

Pastoral Care Board
May 20, 2021
Minutes

Present: Mother. Lisa, Deacon Pam Hayes, Sharon Sands, Michele Barkalow, Susan Chase, Janet Fox

- **Opening Prayer**

Pam opened the meeting with a prayer.

- **Ministry Reports**

Mother Lisa called this meeting to enable her to understand more about the ministries overseen by this board, and to be briefed on how they have coped with the pandemic year.

Daughters of the King. Sharon said that Daughters of the King is an international organization that includes women from Anglican, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic denominations as well as Episcopalians. The local Sara Smith chapter normally meets on the third Saturday of each month, under the leadership of Jane Mitchell and Priscilla Wheeler. Prayer and service are the mission of this group. They have had two zoom and two in-person meetings since the COVID restrictions have been in place. Members undertake a Rule of Life incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. The group currently has 22 members.

Health Equipment Library. Michele explained that she receives and keeps track of and delivers and demonstrates the use of all kinds of medical equipment. Because there are close to 50 items, they are usually stored with the person who has needed them until the next person has a need. Michele said that since there are many new members of St. Philip's who don't know about this resource, announcements should be placed in the e-news and perhaps the Sunday bulletin.

Bereavement. Janet said that the grief support group was started by Fr. Bill Eberle about four years ago. For the past few years a robust 10-week program called Walking through Grief has been used, with Fr. Bill facilitating, and others including Marisa Cowgill and Janet recently assisting. The last couple of sessions of the course have been conducted over Zoom, and have been especially valuable to participants, many of whom have been alone in their grief during the pandemic quarantine. The most recent groups have included people in other states. The next session will begin in September, and will again be co-sponsored with Trinity Methodist Church, and will likely be held in person at that church.

Stephen Ministry. Susan said that Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one Christian caregiving. Before they are commissioned the ministers receive 50 hours of training. After training they meet as a group twice a month for peer supervision and continuing education. Since Susan and her husband Mike, Bill Wheeler and Pam have

become leaders, they have partnered with First Presbyterian Church in training. Like the grief support program, Stephen Ministers care for parishioners as well as people in the larger community. Their service to an individual may last from as little as a few weeks to as long as a few years. Currently there are 14 active Stephen Ministers at St. Philip's, and two individuals receiving care. The group last met in March 2020, and looks forward to re-starting in person.

- **New Business**

Community of Hope International.

Mother Lisa and Pam explained this ministry, which St. Phillip's was set to launch immediately before the Covid lockdown. COHI, as it is called, is based on Benedictine spirituality and has been described as a school for God's service. Forty-two hours of training equip individuals to minister to people at home, in hospitals and nursing homes, in prisons and retirement centers, and to adapt care to women, youth and children as well as homeless people. The emphasis is more on one-time visits, and on the spiritual growth of the individual making the visit. The individuals are essentially lay chaplains. They meet regularly to pray, read, support each other, and enjoy a meal together. The kick-off – when the COHI program is announced and explained to the congregation – will be July 11, which is Benedict's saint day. Train the Trainer sessions will begin in August.

Mission and Vision.

The vision statement of St. Philip's is: We strive to love God and to love others in all we do. Each board will come up with its own mission statement, or why we do what we do, and each ministry will come up with a description of how it carries out the mission. For the next meeting, Mother Lisa asked that we develop some suggestions for the Pastoral Care mission statement.

- **Next meeting:** Thursday, June 17, 3 p.m.
- **Closing.**

Mother Lisa closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fox
Communicator

