

Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Pastor Craig, Rich Floyd, Jay Tomlinson, Linda Hane, Don Ingerson, Pastor Craig
Chairperson, Jay Tomlinson, opened the meeting with a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Weekly Dinners Initiative

At our December Visioning Committee meeting, it was concluded that more research and consideration regarding this initiative needed to be done before moving forward. No specific research assignments were decided on at that meeting.

Further discussion centered around how we could manage weekly dinners. The complexity of the initiative led to suggestions that we limit the size and scope of the initiative to only our church members or to reduce the dinners to once per month. In the end, it was felt that this initiative would take someone who is spiritually motivated to step forward to head up this initiative, recruit likeminded volunteers, develop a workable plan, request support from the committee, and receive Ad Council approval to implement the initiative.

This realization led us to better understand the broader scope of the Connection Committee which is discussed in greater detail below.

Journey With The Messiah – Jay reported that the first meeting of the second 6 week session of *Journey With The Messiah* held February 6th was attended by 6 people. Two photos were presented, *Gone Astray* and *Holy Abundance*, and spirited discussion followed each presentation. There were refreshments available for all to enjoy during the meeting.

Benevolence Fund Directives

No further discussion followed understanding that the Ad Council appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to further refine the directives document describing the benevolence giving policies our church will follow in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Responsibilities of the Connections Committee

Our task for this meeting was to merge three former committees, Nurture & Membership, Outreach, and Visioning, into one new committee titled Connections and to define the responsibilities and who is actively carrying out those responsibilities.

Jay presented two documents to aid in this process. The first included the responsibilities of each of the three old committees as defined in our Church Handbook. The second listed the responsibilities of the three old committees under the new Connections Committee, eliminating all the duplicate responsibilities, and listing current active tasks under each responsibility and who was currently handling those tasks. These documents provided a starting point for the committee to work from.

The committee reviewed the document adding several more current tasks being done under the appropriate responsibility. At the conclusion of the meeting, we had a new Connections Committee Responsibilities document worthy of being included in the revised Church Handbook. The document is included below.

The most important revelation discovered during this process was that the Connections Committee is the pathway for supporting all the members of the entire congregation with any individual's spiritual outreach idea or thought they have for the church members, the local community, or the world community. We need to let them know their ideas and thoughts are important and that we will encourage and support them in bringing those ideas to fruition. If someone thinks we should have a booth at the Blueberry Festival or the Harvest Moon Festival, or we should have a brochure for our church at the Chamber of Commerce and community welcome center, or that we should have a church float in the 4th of July parade, they should know the Connections

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Committee is here to help make their ideas happen. The congregation has a team to support them with their ideas and thoughts to spread the love of Christ throughout our membership and community.

In addition to the ideas already mentioned above, the following ideas were also thrown out there: new resident visitation team; church member visitation team; first day of school kick-off breakfast; providing a church service at BWCC and/or Ely Carefree Living; an annual or more frequent Food Shelf initiative.

Jay agreed to make an announcement to the congregation outlining the new Connections Committee and that the Committee stands ready to do whatever it takes to encourage and support the congregation with their ideas and thoughts.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting Date & Time – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. It was agreed to change the next meeting to the first Thursday of the month instead of our normal second Thursday of the month to accommodate personal schedules.

Respectfully submitted: Jay Tomlinson – Chairperson

Attachment: Connections Committee Responsibilities document (See below)

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) **Look for Ministries to encourage Church Family - Involvement/Fellowship:**
 - **Pot Luck Dinners – Sunday following New Year’s Day, Palm Sunday, Sunday following the 4th of July & Sunday before Thanksgiving:** *Linda Hane coordinator*
 - **Develop and Promote Group Bible and Spiritual Studies:** *All*
 - **Church Monthly Calendar:** *Pastor Craig & Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship:** *Weekly Volunteers*

- 2) **Keep Membership Records up to date/current:**
 - **Birthday Club:** *Patty Rusco & Jeanne Tomlinson*
 - **Church Directory:** *Jeanne & Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Church Membership /Associate File:** *Jeanne Tomlinson*
 - **Membership Book:** *The Pastor of the Church – Pastor Craig*
 - **Google Email Groups (Church Friends & Sunday School):** *Pastor Craig & Jeanne*

- 3) **Look for Ministries to enhance Church growth:**
 - **Weekly Prayer Wall:** *Jay Tomlinson*
 - **Sending Appropriate Cards to our Prayer Wall Persons:**
 - **Keep our Church Advertisement in the Echo up to date:**

- 4) **Look for ways to enhance a spirit of welcome within the Church Family:**
 - **Parish News:** *Pastor Craig*
 - **Maintain & Update Welcome Packets in Pews:** *Head Usher – Dan Johnson*
 - **Ministries to Promote Spiritual Awareness within the Congregation:** *All*
 - **Church Greeter:** *Don Ingerson*

- 5) **Look for Ministries to promote our involvement in local community:**
 - **Apartment Christmas Trees:** *Church Youth & Parents*
 - **Consider Movies to be shown:** *All*
 - **Multi-Church Service and luncheon:**
 - **Sponsor, Support and Promote the *Jumpin’ Jehosaafats*:**
 - **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** *Paula Mattila & Gail Haney*

- 6) **Look for Ministries to promote our involvement in worldwide community:**
 - **Personal Dignity Kits:** *UMW*
 - **Church Website:** *Jay Tomlinson / Gary Ritner*
 - **Church Facebook page:**
 - **Video Camera Productions:** *Scott Meland*
 - **International Child Sponsorship:**

- 7) **Recommendations to Administrative Council for local & beyond ministries:**
 - **Church Benevolence Fund Distributions:** *In Ad Hoc Committee Now*

- 8) **Report to Administrative Council:** *Committee Chairperson – Jay Tomlinson*