping this year. So it is good to have their involvement as well. Big thanks to the Gathering Table for providing tasty food around which to gather each time we meet.

We recently received a \$4000 check from the estate of Bonnie Ackland-Fimon. Knowing that the National Youth Gathering will likely cost about \$2000 per student (with potentially 6 going with a cost upwards of \$12K) Arlyn suggested that we earmark this gift for the youth. I bring that possibility before the River Table.