

Ministries Council Minutes

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

In Attendance: Darren, Cory, Carolyn, Lydia, Ronnie, Alan, Eric, Amy, Kelley, Jeanie, Kathy, Laura

1. Welcome thoughts:

Alan opened the meeting by telling us to shut up... 😊

Stories help to carry meaning – Today has a history story:

Inspiration on the 50th anniversary of Dr King's death

- Dr. King graduated from a Methodist seminary at Boston University (fellow alumni are Pastors Bob Schilling, Phil Lewis, and ?)
- was joined many Methodist Pastors in marches for justice.
- Dr. King led civil rights thinking with sermons using Christian theology and imagery.

His last sermon on April 3, 1968 "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live - a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. *Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.*"

What's your story? How have you encountered Jesus in your ministry area or in other ways in the last several weeks - meeting people at their point of need? Everyone is invited to share.

Alan went to the event at Kennedy-King Park, it was very cold.

Alan remembered Middle school trip to Boston and Eric mentioned the trip to Memphis.

All pondered connections to King and his movement.

Alan pointed out that most of the Civil Rights movement components were sermons and religiously connected.

Alan asked, "What's your story? How have you encountered Jesus in your ministry area or in other ways in the last several weeks - meeting people at their point of need?"

Kelley said she has thanked the Visual Arts team in how they told The Story of Holy Week at NUMC. All praise, no criticism.

Ronnie shared the Lenten Communion Visits they have been doing during Lent. Said it was surprisingly powerful.

Amy shared the story of the Congolese story and the outreach and hospitality of the congregation to them. She says they are still coming back! Lydia was touched by another little girl R. who was so sweet and welcoming. It was very moving for her.

Lydia also shared the power of the Community Good Friday Service.

Cory said the Lenten Community Service was powerful for him as well, when the people expressed joy in not being forgotten.

Kelley said the Maundy Thursday service was a powerful experience. Darren said he didn't expect how long it would take, wants to keep it one table but will streamline service to make more time to get it done. Kelley liked the different voices from different parts of the room. Amy said she noticed how the kids (Bonner daughters) were paying attention.

Darren said that having lay outreach to those who have become estranged from the church has been a powerful and effective way to let people know they are missed.

Darren Report -

Worship - would love to have church leadership (MC members) be liturgist. Passed a sign-up sheet.

Land Development- we did NOT get the tax credit, needed 106, got 101. So close. We will reapply in July to a new round of applicants, will not hear till near end of year. Timeline has been extended another 6-9 months. Nothing visible between now and Thanksgiving.

Minister of Visitation - since last Ministries Council, may hire someone to share with East 10th Street. Person there is part time and she might be able to fill that role for us. Nothing will happen between now and early summer but Darren is talking to BOD about it. Would be around 25 hours a week. Would attend worship once a month. Darren has talked extensively to Pat Thornton about the feasibility of this and she said it is NOT a deal breaker but would require some work on the logistics. Would also include partnership work between the 2 congregations. Very tangible way to be 'connectional'. Could include mission opportunities over there. Would form Church Covenant relationship or Sister-Church relationship but that would be secondary. Our need for this position is strong so that would be more immediate and the relationship piece would follow.

Kelley shared that Dallas and Cal Owens called her and she invited them to come back to NUMC for Easter and then went to lunch with them. She said they reported that in 11 different church visits there was no Welcoming and no Invitation to plug-in.

Next week Pastoral staff will be doing some fall planning. MC will return to this in May.

Communications - Hired Linda Mansfield. Will wait on the audit process till she has settled in. When there are big social events, please help with the social media push.

Signage - Front sign can be made electronic.

Hospitality Pulse – discussed a new way of reaching the congregation, one question at a time, called the “Congregational Pulse”. The first use of it will probably be the HEM committee trying it by asking for one Welcoming idea. This will probably happen in June. It is believed that if the outcome of this is favorable, it could be used by other groups in the future. The process is simple. The congregation gets quarter sheets of paper and are asked ONE question and ONE question only and they write their answer during the service and drop it in the basket. Other groups like JAT could use it in the future to find out one social justice topic the congregation is concerned about.

Ronnie Report -

North Music Academy - All grant requirement submitted

Project Transformation - Passed out all church responsibilities. Passed out sheets from previous meeting. Read "**Ways your Lay Leadership Can Help.**"

Family Fun Nights - June 26 and July 28 are once place where the congregation plugs in. Reviewed registration and encouraged participation in finding people to register. We might also give a financial contribution to supplement it.

Promoted the breakfast fundraiser

Alan asked if we could promote both programs at one time, PT and MLK? Could promote both...Ronnie is meeting with Allison at MLK center.

Kelley said this resembles a program in her township where people who need service hours for their business fill in, so we could draw from this pool as well. Eli Lilly and Rolls Royce for example has a need to get service Hours. Carolyn says United Way has a similar program.

Reports -

Worship and Arts - everything is running really well. Thanks to Lela.

Mission and Outreach - Market is going well, Megan is new Market Manager, Angie Kattmann is North Church Market chair. Ronnie is working on getting permission to close 39th street for the market days. Can only get permit 30 days out. Some vendors have turned in their forms. Need more produce vendors.

UMW - Sunday Supper on April 29th, Feed youth on June 6th, Attending quadrennial meeting of UMW.

Green Team - Doing Youth Meal, doing tables in April (8,15,22), Plant Exchange is May 6th.

JAT - Amnesty readings in April

Children's Council - Spring Fling was great. Cookies and Canvas coming up. Amy is starting a new series with Elevation called "Made to Worship". In alternative worship they will be looking at attitudes. Had 12 kids and 8 adults for children's service day.

Youth Council - Youth Sunday is May 6th, "Anatomy of a Believer". Cory accepts suggestions. Cory has already arranged tickets for opening weekend of Avengers: Infinity War. Youth did service work around the church. Summer programming is being planned, some dates are finalized, some are still pending.

No one expressed a burning need to continue the volunteer discussion. We will push that to future weeks. Alan talked briefly about the BOD meeting, the renovation of the Bridal areas, and the North Neighborhood Lofts. He suggested we consider how we speak about the LandDev Project as we move forward so we capture the idea of what the project really is.