

River Table Minutes
River of Hope Lutheran Church ELCA Hutchinson, Minnesota
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 5 p.m. Hutchinson Event Center

Present: Pastor Hans Peterson; Jim Schaefer, Vice-President; Geoff Davis, Dave Fischer, Patricia Paulsen, Kay Halstrom.

Absent: Mary Royer, President; Arlyn DeBruyckere, Treasurer

Opening Devotion: Pastor Hans asked the question: What recently has made our heart heavy? A meditation entitled "We Are All So Angry", by Rev. Cameron Trimble, was read.

Approved River Table Minutes of August 12, 2025.

Approved Financial Report as presented.

July Income: \$23,442.74	August Income: \$22,809.54
July Expenditures: \$25,910.14	August Expenditures: \$18,307.52

Reports

Gathering Table Gwenn Smeby, co-chair, reviewed the new plan of Tables providing meals for Headwaters. She also inquired about proceeding with plans for a catered meal following our annual meeting, Riverpalooza, on November 16, 2025. Gathering Table will get a cost estimate.

Worship and Music (WAM), August 14, 2025. Planning for several events including special 15th Anniversary worship service 'by the river', serving a Headwaters meal, and piano recital with dedication of the grand piano.

Technology Table (from comments included in WAM report) Working on issues related to streaming, investigating services-for-hire that could be of assistance to us.

Parish Personnel, August 19, 2025 Working to update job descriptions. The River Table is seeking further information on a cash-in-lieu benefit for Pastor Hans. Attachment summary of an 8/7/2025 telephone conversation between Mary Royer and Pastor Heather Culuris from the synod office, Topic: *Staffing challenges and solutions of a growing church.*

Pastor's Report (verbal) Pastor spoke about two events from today, September 17: some RoH members traveled to the Lower Sioux Agency near Morton for a presentation, and the opportunity to view the movie *Eternal Song* at the State Theater.

Other Business

Safety Begin to gather information regarding a Safety plan for evacuation from our worship space or the Event Center building if the need arises. Be more intentional with an usher or attendant in the lobby area.

Nominations to River Table Pending approval at the annual meeting in November, these people will join the River Table: Ron Johnson, Sue Peters, Sara Pollmann.

Adult and Youth Safety Policy A subcommittee revised an existing document. Approved the amended policy. m/s/p

Inclusivity The question posed: Are we truly inclusive, accepting of individuals with opposing views? Discussion followed, and will be ongoing as we strive to avoid divisive messaging in all aspects of River of Hope communications.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5 p.m. Hutchinson Event Center

Closing: *The Lord's Prayer*

Submitted by Patricia Paulsen