

River Table Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 5pm – In Person at the Event Center

1. Highs/Lows/Opening Devotion Jim Schaefer – 5mns
2. A reminder of the Principles and Group Norms – 3mn

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.

3. **GROUP NORMS**

Show grace to each other.

Participate with honesty and respect.

Ask for clarification.

Assume the best intentions of others.

Offer own thoughts honestly and listen carefully to others.

4. Discussion/Approval of minutes from last month's River Table Meeting – 5 mns
5. Financial Report – 5 mns
6. Table Reports/Pastor Report – 10 mns
7. Continuing Business/New Business using IDS (Identify/Discuss/Solve) model from the following – 35 minutes
 - Move 2nd piano back to Jim Nelson's home or keep here
 - Update on renewing River of Hope lease
 - Anything from Tables/Pastor Report
 - River of Hope Goals for 2026: Increased Visibility. Increased Member and Targeted Group Participation
8. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, Sept 1 at 5pm at the Event Center
9. Closing – Lord's prayer – 2 mn

Re: River Table Meeting June 30th

From Ronald Johnson <ronjohn1950@gmail.com>

Date Wed 7/1/2026 8:02 AM

To Lisa Tschimperle <lisa@riverofhopehutchinson.org>

Lisa, here are the minutes from last evening's River Table Meeting, Please let me know if there are any questions.

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 5PM in person

Members present: Jim S, Geoff D, Kay H, Sara P, Arlyne B, Ron J, Pastor H

1. Highs and Lows

2. Minutes from the last meeting were discussed - Arlyn is looking into the ability to summarize correctly with the new financial software. A motion to accept was made by Sara and seconded by Kay.

3. Arlyn gave a report on the state of our finances, and we are staying in good shape,

4. Pastors report, and reports from other tables,

- Pastor brought information from the Parish-Personnel Table regarding a good look into part time employees having a portion of their health insurance being paid by the church. This will be considered by the affected tables.

- The movie, "Samaritans" will be hosted at the Event Center by River of Hope and New Journey on September 28. This details a congregation in the Southwest that assists immigrants in their struggles in the new country.

- Work continues on implementing and clarifying our constitution,

- An official back-up treasurer has been found! Josh Wendlandt has stepped up to assist River of Hope when Arlyn is unavailable. Pete Royer has agreed to be the back-up to the back-up. Thanks for their willingness to help out!

- Ron gave a brief report on the Synod Assembly to go along with Pastor Hans' written report,

- A security walk through with the Hutchinson Police Department will be done on July 16. This is done to ensure the safety of our congregation and employees.

- We will work with the new members to continue to welcome them into our group.

5. Next regular meeting is Tuesday, July 28, at 5 pm at the Event Center.

6. Closing - The Lord's Prayer

Parish Personnel Table Meeting Agenda –June 30th, 2026

2:00 p.m. – Event Center

Reforming Still – Transforming Always

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

Guiding Principles

[disciple = learn]

+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.

- Share highs and lows
- Prayer or reflection
- Pastor Hans General Update
 - Lisa continues to organize and centralize our recordkeeping documents in the Red Book and online.
 - Pastor Hans leaves for his vacation in Alaska July 14-19.
 - Pastor Hans will be doing Continuing Ed at St. Olaf July 21 and 22.
- Staff vacation days- some questions have arisen now that we are better tracking the days taken:
 - What constitutes a vacation day?
 - Does it only include days that the person normally works?
 - What if they make up the work or hours before or after the vacation? Do they still have to take vacation days?
 - These questions will be further discussed and addressed at the 2026 Staff Reviews in the fall.
- Personnel Table will serve food for Headwaters on Oct 7, 2026. Likely macaroni and hotdish. We may need to reach out to others to help since there are currently only 3 members on our table.
- Per Lisa, all background checks for 2026 have been updated and completed.
- Discussion of health insurance options for non-pastoral employees-to be discussed with the River Table.

- MN Paid Leave
 - Pastor Hans and Jim will talk to the River Table to confirm that we will cover Pastor Hans' MN Paid Leave stipend and if so, Pastor Hans will enroll.
 - Do we need to let Portico know about this?
 - Pastor Hans can choose to enroll, and the church can choose to compensate him for the tax amount (0.66% of income)
 - We still need to finalize Employee manual entry regarding MN Paid leave- will do at future meeting after more information gathered.
- Discuss filling the position on the Personnel Table vacated by Brian Pollman- Pastor Hans will reach out to some people.
- Review Employee Handbook Updates:
 - Did not have time to pursue this meeting
 - Reviewing section 4-5 at next meeting
- What has been learned about Earned Safe and Sick Time Policy at ROH?
 - Ongoing agenda item – still more to learn
- Update on Job Reviews and Job Descriptions – summaries filed in employee files
 - Angie – Lisa- Complete
 - Nancy- Katie- Complete, Emily- Complete
 - Jeannette – Jim- Complete
- Next Meeting –at the Event Center: Tuesday, September 8th, 2:00

Month	Tasks	Assigned To
Dec-March	Annual Review of Job Descriptions	Table Meeting
	Self-Reviews to Staff Member prior to Reviews	Pastor Hans
April/May	Staff Performance Reviews	Table Members, Pastor Hans
	Are all staff and volunteer background checks current in last 3 years? Discuss with Lisa	Angie, Pastor Hans, Lisa
August	Review Staff eligible for 5-yr anniversary recognition at Riverpalooza	Table Meeting
September	Check SWMN Synod website for compensation guidelines	Dan Watts
	Review Pastor's health insurance choices	Dan Watts
	10 names drawn for surveys regarding Pastor Hans and given to Emily to distribute.	Nancy
	Distribution of surveys regarding Pastor Hans	Emily
October	Staff and Pastor Compensation Review-submit to River Table to approve budget prior to Riverpalooza	Table Meeting
	Emily compiles survey results for Pastor Hans and are distributed to Personnel Table and River Table	Table Meeting
	Angie will give survey results to Pastor Hans ahead of meeting.	Angie
November	Review Pastor Survey Results	Table Meeting

Faith Formation Meeting
7/7/2026

Present: Pastor Hans, Kris Hartman, Sue Peters, Katie Weisenberger, Geoff Davis, Josh Wendland, Angie Elton, Louis Bedard

1. Highs/Lows & Prayer
2. VBS Update: Katie (and Angie E, Emily H)
 - a. Gethsemane in Dassel is no longer partnering with us
 - b. We will continue to work with Vineyard (met new pastor, Pr. Greg)
 - c. August 10-13 from 5:00-7:30pm
 - d. "Farmyard Faith" theme
 - e. Vineyard will take care of the food and decorations, RoH will plan the activities/lessons/music
3. Headwaters Meal—January 6, 2027
 - a. Decided on similar menu as last year
 - b. "Midwinter Picnic"
 - c. Kris will let Lisa know our plan
4. Folding Table (Publicity and Fellowship)
 - a. Angie Elton and Louis Bedard shared their plans
 - b. July 11—Free swim night at Hutch Aquatic Center
 - c. Rootbeer and music night @Bedards house
 - d. Brainstorming events OUTSIDE of RoH—External Focus
 - e. Faith Formation will continue to have Internal Focus
 - f. Possible that we may overlap and plan together; monitor the next 6 months
 - g. Need for advertising for outreach: FaceBook pages, Instagram, LGBTQ+ group, Real Life in Hutch (?)
5. Other Adult Outreach (was interest in Social Justice/Bible Study)
 - a. Mark Charles was successful with roughly 80 participants
 - b. July 12, another visitor, Lynn Blue (Dakota) will be at a 9:30 forum
6. Youth Summer Activities
 - a. Camp of the Cross was successful with a van-load of kids
 - i. Look at possible other/closer locations for the future (Waters Edge, Spirit in the Pines)
 - b. Family Camp?? Possible future interest
 - c. Mission Trip—July 18 in Omaha
 - i. Focus on food insecurity
 - ii. Sue P and Sara P are chaperones
 - d. Fundraising
 - i. Ongoing all year
 - ii. Brainstorm other ideas (car wash, compost bags, QDoba, Culvers, Jimmys)
 - e. National Youth Gathering next year—in Minneapolis
 - i. Need volunteers to organize and fundraise

7. NEXT MEETING: Tues., Oct. 6 @6:30pm

Pastor's Report July 2026

Lease for 2027

Hutchinson Health continues to be interested in purchasing the Event Center but there has not been any movement toward the purchase of the building. River of Hope will be able to enter into another year long contract again soon. Lynn Neuman will reach out to us in the next couple of months to go over our contract for 2027 which will be the same terms with a potential rise in cost for inflation.

2nd Piano

For several years Jim Nelson housed the grand piano which was donated to River of Hope at his residence. Less than a year after we moved it to the Event Center another even better grand piano was donated to River by Dean and JoAnne Bloemke. At some point the River Table may need to decide what to do with the second piano. We are waiting to hear back if we can keep both pianos at the Event Center.

Screening of the Documentary "Samaritans"

The screening of a documentary titled "Samaritans" at the Event Center is set for Monday, September 28. The time is yet to be determined but will likely be early like 5pm or 5:30pm. There will likely be pizza provided with a free-will offering. If anyone has a Thrivent Card they would like to donate please let Lisa in the office know. This will be co-sponsored with New Journey and open to the public.

Continuing ed in July

From July 20 to 22 I attended a Conference on Theology, Worship and the Arts at St. Olaf. I was honored to have the *Living Voice of Creation* liturgy which Carol Meier and wrote debuted at the conference. As I mentioned in my enewsletter article, Ginny and Hilde Evenson helped lead worship on Monday, July 20. There were some great workshops and rich worship services. Some of it was livestreamed and archived. The page is a little difficult to locate online, but you can find some of the archived footage here:

<https://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/streams/collection/cwta?ay=2026>

Vacation in August

Our oldest child, Nelson, along with his sweetie, visit the first week of August. We are headed to Madeline Island for a few days. I will be gone from Monday, August 3 until Friday, August 7. In the event of a pastoral emergency pastor Linda Pedersen will be available.