

## **Connections Committee Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Paula Mattila, Pam Ransom, Rich Floyd, Sue Peterson, Kathy Nelson, Linda Hane, and Jay Tomlinson

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Ely Food Shelf and VCC Food Shelf Initiatives**

Jay reported that both motions presented at the November Ad Council meeting, to provide Ely Food Shelf cash/check donation baskets at our scheduled Pot-Lucks and to hold quarterly VCC Food Shelf drives, were approved. Marg Forsberg at the Ad Council meeting said she would contact Kate Cowley at the VCC to coordinate times for the food drives. Kathy Nelson also said she would contact Kate regarding the kinds of things needed. Kathy mentioned that many of the students are between 18-25 years of age and from out-of-state and donations of winter clothing to the VCC "Cloths Closet" would also be welcomed.

Linda Hane agreed to announce the January 5<sup>th</sup> Pot-Luck in church on the last 2 Sundays of December and include the new initiative of the Ely Food Shelf donations baskets for cash and checks.

### **Review of Connections Responsibilities**

#### **Connections Sunday**

We agreed to offer the worship committee to take on the pulpit position at one of the last two Sundays of January to provide feedback from the shared Round-Robin Dinner Groups and announce the next phase of the initiative from March through May, revisit the Prayer Shawl and Quilt Ministries presenting examples of each and asking partitioners for suggestions as to who might benefit from receiving one, and present the list of outreach programs our committee works on and suggesting congregation members could become adjunct committee members to assist in the outreach programs.

Kathy agreed to coordinate the shared Round Robin Dinner Groups feedback and announce the next phase of the initiative. She said she would revise the sign-up cards to better capture the information needed for people in groups to be able to contact each other. She also suggested we rename to initiative as many groups met for lunch or breakfast and outside of the homes. She suggested that sign-ups would end after the first two full weeks of March.

Paula agreed to speak to the Prayer Shawl and Quit Ministries and provide examples.

Jay agreed to cover the outreach programs and suggest the need for adjunct committee members to assist with outreach programs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Worship Leader Outline:**

It was suggested that the Connection Committee could provide an outline for the Worship Leader to follow to encourage more members of the congregation to volunteer as Worship Leaders. Jay agreed to speak with Dan Johnson, Worship Committee Chair for 2025, to see if this would be something that would be helpful.

The only other new business was the suggestion that next year we consider coordinating a group to go Christmas caroling.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date & Time – Thursday, January 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM**