

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ah yes, having just celebrated yet another birthday and having hit what is considered my full retirement age I feel fairly confident that I am **NOW** looking at the “back side” of the “hill”!

So, on the “back side” of the “hill” there is a nice “view”! So, while looking at this nice “view” the first observation I might make is that it appears to be “all downhill”!

However, as many of my brothers and sisters already know it is anything but “all downhill”! Indeed, one might say “all downhill”, so he “thinks”!

Life is “chuck full” of **TRANSITIONS**! Just look at the growing up process, baby, infant, toddler, little child, big child, preteen, teenager, young adult, adult, middle age, senior--- “back side” of the “hill” and finally, “all downhill” **NOT**, because of all the **TRANSITIONS** that will continue!

Life is “chuck full” of **TRANSITIONS**! Just look at the educational process, Kindergarten, Elementary School, Junior High School, High School, Work, College, and for good measure some “hard knocks”!

So, there it is the “back side” of the “hill”, with a nice “view”, which looks to be “all downhill”; indeed, “all downhill” so he “thinks”! Actually, I have already discovered there are more **TRANSITIONS** than you can “shake a stick at” on the “back side” of the “hill” and some of them seem steeped in land mines!

THANKS be to **GOD!!!** Yes, the “back side of the “hill” has numerous challenging **TRANSITIONS**!

THANKS be to **GOD!!!** In the midst of all the many challenging **TRANSITIONS** on the “back side” of the “hill” with its’ beautiful “view” that looks like it is “all downhill” but is **NOT** there is an **AMAZING** and very **WONDERFUL CONSTANT!!!**

The **CONSTANT** that holds strong during the transitions in the growing process, the **CONSTANT** that holds strong during the transitions of the educational process, including the “hard knocks”, the **CONSTANT** that holds strong during the transitions on the “back side” of the “hill” with it beautiful “view” which appears to be “all downhill” but is **NOT** is the **AWESOME LOVE GOD** has for us!!!

Yes, life is “chuck full” of **TRANSITIONS** but it does not matter what we face in life and it does not matter when we face it, **GOD’S** gracious and precious **LOVE** can keep us moving forward with hope and certainty that all will be well!!!

THANKS be to **GOD!!!** **LOVE, GOD’S LOVE** for each of us as children in the Family of God no matter which life **TRANSITIONS** we may be facing in our lives empowers a spirit of **HOPE!!!** Indeed, our **HOPE** is grounded in the wonder of **LOVE, GOD’S LOVE** for us!!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana

P.S. I would like to **THANK EVERYONE** within our Church Family who helped me in the celebration of my 66th birthday; thank you for your graciousness, your kindnesses, and your sharing!!! I feel like I have been richly **BLESSED** by **GOD** through **YOU!!!** Yes, **HEARTWARMING!!!**

**All-Church Potluck
Sunday May 6, 2018
11:18 A.M.**

Yes, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend time in worship together and then spend some valuable and precious moments in fellowship together with a meal. Yes, this is a wonderful opportunity to share in God's Meal at the Communion Table as we worship and then spend time as brothers and sisters around the Sunday Dinner Table as we share a variety of DELICIOUS (opinion gained from other such occasions) dishes shared by our Church Family!!!

**Come one, come all!!!
Welcome, welcome, welcome!**

**Women's Friendship Dinner
Monday, May 14, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

Calling all gals!! Join us on May 14, in the church Fellowship Hall for our annual Women's Friendship Dinner. We'll gather at 5:30 pm; dinner will be served at 6 pm. Northland Market will be catering the meal and UMW will once again cover some of the cost so it will still be only \$10 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church starting April 29. Please sign up and turn your payment in to Lucy Diesslin or Jeanne Tomlinson by Sunday, May 13. Make any checks payable to **UMW**. We hope to see you all there!

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***Pastor Dana Appreciation Celebration
Sunday, May 20, 2018
Open House 2-4 P.M.***

Time to celebrate the 31+ years that Pastor Dana has been serving with the Ely United Methodist Church. Time to express our deep appreciation for all that he has done for us and for spreading the message of God's love. Time to wish him well for his new ventures as he moves down to the cities and starts his official retirement from regular ministerial (and secretarial, custodial, etc.) duties. Come anytime between 2:00 and 4:00 P.M., spend some time with Pastor Dana, enjoy the fellowship & treats, and check out some photo records of Pastor Dana's time in Ely.*

***NOTE:** We could use a lot more pictures! Please check through your albums and pictures for any of Dana taken since 1987. Send to J Tomlinson, PO Box 387, Ely, MN 55731 or email to tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com.

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BIBLE STUDY:

May 2018
2:00 P.M. Thursday

- Thursday May 3 - Acts 17, 18 & 19
- Thursday May 10 - Acts 20, 21 & 22
- Thursday May 17 - Acts 23, 24 & 25
- Thursday May 24 - Acts 26, 27 & 28

Love Offering Sunday, May 27, 2018

One of the most meaningful ways we express our love of God and neighbors is through our annual Love Offering for Missions which is taken at Annual Conference. This year the Love Offering will support the following three projects.

1. **Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Trips (65%):**
This will buy construction supplies for the participants.
2. **Park Avenue UMC Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program (20%):** A six-week summer day camp experience for Children in South Minneapolis.
3. **NUMAS Haus (15%):** Provides emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and their children in New Ulm and surrounding Brown Co.

I invite each one to begin praying and preparing to participate in this mission offering.

By Lucy Diesslin, Ely UMC Lay Representative

Service Opportunities

Those who have been attending Worship these past few Sundays may have noticed some colorful “inserts” in the bulletin that identify a specific “service opportunity”. While there is always a need for many people to step forward and serve in the church, that need is even greater during our “pastor-less” time between June 10 and July 28. We know many of you want to help but might not know how to go about it. So here’s your chance. There will be a different

insert every week. Check them out and if you are interested in learning more, please complete one of the inserts and put it in the offering plate. You’ll be contacted with more details within a week or so.

For those who have been unable to make it to worship every week, here’s what’s been in the bulletins so far:

- #1 April 15: Ushering on one Sunday (or more)
- #2 April 22: Providing/serving refreshments on one Sunday (or more)
- #3 April 29: Helping keep our church open each day during the week for a few hours.

Please call the church if you are interested in learning more about any of these.

PASTY REPORT:

For October 2017 through April 2018

Pasties Made- 4,657
Sales- \$27,994
Cost- \$8,127.75
Net Income- \$19,866.25
Amount to General Fund- \$11,919.75

Thank You Pasty Workers!!

Did you check out the Pasty Report?!! We made and sold over 4,600 pasties that added almost \$20,000 to various church accounts (General Fund, Building Fund and UMW). The contribution to the General Fund is over 10% of the church budget and is one of many reasons our church manages to stay “in the black”. What an amazing job done by over 40 workers listed below throughout this “pasty season” to support our church. It would take more space than this newsletter to detail what each of the following people have done to make this special event happen throughout the year – so we’ll just list the names. (If we missed anyone, please let us know. Since we don’t ever take “roll call”, this list is from notes – and from memory – and we all know how well that works.) Well done, good and faithful servants!

Bonnie Berglund	Bruce Olson
Glen Biebl	Mark & Marge Olson
Lucy & Butch Diesslin	Keith & Jake Rue
Rich & Toni Floyd	Norm & Donna Rusco
Gail Haney	Liddy & Nick Sheppard
Dan & Bev Johnson	Amy & Terry Soderberg
Carol Laine	Cathy Sorjanen
Bob & LaVerne Lindholm	Janice & Lee Tessier
Carol Linneman	Brad Thompson
Tootsie Loe	Dana Thompson
Don & Marge Markwardt	Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson
Nancy Markwardt	Pam Turnbull
Heather & Marshall Monthei	Frank Udovich
Jean Nelson	Beth Watson
Jerry Niskala	Linda Williams
Bob & Pat Olson	

The **Guild/UMW** Wednesday March 28, 2018 1-3 pm

The Guild/UMW met at the Church with 6 people in attendance. After the group helped with preparing the *FISH* mailing, Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson opened the meeting at 1:13 pm with a unison reading of the *UMW Purpose* and prayer by Pastor Dana.

The minutes from our February 28, 2018 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Linda Hane; second by Donna Rusco.

There was no Treasurer’s Report.

Old Business

- **Refrigerator Repair:** Pastor Dana reported that the refrigerator repair came to about \$560. He has not been able to connect with Sharon yet to give her the bill.
- **Lenten Suppers Pasties:** Jeanne reported we made 130 pasties and served 61 pasty dinners. One pasty was used for seconds and 68 were sold at \$3 each. \$200 was turned over to the church, the balance was deposited in the UMW account. Since we had difficulty selling the 68, the plan for next year is to make only 96.
- **UMW Friendship Dinner:** Jeanne had discussed the possible date of this event with other UMW members who would not be at this meeting and it was suggested that Tuesday, May 15 would be a good date. There were no other suggested dates so we set that for the date of the event. Jeanne will talk to Northland about catering this event. We can probably decide on menu items at our April 25 meeting. Linda Hane indicated she would not be able to attend on that date but would still provide the

punch. (Editor note: Date for this event was later changed to May 14)

- **Health Kits:** Jeanne will talk with Lucy about this.
- **Amici's Easter Egg Hunt:** The date for this event had been changed to Saturday, March 31. Linda helped replace all the posters in town with the new date and turned over the items and money that had been collected at our church.
- **Fire Victims:** Pastor Dana reported that a total of \$767 had been collected for the two families.

New Business

- **Piano Tuning:** Jeanne reported that the piano tuner finally came and tuned both pianos. The bill came to \$230 - \$95 for the upstairs piano and \$135 for the downstairs one. Tootsie moved that UMW cover the entire bill, second by Janice Tessier. Motion approved.
- **Dicer Machine & Scales:** Jeanne reported that the dicer machine we use for dicing the onions and potatoes for pasties probably needs to be replaced. This machine is estimated to be 35 years old. Dana reported that the 6 scales we use for weighing the pasty dough and the pasty filling are also having regular problems and recommended we buy 3 new ones. It was agreed we need to research getting these and proceed with purchasing them, if possible, before the April 16-17 pasties. Jeanne offered to look into it.
- **June Worship Service:** Linda reported that she had contacted Bonnie Berglund who will call a UMW meeting about the UMW taking on the responsibility for taking charge of a worship service during the time between Pastor Dana's departure and Pastor Craig's start. The July dates are currently scheduled to be handled by Pastor Dana, Marshall Monthei and the Men's Group. Linda is still waiting to hear back from Anna Urbas who is coordinating with the other college students to see if

they will want to take care of a worship service on June 17 or 24. The UMW will do whichever one is left.

- **The Comment:** Jeanne distributed copies of the NorthStar District newsletter, the *Comment* and noted that the NorthStar Spring Gathering will be on April 28 in Motley.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:50 pm. Devotional study followed along with refreshments provided by Janice Tessier.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES April 18, 2018

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees (7): Bonnie Berglund, Linda Hane, Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

Opening: Jay Tomlinson provided the "Opening Thought" from *I Am a Church Member*, reading a section that discussed Paul's various comments in I Corinthians about "the body having many parts with each being important", followed by prayer.

Minutes: The March 21, 2018 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the April 2018 *FISH*. Motion to approve by Butch Diesslin, second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented the March 2018 treasurer's report. Jeanne Tomlinson pointed out that the \$230 paid for the piano tuning will be covered by the

UMW. Receipts & disbursements were \$9,355.54 & \$9,765.58, respectively. End of month balances: Building Fund \$17,805.32; Memorial Fund \$10,694.66; Parish Health Ministries \$400, R3 Project 2018 \$46, available General Fund \$4,867.76. Motion to approve by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorial Fund: Jay Tomlinson relayed information from Pastor Dana that they had approved spending up to \$500 for a new copier and up to \$150 for an additional black ink cartridge. They were also going to receive a donation from Norm & Donna Rusco to cover the cost of a new vegetable processor which is being purchased from Sullivan's for about \$900. (The current dicer/shredder machine in use for pasties is 35 years old and has been having problems. It was felt that we should have a back-up replacement available.)

Pastor-Parish Relations: Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had met on April 11. Sheri Rue had reported at the meeting that Kathy Brandau, Erin Moravitz & Sheila Shultz are willing to take charge of the May 20th "Dana Appreciation Celebration". The committee has started a weekly "Service Opportunity" insert in the Sunday bulletin to allow people to indicate their willingness to help. Each insert will focus on a different need. There is a need to work with all the main committees of the church to develop a complete list of the work that will need to be covered after Pastor Dana leaves. Jeanne will contact the committee chairs to set up a meeting.

Worship: Linda Hane reported that our June 17 – July 22 Sunday worship services are all covered. She has also arranged for a number of people to handle a lot of the "Kid's Sermon" time during those services.

Visioning: Jay reported that the committee is handling name tags and that Marshall Monthei is making a special rack for

holding them. They will also line up help for the ice cream social to be held on July 29 as a welcome to Pastor Craig.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Copier Replacement:** Jay Tomlinson and Mark Olson researched and purchased a Canon copier on-line along with 2 extra black ink cartridges for \$497.97. The copier has arrived but has not been hooked up yet.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Distribution of Lenten Supper Funds:** Jay Tomlinson reported that 130 pasties were made for the March 22 Lenten supper. \$183 had been received for dinners and an additional \$210 for the sale of the remaining pasties. Since the costs were less than \$190, \$200 of the income was deposited in the General Fund and \$193 went to the UMW. We discussed which organizations we would select for this year's distribution. Jeanne moved we do \$100 each to Northwoods Partners and Young Life. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.
2. **Request to reside at the Parsonage:** Jay relayed a request from Dana to be able to stay in the parsonage on the times he is returning to the area between June 11 and July 22. There is still a bed in the basement that he can use. Linda Hane moved that we allow this. Second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion passed. .
3. **Newsletter *The Fish*:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that she and Jay have taken over production of the monthly newsletter. Normally there is only one "summer" issue that covers June/July/August but in view of the transition time and the importance of keeping our membership informed about events and decisions through this time, it

is felt that we should continue with a monthly issue through the summer. Since this would involve additional costs of about \$200 for the printing and stamps of the two additional issues, Jeanne requested that the Ad Council approve this action. Lucy Diesslin so moved. Second by Linda Hane. Motion passed.

4. **Love Offering:** Lucy Diesslin announced that the Love Offering will be taken on May 27. She will write a short article about it for the May *Fish*.
5. **Parsonage Phone/Internet Service:** Pastor Dana had relayed some requests from Pastor Craig involving the parsonage cable & phone set up. Currently there is cable TV service and a land line at the parsonage. Pastor Craig would like internet but no TV and would like to be able to forward the church phone to his cell phone when he is not at the church. We discussed the possibility of just switching the cable from TV to internet and keeping the land line but enable it and the church phone for call forwarding. It was felt we need more information before making any decisions. Mark will check with Midco and Frontier on the costs for internet and call forwarding. Jeanne & Jay will discuss the possible choices with Pastor Craig when he's in town on April 23.
6. **AAUW Pay Equity:** The church had received a mailing from a local branch of the AAUW that is doing a special drive to get a commitment from Ely businesses that they support equal pay. It was moved to support this and sign & return the requested document. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.
7. **Children's International:** Mark Olson reported receiving a letter indicating the monthly support cost will increase by \$5 to handle rising expenses unless we indicate that we are not willing to accept the increase.

This would change our annual commitment from \$336 to \$396. It was moved to accept this increase. Motion by Lucy Diesslin; second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion passed.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. **April Pasties Report** – Pasties made: 904 for sale and 28 unbaked ones for pasty workers. Sales \$5,440; Cost: \$1,452.59; Net Income: \$3,987.41.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary