

## Red Lodge Community Church Council Quarterly Meeting, April 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Moderator Jim B. at 5:15 pm. Pastor Pam led us with a devotional from 1st Thessalonians. Those present were Audrey C., Debbie A., Donna R., Debbie T., JoAnn E., Steve H., Renee' G., and Skip B.

Finance. Debbie T. reported that the church had received a cash gift of \$10,000.00 in January. \$5,000.00 was designated for the music fund, and \$5,000.00 was unrestricted. She also reported that open collections and pledges were above the usual amounts for the first three months of 2020.

Pastor's Report. Pastor P. thanked everyone for their dedication to learning and participating in all of the tech-based groups necessary for carrying on the mission and fellowship of the church, during the Covid 19 outbreak. She attached a description of all of the duties and technical work Mia has been accomplishing. It has been of great help since we have had to move to a virtual format for church activities and gatherings.

Moderator's Report. Jim presented a lengthy report outlining the work of the Executive Council, for the first three months of 2020. Many extra meetings had to be held to address closing of the church during the corona virus outbreak, recommendations moving forward, and personnel action items. He also reported that the AmeriCorps volunteers who were to be housed in the church this spring and summer, will not be arriving as planned. It is unknown when they may be coming to Red Lodge to build Habitat for Humanity homes, and to participate in other community projects. Jim also reported that the play school which has been meeting in the basement, is adjourned for the rest of the school year due to the virus.

Diaconate Report. Renee' reported that their duties have expanded quite a bit, due to the necessity of moving their activities online. Each deacon has been assigned a list of members who they are calling to check on, and to offer spiritual care to them. They are also asking if anyone needs grocery pick up, help with snow shoveling, or assistance with other necessities of

daily living. Four Zoom meetings have been held to this effect, and weekly meetings have been scheduled to continue this work. Renee moved that the bylaws be changed to increase the number of deacons to “at least 8 deacons”, instead of the current 6. The deacons are carrying a heavy responsibility, and with summer vacations coming up she feels this is warranted. Debbie A. seconded the motion, and it was approved. This recommendation for a change in bylaws will be presented to the membership at a specially called congregational meeting for a vote. The date is undetermined at this point.

Facilities Management. Skip stated that the malfunctioning furnaces have been replaced. Our insurance covered all of the expense, except for our \$1,000.00 deductible. The bell tower has been reconfigured in a minor way, for more efficient use. The glass window for Pam’s office is in and will be installed once the church is re-opened. Skip moved that we discontinue our printer maintenance contract with Advanced Office Solutions. The motion was seconded by Steve H and the motion carried. Steve will mail them a letter to this effect.

Vice Moderator. Karen K. stated that work continues on developing covenants for our employees. We want to have procedures in place to guide us in giving them the procedural and legal consideration they are entitled to.

Finance. Mark S. was unable to attend due to last minute requests at his place of business. Jim spoke to confirm that financial statements will be available in the office. The church is in very good financial standing. A payment request form has been developed in order to better track disbursements. It outlines who requests funds, the amount of the request, what the request was for, who approved the request, and the account from which it would be taken. This allows for an easy to follow “paper trail”. The motion was made by Donna R. to approve the form, and Debbie T. seconded. The motion carried.

Stewardship. JoAnn Eder updated us on the rotating leadership plan they have developed. JoAnn and Julia will head up outreach and missions, Russ and Diny will lead the annual pledge drive, and Linda Hanson and Carol are focusing on the Five for Five giving opportunities.

JoAnn and Julia have been working on developing outreach opportunities to The Northern Cheyenne Reservation for this summer. However, they are currently on hold due to restrictions concerning the coronavirus outbreak.

JoAnn then informed us that there was approximately \$14,000.00 available for disbursement through The Hazel Chamberlin Trust funds for the year 2020. Each of the following areas were designated to receive \$700.00. The Native American Outreach program at Rocky Mountain College, "CUE" which provides assistance to UCC Seminarians from Montana. The pastor's sabbatical. Intermountain Children's Home. \$1,500.00 was designated for the pastor's discretionary spending fund, which provides for emergent community or individual assistance. The Red Lodge Area Community Foundation's COVID 19 relief fund was designated to receive \$9,000.00 for immediate and long term needs.

Pastor Parish Relations. Steve reported that there have been no concerns presented to this committee. He did say that if a congregant has a concern, they should first speak to the pastor themselves. If resolution is not found, then the concern should be brought to the committee.

Clerk. Donna R. reported that she is being oriented to The Breeze program and is helping update information for a directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. The next quarterly meeting will be held on July 16th, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Clark Recording Secretary.