

The UMW at Ely United Methodist Church
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10-11:25 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10:00 AM with a unison reading of the UMW pledge. Ten UMW members were present: Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Gail Haney, Sharon Luthens, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco, Janice Tessier, Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Turnbull. Pastor Craig also attended.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting were read and approved as read with one date correction. Motion by Lucy Diesslin; second by Janice Tessier.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Luthens reported that she had paid \$320 for March church cleaning and some of the expenses for Bob Lindholm's funeral luncheon. March pasties resulted in \$2,859.35 going to the Building Fund and \$2,655 to UMW. Checking balance is \$6,306.55; savings balance is now \$11,634.61. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Lucy Diesslin. Margie reported that she had read that the bank is now offering up to 4% CDs for 9-month and 2 year terms. Jeanne Tomlinson moved we buy a \$10,000 9-month term CD; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **April Pasties:** Jeanne reported that we made and sold 816 pasties and had good crews on Monday and Tuesday. We did have 17 pasties left that customers hadn't picked up – and we weren't able to sell - on Tuesday but all of those were picked up on Wednesday.
- **Church Camp update:** Pastor Craig reported that there are some kids from the church planning to attend different church camps but the Ad Council needs to discuss how to make use of the \$1300 donation – using it all this year or saving some for use next year. We'll need more details about who is attending and what the actual costs and needs will be before we make a decision on what we'll be contributing.
- **Church Supplies Committee:** Jeanne reported that the committee met on March 17 and worked out a process for checking and restocking and/or reordering supplies. There is now a "Supplies Needed" clipboard in the kitchen that can be used for people to make a note of items that need to be restocked. Some items will be restocked from supplies stored in the back closets, others will need to be purchased and/or ordered and the committee will take care of that.
- **Fellowship Hall Ceiling Tiles Project:** Bryan Rusco will be ordering the tiles. Installation is planned for April 22. Bryan Rusco, Pastor Craig, Pam Turnball and possibly Jim Peterson will be doing the work.
- **Friendship Dinner:** Jeanne reported that we are booked for May 17 at the GEL at 5 PM. Jeanne will provide a sign-up sheet starting this coming Sunday, April 23. We briefly discussed having a dessert and decided we don't really need one. Patty Rusco offered to take care of program, possibly inviting Joanne Larson to do a short talk. She'll talk to Paula Mattila about possibly doing table favors and the opening prayer.

New Business

- **Letter from Minnesota Conference:** Margie read an article from the *Comment* newsletter about the North Star District disbanding for lack of continuing leadership.

We'll still be able to support missions through the state UMW, which is now calling itself United Women of Faith (UWF).

- **Pasty production schedule:** During the most recent pasty-making a number of us had discussed the possibility of reducing the number of times we do pasties from 6 to 3 given our aging workforce and lack of younger participants. Although not a problem with our April pasty-making, we've often been short of workers which makes it harder on those who do show up. It was suggested that we do October, January and April. Margie asked those present to talk to others in the church to get feedback. We can make a decision at our September meeting.
- **Pasty dough rolling machine:** There have been discussions about possibly buying a machine to roll out the pasty dough to get a uniform 10 inch crust and take a big burden off of the rollers. We decided it was worth looking into. Margie, Patty and Craig offered to make use of their contacts to research possibilities.
- **Midwest Mission Kits:** Lucy had asked that we talk about resuming doing an annual mission project as we did in pre-COVID days. After some discussion, Linda Hane moved that we prepare mission kits which are used in disaster situations. Motion was seconded by Gail Haney. Motion approved. We decided to do the "Personal Dignity" kits which provide basic self-care items such as toothbrush & toothpaste, soap & shampoo, etc. in a 1 gallon zip-lock bag. We decided to include the church in this project. Margie will do a write-up for the coming Sunday bulletin and will announce it at church. Jeanne will have bags available, each with a list of the items the bag is to contain. Bags will need to be returned by Sunday, May 21. We'll meet after church to double check that the bags are completed properly and then ask Craig and Jay to deliver them to the Annual Conference (May 31 thru June 2).
- **Rolling Cart:** Several UMW members had noticed how heavy the pasty meat containers were and how hard it was for someone to carry them from the kitchen to the mixing table. The stainless-steel rolling cart we currently have is used to fetch & hold the large trays of doughballs and a second would make the meat transfer a lot easier. It would also free up the small table currently in use to hold the meat container next to the mixing table. It could replace the very small typing table currently in use to hold plates at the end of the rolling table. Jeanne checked on-line and found a comparable one for \$265. Lucy moved that we proceed with purchasing one. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion approved. Jeanne will take care of ordering it.
- **Small folding tables:** Margie & Pam described the problems with funeral luncheons of how crowded the kitchen is with the two added wooden tables and that 2 smaller folding tables would make more room. And during pasties we could use one to be put in the west kitchen doorway where dirty items could be stacked between breaks from making pasties for the kitchen crew to wash instead of people walking into the kitchen with dirty items when pasty trays are going in or out of the oven and having to worry about someone getting burned.
- **Chair Cushions:** Patty Rusco had purchased 18 chair cushions that fit our metal folding chairs and make them much more comfortable. They're stored in the cupboards in front of the organ motor closet.
- **Swinging doors:** We briefly discussed issues with our new swinging doors which do not easily lock open as the old ones did and can be a hazard with people going in and out

when they're not propped open. Various suggestions were made. Margie will bring it up with the Trustees.

- **Prayer Shawl Crosses:** Donna Rusco asked us to look out for more of the small crosses that are stitched onto the prayer shawls.

At 11:25 AM we decided to adjourn and skip the devotional time since the business meeting ran so long.

Our next gathering will be Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 5 PM for our Friendship Dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Thank you, Margie Olson for setting up the coffee and for Linda Hane for providing goodies.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary