

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



August 2023

Red Lodge, Montana

August Supply Pulpit

August 6-Kaleva Rev. Teressa L Clark
(Communion)

August 13- Rev. Teressa L Clark

August 20-Randy Hyvonen

August 27-Mark Sechler

Red Lodge Community Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2023

Moderator Libby Marshall opened the meeting with prayer

A quorum was declared.

Martha Brown was appointed as secretary and Steve Hanson was appointed as parliamentarian for this congregational meeting.

The revised church documents (Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules) have been available for review for the past month, electronically and in printed copy. Steve Hanson and Jay West revised these documents in order to reflect what is actually being done and to standardize the language between the three documents. Each committee was asked to review and update the language regarding their role and function.

Mark Sechler moved to approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws (the congregation does not need to approve the revised Standing Rules), Don Kinney seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Committee was Ad Hoc and is now a Standing Committee with the following members: Mark Schubert, Jonathan Hull, Dixie McCampbell, Carol Sechler, and Jim Brown. Mark Schubert reviewed the revised 2023 Budget recommended by the Finance Committee, copies of which were provided to those in attendance. Although the congregation does not need to vote on the amended budget, the Finance Committee responded to questions from the congregation. **Janet's hours have increased to 32 hours per week, which includes two weeks of sick/vacation leave. When the Church receives FEMA reimbursement of approximately \$60,000 for flood-related expenses, those funds will go into our reserves. The largest item amended is the pastor's compensation package. At this point, we do not know whether when we will be hiring a pastor and whether we will be hiring a fulltime or part-time pastor.**

We are currently drawing 4% annually from the Bob Moran Fund. We have not drawn those funds for the past four years, so the current budget has \$32,000 from this fund. Duane Estelle moved to allow the church council to borrow a maximum of \$100,000 over three years from the Bob Moran Fund if needed to hire a new pastor. The intent is to re-pay these funds. Sharon McKenzie seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Brown

The RLCC Church Council held its regularly-scheduled meeting at the Church on June 8, 2023.

Members Present: Jay West, Libby Gardner, Steve Hanson, Renee Gabrian, and Julia Child, the presence of whom constituted a quorum.

Moderator Libby Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and opened with prayer. In the absence of Lori Floyd, Secretary, Steve Hanson was elected to serve as Secretary Pro Tem.

Jay moved, and Julia seconded, that the Moderator's proposed agenda for the meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Jay moved, and Renee seconded, that the consent agenda (committee minutes and reports presented for the meeting) be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Julia, on behalf of the Stewardship and Outreach Committee, provided an update on the Lunch in the Sun program (now in progress) which provides lunches to children on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the City Pool. Different community churches have taken responsibility for making up the sack lunches and delivering them to the Pool each week. RLCC is responsible for the week of June 12th. **More detail on this program may be reviewed in the Committee's meeting minutes dated May 8, 2023, approved by the Council at today's meeting as part of the consent agenda.**

Jay reported, on behalf of the Facilities Committee, that there were no maintenance or other matters requiring the Council's immediate attention. He indicated that the church thermostat had been turned up without his committee's participation or awareness, so he was unable to determine as of the date of the Council meeting if this was some random act of nuisance or a malfunction in the church's heating system; he will try to get to the bottom of this incident. Jay also reminded the Council that our annual spring cleanup day at the Church is scheduled for June 14th, so any and all volunteers will be appreciated.

Renee advised the Council that she has spoken to our new set of AmeriCorp volunteers, on behalf of the Deacons, about providing speakers from amongst their numbers for our services on July 7th. They have agreed to do so, and this fulfills our pulpit supply requirements for that Sunday.

Libby reported for the Personnel Subcommittee that Zina General is the only person to have applied for the open position of Christian Education Director. Zina has passed the required background check, and of course she is known to most members of our Congregation as our former CED. The subcommittee will formally interview Zina on June 13th.

A discussion was held about the Church Profile being prepared by the Search and Call Committee. This profile will be submitted to our Conference Minister, Tony Clark, and to other persons and places in an effort to generate interest in filling our Pastor position, so there is some urgency in getting it completed. Perhaps the most difficult-to-complete part of **the profile is projecting the Pastor's compensation. The Council acknowledged that we cannot afford to pay our next Pastor** an amount comparable to that which was paid to the previous Pastor, but to settle on what could be proposed in the profile is challenging because we cannot accurately predict our financial condition too far into the future. The Finance Committee has reported to Libby some rough numbers that might be used for Pastor compensation without invading the principals of our endowment funds, so we were asked by Libby to present suggested language to her, for this part of the **profile; she will use these suggestions as a basis for communicating the Council's recommendations to the Search and Call Committee.**

Our Church Office Manager, Janet, has been a part-time employee, but following a discussion on this issue Jay moved, and Steve seconded, that Janet be offered: (1) an increase in working hours to 32 per week, making her a full-time employee; (2) 64 hours per year personal time off (PTO) plus paid observed holidays (see Sec. VI.A., Employee Handbook); and, (3) a stipulation that at time of termination of employment or resignation, accrued PTO would not be compensated. The motion was approved unanimously.

Libby reported on the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. She has spoken to Pastor Brian Lowen, of Alliance Chapel, advising him that we have some funds designated but no Pastor at the present time to consider requests and make distributions. Pastor Lowen indicated he will gladly accept RLCC's designated funds and referrals to him of persons in need of assistance.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The Council's next monthly meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on July 14, 2023.

Minutes submitted by Steve Hanson, Secretary Pro Tem.

Steven A. Hanson



This is the report that I gave during worship on Sunday, July 16. It may be redundant for some of you. Mainly I appreciated Pastor Tony's enthusiasm for our congregation and its future. We are a positive forward moving group. I am grateful for God's goodness. Libby

It is time for an update. The recovery process of a congregation with the minister leaving and lay people coming forward to be the church has some correlation with recovery from the flood. The path has an action and a grieving process. The initial adrenaline rush and response was met amazingly well by all of you here. Each of you has filled in your way, the role of a united congregational member. What amazing work has been done moving from triage, initial response to recovery, to more stability and longer-range planning.

At our request, Pastor Tony Clark met with Russ Lord and me for several hours on Saturday. Guidance was requested in making sure we are doing things correctly in our search process. He provided good insight into where we are and the ongoing steps to move us forward. He had this description of where we are and some steps to take to get us where we want to go.

We are now in a revitalization stage. What a wonderful word. We are ready for growth in depth of spirituality, joy, hope. Embrace who we are. Revitalization. No benefit in looking back. Transitioning to what is next. Embrace who we are.

Pastor Tony said we are a highly desirable church for many reasons. We have a vibrant congregation that is enmeshed in the community and surrounding area. We are a living congregation. We have dedicated staff, dedicated people working in the day-to-day activity of the church. We have strong financial basis. And we live in a beautiful place. It was good to have such a positive description of us.

There are people who are interested, and names are available with the conference. At the annual meeting in Indiana Pastor Tony attended, there were people who expressed an interest in coming here. But, as we get to the place of looking at vitals, there are many challenges

facing us in this search for an interim, designated or settled pastor. One of the primary challenges is housing. Russ is working on the cost of housing oneself and living in Red Lodge. He will work with the search committee to address several of the issues that need to be addressed as the search for interim, designated, or settled pastor continues.

The first step, to be completed by the end of this week is to do the final revision of the Church Profile and get it to the UCC conference office. From there it will go on the national website for distribution. Pastor Tony has reviewed the draft church profile and provided suggestions to have it better reflect us. His suggestions included for us to realize that we are not a small church in UCC lingo. Need to highlight the activity of the church members in the community. Continue to grow the perception of the church by the community. We are not only visible but embedded, enmeshed in the community. If our church were to close, there would be a huge hole in the community.

We are a living congregation.

So, it seems that we are moving forward at snail's pace. But it is thoughtful and forward movement. Working together is essential. And each one of you has shown we are good at that.



Search Committee

Now that the church profile has been forwarded to Rev. Tony Clark at the conference office the search committee can receive inquiries and applications from people interested in serving as pastor here at RLCC. As applications are received, references checked, phone interviews conducted, etc. the search committee will rely on Janet to post our progress reports in the Weekly Wrangler and the Shalom.



(Please click on provided link if you have not yet filled out survey on updating your church status profile: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3H99N3M>)

Last Bite at the Supper Club Apple!

All those lucky enough to have signed before the RLCC Supper Club deadline should be contacted soon by their initial host couple to schedule the first of your three Supper Club dinners. If you didn't sign up and are now having regrets, we are making a short-list of those willing to be a one-time Supper Club "substitute" to fill-in for anyone in our groups who may go out-of-town for an extended period and can't participate in one of our monthly Supper Club dinners. There is no obligation, just an opportunity to get invited to a great meal with some of your fellow RLCC congregants and fill a seat at our 8-person tables. If you're interested in being on our substitute call list, please call, text or email Mark Sechler at 573-415-7722 or sechlermc@gmail.com .

Cheers, Mark Sechler

Deacons

Renee Gabrian	rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Debbie Awes	debawes51@hotmail.com
Don Kinney	dlkinney65@gmail.com
Lori Floyd	lorifloyd02@gmail.com
Helen MacKay	hmackay49@gmail.com
Jody Loeffen	quinnbaughqueen@aol.com
Kiyoko Carlson	kiyokocarlson@gmail.com
Mark Sechler	sechlermc@gmail.com

Schedule:

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Helen & Lori Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Renee & Helen	14	15 Meeting @10am	16	17	18	19
20 Mark & Jody	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Jody & Kiyoko	28	29	30	31		



Facilities Management

FOR THE AUGUST 2023 SHALOM **Notes on our Church's History.**

This month sees the second of this year's three centennials for our Church building. The first was at the beginning of June, a couple of months ago. June 3, 1923 was when our ancestral Methodists began renting the building for what they thought would be a few months of Sundays while they built themselves a new church on their old lot a block west of here. They very much liked this building and had tried to buy it a few months earlier. So, when their new church project fizzled, they made a new offer to buy this property. The new offer was accepted. The sale was signed on August 9, 1923. We can note that centenary on Sunday, August 6, during the annual church picnic service at Kaleva or we can mark the date the following Sunday, August 13, when services are back in the Sanctuary.

The remaining centenary will be for December 17, 1923, which was the date of the formal dedication of this building as a Methodist Church.

By the way, next April will be the diamond anniversary of the formation of us as the Community Church. That was when our Methodist and Congregationalist ancestors merged to form Red Lodge Community Church, UCC.

All of this history comes out of your Facilities Committee's work on a history of our building. In part, some of this work is to try to find out what we need to know about what is where in the building and how it all got to be the way it is now. Also, in part, the historical research may be used to nominate the Church for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We're looking into that as it may enhance our property's insurance coverage.

So far, we have two chapters written and available for review, correction, supplementation, etc. The first chapter covers what we think we know about the early congregations in Red Lodge and their churches from 1889 up to the nineteen-teens. The second chapter compiles what we think we know about the original construction of our building in 1912 and its first decade --- up until the Red Lodge Methodists bought property in 1923. We're working on the third chapter which will cover the forty years of the Methodist's tenure from 1923 to 1963.

Of course, all this is still work in progress but anybody and everybody is welcome to read what we've compiled so far and offer corrections and contributions.

Here the link to Chapter 1 where you can read and/or download a copy:

Here is the link to Chapter 2:

Chapter 1: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10UkQS-XYFZiCyg31iuXwHNOPxNLwanOz/view?usp=drive_link

Chapter 2: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w5iffhZdfsPXhOu1Q5n6q8J9azq7begB/view?usp=drive_link



Christian Education



So glad to have Zina General as our Christian Education Director. She has been working **diligently organizing the children's message and gathering the children afterwards** to the recreative space downstairs touching on the lesson of the sermon & scriptures on Sunday service.

We invite anyone with children, grandchildren, friends, neighbor kids, to come and join in all the creative ideas Zina has plan for Sunday School!



Committee Meetings: **All Meetings subject to change, please communicate with all parties & office. It's much appreciated.**

	Church Council	August 08 @5:30 pm
	Facilities	August 01 @5:00 pm
	Stewardship	August 07 @1:00 pm
	Deacon	August 15 @10:00 am
	Ad-Hoc-Finance	N/A
	Ad-Hoc-Search	N/A

Coffee Klatch

Meets every Wednesday @ 9am under Gazebo at Lions Park. Contact Renee if more info. 406-446-2047

Prayer Zoom

Prayer Zoom every Thursday. Look for reminder in email box for zoom links.

Announcements

Kaleva Outdoor worship is Aug 6th

Please remember to bring: Sunscreen

Lawn chairs

Umbrella (weather conditions)

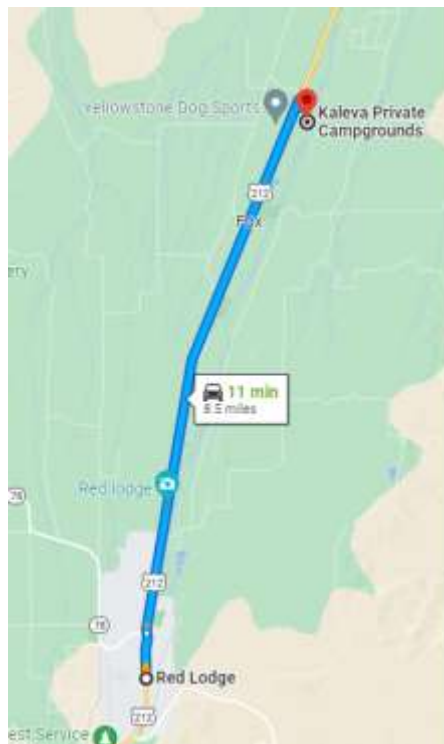
Bug Spray

Utensils & Plates

Items for picnic after worship: Last name begins with A-L: Dessert

M-Z: Salad

Communion will be done during picnic after service



Mile Marker #78

7790 US HWY Roberts MT



Mail Chimp Mailings

Have you been missing your Weekly Wrangler that are sent out through Mail Chimp? If so, you may have been accidentally unsubscribed from the email list. If you'd like you re-subscribe, you can do so by [clicking this link](#). You can also email the church office the link to you.



Enjoying the Directory ?

We hope you are all enjoying the new church directory! We have had some folks who experienced issues accessing, downloading, and/or printing the directory. If you're one of those and you haven't emailed or called in for some help yet, please do. For those of you who still need to get your photos in, or if you need to update your information, you can send an email directly or you can use the directory form on the website. If you have questions or issues email or call Janet at the church office. Enjoy!

A Note from the Office :

Please check with calendar for church usages

Council & Committee Minutes are available for review in the church office.

In an effort to make Red Lodge Community Church comfortable and welcoming for everyone we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes

Thank You!



August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 8:45 am Prayer Zoom	4	5
6 10:00 am Live Worship	7 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	8	9 9am Coffee Klatch (walking)	10 8:45 am Prayer Zoom 5:00 Facilities	11	12
Kalevala Worship Rev. Teressa L. Clark	1:00 pm Stewardship Meeting		11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir	5:30 Church Council Meeting		
13 10:00 am Live Worship Rev. Teressa L. Clark	14	15 10 am Deacons Meeting	16 9am Coffee Klatch (walking)	17 8:45 am Prayer Zoom	18	19
1:00 pm Staff Meeting			11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir			
20 10:00 am Live Worship Randy Hyvonen	21	22	23 9am Coffee Klatch (walking)	24 8:45 am Prayer Zoom	25	26
1:00 pm Staff Meeting			11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir			
27 10:00 am Live Worship Mark Sechler	28	29	30 9am Coffee Klatch (walking)	31 8:45 am Prayer Zoom		
	1:00 pm Staff Meeting		11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir			

Birthdays:

- Aug 3: Jim Brown
- Aug 7: Kathy Munson
- Aug 8: Yvonne Jensen
- Aug 11: Libby Gardner

Anniversaries:

- Aug 4: Renee & Harris
Gabrian
- Aug 15: Mark & Carol
Sechler

- Aug 16: Don & Nancy
Hamilton
- Aug 26: Deborah & Skip
Bratton



Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC
308 S. Broadway
P.O. Box 786
Red Lodge, MT 59068

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Mission Statement

The Red Lodge Community Church, UCC welcomes all people to worship, fellowship and to study God's word. **We seek to be servants of our Lord in the care of all people.**"

How to Reach

RED LODGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

(Website pre-recorded services continue to be available)

Church Phone: (406) 446-1444

Church Address: 308 S. Broadway

P.O. Box 786, Red Lodge, MT 59068

www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com

Email: rlccassistant@gmail.com

Office Hours: M-F 10am-3pm & and by appointment (subject to change)

Pastor:

