

**CHURCH CONFERENCE
HAMLINE CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST
MAY 8, 2016**

District Superintendent Dan Johnson convened a Church Conference of Hamline Church, United Methodist (HCUM) at 10:42 am on May 8, 2016-- immediately at the conclusion of the morning worship service. The only agenda item was a motion from the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) committee to adopt a recommendation to move forward with implementation of Five Strategic Recommendations from the HCI Consultant Team Report. The Conference has set a threshold of 70% for approval of HCI Strategic Recommendations. The recommendations were the end result of a 10 month long process of learning, surveys, self-study, appointment of a Healthy Church Initiative Leadership Team, designation of Rev. Cindy Gregorson as lead consultant, appointment of a consultation team, interviews, dialogue with key committees and the Church Council, a consultation weekend, discernment and prayer, Town Hall Forums, and issuance of a Consultation Team Report. The report contained 5 Concerns, 5 Strengths, and 5 Strategic Recommendations.

D.S. Johnson said that the present Church Conference was a time for decisions, rather than discussion—as there had been other forums available for discussion. He did make a call for any questions from the assembled congregants. As there were no questions, he called for the vote on adopting the Healthy Church Initiative Committee recommendation to move forward with implementation of the Five Strategic Recommendations; being a motion from a committee, a seconding from the floor was not necessary. The Five Strategic Recommendations are:

1. *Claim a Larger Vision to be a Sanctuary Church for the City.*
2. *Dare to be a Destination Church: Get Simple and Excellent.*
3. *Feed the Soul.*
4. *Strengthen the Body.*
5. *Make a Path to the Church and a Clear Pathway into the Community.*

The vote was taken by paper ballots. All HCUM members present could submit a ballot, which had options of Yes, No, and Abstain. He explained that an abstention would not count in the total casting of Yes or No votes, but did offer the opportunity to participate. The ballots were distributed early, as contained within the worship bulletin. Marked ballots were picked up by ushers and counted by a team of Church Council members: Chair Ray Faust, Steve Bloom, Mindy Greiling, and Secretary Wayne Wolsey. The results, certified by Wayne Wolsey, and announced by D.S. Johnson were: 117 Yes, 6 No, and one unmarked ballot. The 117 Yes ballots out of 123 valid ballots corresponded to 95.1% Yes. Since the 95.1% Yes exceeded the 70% necessary for approval for this particular vote, the Healthy Church Initiative was deemed passed.

Pastor Mariah Tollgaard was asked to share her thoughts on the Vision of the HCI Strategic Recommendations; she stated that Hamline Church, United Methodist would move toward becoming a Sanctuary for the City, which would include Hamline University and the City of St. Paul within that Vision. All of the recommendations will be considered over the next 15 months.

Following a closing prayer given by Pastor Tollgaard, the Conference concluded at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne C. Wolsey, Secretary of Church Council