Ministries Council

**April 12, 2021 Minutes**

*Collegiate United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation is an inclusive community that invites all people to experience God’s unconditional love, grow in faith, and serve others.*

**Attendees:** Brenda Allen, Jane Esterly-Rettig, Mary Lynn Elver, Jane Jacobson, Mike King, Lori Schippers, Kaci Mahannah, MaeAnn Unser, Mary Bellon, Jen Hibben, Lauren Loonsfoot and Lindsay Drake.

**Devotion** led by Mary Lynn Elver

**Check In**-What is a favorite or meaningful song for you?

**Strategic Planning Update-**Jane Jacobson reported that Church Council is solidifying a date for bringing in outside consultant Kay Kotan. A churchwide survey will be distributed during the latter half of June to provide input for the planning. Concrete goals will then be developed during a strategic planning retreat. Following that, Ministry Council and clusters will develop strategies for accomplishing those goals which are relevant to their areas. Jane also mentioned that dollar amounts needed to achieve approved goals will become part of the budgeting process.

**Purpose Statement-**A small group met in March to write a first draft of the Ministry Council Purpose Statement. Members attending the April meeting reviewed and edited the statement. The Purpose Statement should be reviewed each year as a reminder of what the Ministry Council is working towards. The statement is a document that can be edited as goals evolve or new goals need to be added.

**Re-Opening Plans-**Mary Bellon said that it may not yet be possible to announce an aspirational opening date. There will be an outdoor service on May 23 to celebrate Pentecost with participation by different church ministry areas. The Reboot Team (Lauren Loonsfoot, Lindsay Drake, Mary Bellon, Kaci Mahannah, Cathy Cooney) is determining what needs to be in place for the transition to in-person worship, eg welcoming, ushering, hospitality. Mike King is leading a worship re-boot team, Pheonix group, to discuss what the worship experience will be like as part of that re-boot as well. Cultivation of the digital community should also continue so as not to lose that audience.

**Ministries Updates from Cluster-**

* Sending to Serve: Almost $4,000 was raised through the Lenten Offering for Bridge Home and Rosedale Shelter. Summer programming will focus on mental health.
* Reaching and Receiving:Cluster is re-envisioning what hospitality and welcoming will look like with the return to in-person worship.
* Education: The Anti-Racism Book Group recently completed a study and will begin a summer book study starting on June 30. Another book study on reclaiming progressive Christianity will also begin in June. Ash Wednesday bags with ashes, devotionals and information on Lenten small groups and Holy Week were distributed to church members. The cluster is planning for virtual and in person summer and fall options. Youth groups have been meeting in person since February, either in the Fireside Room or outside. Children’s Sunday School will continue on Zoom through May. Outside Sunday School will begin in June. There may be a shortened version of VBS held at the end of July
* Congregational Care: Cluster is providing in- person communion, continuing to send cards and coordinating meal train. The Hope Blanket group is now meeting in person and has been making blankets for high school and college grads.
* Worship: 75 people attended the in-person Easter sunrise service. It is anticipated that numbers of Morning Watch worshippers will grow as the weather warms up. Worship team is in need of volunteer help in the area of audio visual.The cluster is envisioning a transportation ministry as in-person worship resumes.

**Council expressed a heartfelt good-bye and appreciation** to Jen for her many accomplishments and ministry at CW.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021

**Devotion:** Mary Lynn Elver