

Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Rich Floyd, Jay Tomlinson, Gail Haney, Don Ingerson, Patty Rusco, Anna Urbas
Don Ingerson opened the meeting with a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Weekly Dinners Initiative

A quick review of how the weekly dinners initiative came to be on the agenda was given to bring Anna up to speed. Since this initiative has been on the agenda for the past six months without further progress, it was decided to table the initiative until someone takes the time to do the research needed to include it on a future agenda.

Journey With The Messiah – Patty reported that there continues to be interest in this inspirational initiative with anywhere between 7 and 12 attendees each week. There is one more meeting before the second 6 week session is concluded. Participants all voiced their desire to finish the initiative with the final 5 week session beginning the last week of September 2024. Patty indicated that the meetings include spirited fellowships along with tasty refreshments.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of the Responsibilities of the Connections Committee

- 1) The Prayer Chain initiative was added under #3 “Look for Ministries to enhance Church growth” with Linda Hane making phone notifications and Jeanne Tomlinson handling the email notifications.
- 2) Judy Bonderson agreed to resume the mailing of cards to Prayer Wall persons
- 3) The UMC was added as responsible for sponsorship of the *Jumpin’ Jehosafats*.
- 4) The UMC was added as responsible for the International Child Sponsorship.
- 5) We added the Annual Conference Love Offering under *Ministries to promote our involvement in worldwide communities*. We discussed the 2024 Love Offering and are recommending to the Ad Council that a Free Will Love Offering be taken on Sunday, April 28th and that the church make up any shortfall if the total collected is less than \$150.
- 6) Jay Tomlinson agreed to find out where the responsibility lies for the multi-church service and luncheon that is normally scheduled as an August event.

Volunteers for the Palm Sunday Pot-Luck set-up, servicing, and clean-up

- 1) Saturday set-up: Patty Rich and Gail volunteered to help Linda Hane. Linda to set the time.
- 2) Serving: Anna and Patty to help with Linda. There will likely be more volunteers from the congregation.
- 3) Help with clean-up: Rich, Don and Bryan Rusco who was volunteered by Patty.

New Ministry Initiatives

No new ministries were put forward by the committee.

Church Mission Statement recommendations to the Ad Council

Patty provided scripture readings from Matthew as direction for a mission statement. The committee decided on recommending two different mission statements for the Ad Council to consider:

- 1) The Ely UMC mission is to share the unconditional Love of Christ.
- 2) The Ely UMC mission is to represent the Love of God in the Church and the community.

March 7, 2024

Video Photography Initiative

Scott Meland has completed the research to find a replacement for our current video recording system with a remote control video camera system. He will present his recommendations at the next Ad Council meeting along with the cost estimates.

Next Meeting Date & Time

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. ***(Please note that this is subject to change as the Chairperson (Jay Tomlinson) will not be able to attend on that date.)***

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Jay Tomlinson – Chairperson

Attachment: Updated Connections Committee Responsibilities document (See below)

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES. *(As of March 21, 2024)*

- 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*
 - **Prayer Chain:** *Linda Hane responsible for phone notifications; Jeanne Tomlinson responsible for email notifications*
 - **Sending Appropriate Cards to our Prayer Wall Persons:** *Judy Bonderson*
 - **Keep our Church Advertisement in the Echo up to date:** *Jay Tomlinson*

- 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:** *The Clergy from the respective churches*
 - **Sponsor, Support and Promote the *Jumpin’ Jehosaafats*:** *The Ely UMC*
 - **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:** *Anna Urbas*
 - **Video Camera Productions:** *Scott Meland*
 - **International Child Sponsorship:** *The Ely UMC*
 - **Love Offering for Annual Conference:** *Free Will Offering from the Ely UMC*

- 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*