

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6pm
By Zoom

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 – Pastor Hans
2. Introductions
 - Sandy's letter
 - A moment for everyone to introduce themselves
3. Continuing Business
 - Approval of minutes from last month's River Table Meeting
 - Review of Table Reports
 - Financial Report
4. New Business
 - Question as to how memorials are handled
 - Roles of each person on the River Table
 - What Saturday might work for a retreat?
5. Closing – Lord's prayer
6. Next meeting: a Saturday in January; place and time to be determined

River of Hope River Table Notes
November 14, 2023 and Riverpalooza, November 19

All Table members plus Arlyn and Pastor Hans were presented at this in person meeting

Pastor Hans started the meeting with prayer.

Katie presented gifts of Kindness and Lifesavers to the group for snacking.

One correction to the minutes was noted and made to the minutes from last month. On a motion by Jeanette, seconded by Nina the minutes were approved. Pastor Hans made the correction online.

Jeanette reviewed the final Event contract. Use of the Westlund room needs prior approval. Pastor Hans informed the office of the regular use for that meeting room as a standing request. An observation that the Event Center does not provide a rest room that meets ADA guidelines. This will be discussed in future communications with the Event Center. Prior approval of the rent increase had been given upon notification of the rent increase. River of Hope carries insurance above the required insurance amount. No further action necessary at this time.

Jeanette and Nancy gave an updated report on the ongoing employee file system.

Arlyn presented a detailed budget proposal to be presented at Riverpalooza. Items were explained and needed corrections were noted. On a motion by Nancy Redetzke seconded by Jeanette, the Table approved the proposed budget for approval at the upcoming annual meeting.

Outgoing Table members, Nina Appleby, Jeanette Krommenhoek, and Katie Weisenberger were thanked for their service for the past year.

An announcement was made about attending the upcoming Equipping Congregations Event in Willmar on December 2. Details are available on the public and private Facebook pages.

The next meeting will be scheduled for December 12. Exact time and location will be determined and announced to all as soon as possible.

Informal conversations among River Table members continued following the Table Meeting after corrections were made. The changes created a slight deficit. We are projecting a surplus at the end of this year to continue with end of year giving. An informal decision was made was to present the proposed budget with a slight deficit.

During Riverpalooza, Arlyn further explained that when Pastor Hans was first employed, River of Hope was operating in deficit spending. He accepted a salary that was below Synod guidelines. Within 2 years of him serving as our pastor, we will finish the year with a surplus. We also have \$105,155 in savings. Without Pastor Hans, we probably wouldn't even exist. The River Table recommended that his salary be set within Synod guidelines.

On a motion to approve the proposed budget made by Ben Pollmann and seconded by Phyllis Lindstrand, the congregation approved the budget proposal in a unanimous voice vote at the Riverpalooza event.

The meeting ended by singing a table grace and moving into the other room for dinner.
Respectfully submitted with hope, prayer, and peace,
Sandy Tracy, Note Taker/Vice President

We Go Out Table Notes
December 4, 2023
Cashwise Caribou

Present: Malena Kelm, Nan Crary, Kay Halstrom, Lisa Tshimperle, Sandy Tracy

Highs and Lows were shared.

We are looking for funding to purchase a dry erase board to show upcoming church activities. This would be placed near the entry door. Lisa would maintain it. If anyone has a Thrivent grant still available for this year, this is a chance to consider. Contact Lisa at office@riverofhopehutchinson.org.

Mat project: The supplies are newly reorganized and are located behind the white tablecloth tables at the back of our worship space. A clipboard with room to indicate your name and what you left or picked up will be available soon. A work crew has been organized to come in on Wednesday, December 6 to sort the donated bags and cut some strips. A survey of projects under way was completed. About 10 balls of plarn were delivered to Oak Heights Church.

We continue to work with their group for delivery of mats and sharing of supplies. A supply of printed instructions is available among the supplies. Updates will appear on Facebook and table by the entry door. Jerry Lindberg usually serves as the link between River of Hope and Oak Heights as far as delivering completed mats to Jeff Schmidt for delivery through Operation Hope. He often goes with Jeff.

Reconciling in Christ events have gone well, including the All in the Family forum which featured parents from our congregation with affected children. About 25 people attended that event. 2 or 3 house meetings were held to view the film "For the Bible Tells Me So."

NOVEMBER Forum: For the Bible Tells Me So: Sign up to watch the documentary which tells the story of five different Christian families dealing with the sexual orientations of their children. Is the Bible an excuse to hate? This questions and more are answered in this award-winning documentary which brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture and reveals that religious anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a misinterpretation of the Bible. Sign-up at church or call the church office.

We are exploring options with two different local companies, to place an order for Tshirts and sweatshirts. We have submitted a design suggestion to him and are waiting for a final design along with prices for Ts and sweats. The plan for this event is to sell items as a fundraiser for our Children's Ministry. We will have order forms available as soon as we have a final design and have established prices.

On April 21, we will have a guest speaker with experience at a Reconciling in Christ church speak to us

We will not meet again until April when we conclude the Reconciling in Christ activities.

New members are welcome to join us at anytime. Contact Kay Halstrom or any other member. We usually meet on Mondays at 5 pm.

Blessings and hope,

Faith Formation Minutes 11/15/23

Present: Pastor Hans, Kris Hartman, Kris Dobratz, Ron Johnson, Nina Applebee, Krista Picha, Katie Weisenberger

1. Check-in w/Pr. Hans – Share one word that describes your feelings right at this moment.
2. Summer
 - a. Camp of the Cross will be week of June 23 (fishing, art, guitar...)
 - b. National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July
 - c. VBS
 - i. Team up again with Gethsemane in Dassel? (They are finding alternatives to GLLM) Possibly first week of August?
 - ii. Voted down participating in Family Camp with Gethsemane
3. Coming up.....

December 10–Confirmation Led Worship (Practice instruments 11/29)

 - a. December 10–Confirmation Led Worship (Practice instruments 11/29)
 - b. December–Caroling on the 20th w/pizza to follow
 - c. February 11– snowshoeing at 2:00pm at Stahl's Lake Park. Cookies and hot chocolate?
 - d. January 24th–BINGO at Event Center, 6:00-7:30 (slightly earlier than last time)
Ask Jodi Kleindl about borrowing Bingo set from Tiger/West Elem
Prizes? Bought gifts cards and treats/prizes last year with some Thrivent cards (Katie??) Also people brought "white elephant" gifts.

Next meeting: Tues. Jan. 16 @6:30pm via Zoom

