

HTUMC Core Team Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm, January 16, 2023

Present: Chad, Collan, Don, Carol, Lynnette

Opened in prayer.

Staff Parish Relations Team report: (Don)

SPRT has approved a **pastoral renewal leave** for Chad from April 17-June 25 (10 weeks). This is his first long term leave in 31 years. The annual conference (and Book of Discipline) encourages this practice for study and renewal and has approved a grant to pay for a substitute pastor who will be Melanie Homan, a former full-time pastor at Lake Harriet UMC, who has been on family leave to finish a degree in Occupational Therapy. She has done two long-term interim pastor stints in recent years. (Wyoming UMC in Minnesota and White Bear Lake UMC). She will be in-office at Holy Trinity on Wednesdays and cover Sunday worship (except for Memorial Day) and available to confer as needed, including meetings if necessary. Pastor Homan's salary, some of the resources needed for Pastor Chad, and pay for additional hours of staff time needed during this leave are covered by a Lilly grant to the Minnesota Annual Conference.

An opportunity through the Annual Conference to apply for funds to do new ministry: Digital Campus Programming and Community Engagement. In 2022 HT applied for \$20K to grow our digital offerings to increase ministry online across age groups to grow connection and invite new participants. We did not receive the grant but were offered the Digital Campus training and \$2,000 to be matched to our own \$1000 to begin our own work at expanding the ministry online. Don will request at the Charge Conference for \$20,000 to be converted from the Building Fund to be used for this purpose over the next two years. Specific line items: paying staff hours for Digital Campus Coordination, researching, and implementing best practices and technology for instant communication with online attendees. The Core Team was unanimous in endorsing this request going to the Charge Conference. If this expands our connection with an online audience, it could bring those people in our doors or possibly increase giving online.

Finance: As of December 28, 2022, HT had received pledges in the amount 165,666 from 57 giving units. This compares to 2022 pledges of \$228,260 from 78 units. This is \$62,500 shy of last year with 21 fewer units. Of the 21 units that pledged in 2022 but haven't yet in 2023 five or six are believed to no longer be attending. Another six of those units who have not pledged this year did not give over 10% of last year's pledge. The remaining nine or ten who have not pledged are considered connected, active and participating. They may pledge later or simply give without pledging. We need a strategy 1) for communicating with those who have pledged in the past but have not yet pledged in 2023: Chad will reach out to these households personally to connect and learn more about their situation, doing it as a ministry of care to the

people involved. When we are a fuller group the Core Team needs to continue to 2) develop a plan for how we cope with a reduced budget if the \$60K shortfall is the actual amount.

2022 mission giving amounted to \$21,254 plus many material goods that were donated, including garden food, gloves and coats, UMCOR supplies, school supplies, FMSC hours and meals packed, etc. Easter and April giving combined was \$5,536, and Christmas/December giving was \$2,764.

Upcoming Dates to be aware of:

Confirmation Sunday is **February 19**, when we will also be receiving new members.

The steering committee for the Reconciling Ministry question will be holding one more event tentatively scheduled for **February 12** following worship when guests from churches who have chosen to become Reconciling Ministry congregations will talk about the impact that decision has had on their churches and their experiences resulting from that. The vote to adopt (or not) the language of the Reconciling Congregation Statement of Belief is scheduled to take place after worship on **March 5**, in person, with members only being able to vote.

The next Core Team meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm.