



HAMLIN CHURCH NEWS
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2015

*the power
of gratitude*



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

The Power of Gratitude

Stewardship 2015

November marks the beginning of our 2015 Stewardship Campaign, and you will be receiving stewardship materials in the mail next week. This is a time for reflection, to appreciate the blessings we enjoy and to orient our hearts toward gratitude. Please take a moment to think about Hamline Church's mission and ministry in the world and our role in supporting this community, not only with our time and our talents but also with our gifts. And please mark your calendars and bring your commitment cards to our Thanksgiving Worship Celebration & Potluck on Sunday, November 22.

Advent & Christmas

A Simple Christmas 2015

Advent Worship

Nov 29, Dec 6, Dec 13, and Dec 20

Children's Pageant

Dec 13

Hamline Choir Christmas Cantata

Dec 20

Christmas Worship

Dec 24: 5 pm and 10 pm

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LETTER FROM PASTOR MARIAH

Dear Hamline Church,

"Why do we give money to the church?" a child asks her mother, who is filling Sunday's offering envelope. How will the mother answer her daughter's question? How do we answer this question for our children? How does the preacher answer this question for us? Do we say that we give to help pay the church's bills? Do we say that we give because of all the good things the church does—teaching children, standing for the best things in the community, fostering happiness and human welfare, providing help and friendship, and caring for people in need? How about answering by reciting a Bible verse or telling a Bible story? What verse would we choose? What story would we tell?

This is how Craig Satterlee begins his Alban Institute article entitled "Why Do We Give?" which I found myself called to as I prepare for November, a.k.a. stewardship month at Hamline Church - that season when we pay attention to what we give to the church, especially our money, and prayerfully and thoughtfully discern what we will pledge to give in the next calendar year.

Talking about money is usually uncomfortable. It's uncomfortable with friends, it's especially uncomfortable at church, and it can be really uncomfortable as the pastor of a church! And yet, I feel called to pastor to every part of our life together. Money is a big part of our lives because that is just the reality of being a human being in 21st century America.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

So why do we give to the church? I invite you to give yourself some space to truly think about this question before filling out your pledge cards this month. There is no right answer to this question but I think it is important for each of us to have an understanding of our own answer. I share a small part of my answer with all of you right now in hopes that it might plant seeds for your own time of reflection.

I give to the church because the church has given me so much, and I am grateful.

Becoming a part of a church has changed my life and not only because I ended up becoming a pastor. Being part of a church introduced me to a God who offered me unconditional love and

I give to the church because the church has given me so much, and I am grateful.

acceptance as a young teenager struggling to understand my place. It brought me into a deeper relationship with other human beings. It changed the way I perceive and respond to the world.

Additionally, it is challenging to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus' teachings are as radical today as they were 2000 years ago, and I need a community of faith to walk with me as we seek to interpret and follow his teachings together.

I give to the church because that community of faith matters to me and I want it to continue for generations to come. I give to church because here I find the village that will help me raise my children and forms me as a parent.

I give to the church because I value an inclusive and loving voice in a society that too often excludes and demeans. I value the message of radical hospitality that welcomes all to the table.

I have seen lives transformed by the church. I have witnessed tears when someone at last believes that God really does love them exactly as they are, that each and every one of us is a beloved child of God, created in God's own image. I want everyone to experience the unconditional and unbounded love of God, and the church, our church, is an important piece of that experience for many people.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

We all have different capacities to give financially, just as we all have different capacities to give of our time and our talents. Each person and household must give what is right for them. I hope this stewardship time will be a meaningful time for you as you ponder the question “why do I give to the church?” Our theme for the stewardship season is “The Power of Gratitude.” We consecrate our 2016 commitments at our Thanksgiving Worship Celebration & Potluck on Sunday, November 22. My hope is that you will not only give out of a sense of gratitude, but that in discerning why you give and how much, your sense of gratitude may be deepened.

With Many Blessings,
Pastor Mariah

This is My Church (a United Methodist poem, author unknown)

**It is composed of people like me.
We make it what it is.**

It will be friendly – if I am.

Its pews will be filled – if I help fill them.

It will do great work– if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes – if I am a generous giver.

**It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship
– if I invite and bring them.**

**It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a
Church with a noble spirit
– if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.**

**Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of
being all the things that I want my Church to be.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Above: Mary Kay & John Bailey (Jane & Sam)



Left: Peggy Fisher

Below: Cory & Becky Tennison (Ellery & Patrick)



Right: Victoria & Peter Brenner (Quinn & Zoe)



Left: Gil Young

Right: Priscilla Luitjens



Holt Hafer



Not Pictured: Susan Rasmussen, Natalie & Jason Freund (Jasmine & Harper)

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE

a communications update from Maggie Nancarrow

AS YOUR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, I CAN TELL THAT THERE is a buzz in the air at Hamline Church. We've got so much going on. The choirs are back in full swing—Confirmation and Sunday School are bursting at the seams, and we're cooking up pizza, bread, and cinnamon rolls for all sorts of exciting celebrations. Our garden produced more fresh food for our neighbors than we even knew what to do with. It is almost impossible to squeeze all the announcements into the bulletin each week!

As a congregation, we are blessed with an abundance: we're invested in our community, in our children, in reaching out to God in worship. We have so much to give, and because of who we are—and who we can become—the Minnesota Annual Conference has selected us to participate in the Healthy Church Initiative.

The Healthy Church Initiative is a two year process of wondering, discernment, and self-study, during which we will receive expert coaching and assistance in further developing our gifts as a congregation. HCI requires us to ask deep and meaningful questions about who we are, and put our identity into practice both in and outside our walls. That can be difficult, and also highly rewarding. So, I hope to help walk you through what HCI is, so that you can feel connected to this very exciting process.

Who's guiding us through this process?

HCI requires two teams of leadership.

The first is the Vision & Leadership Team. These individuals help lead us through the process, and provide the vision for where we are planning to go. **Our Leadership and Vision Team includes: Pastor Mariah, Maggie Nancarrow, Barb Deming, Doug Neinhuis, Gil Young, and Sharon Fields.**

The second team is the Prayer & Communications team. This team's role is to report back to the congregation what we learn, to communicate to the congregation the requirements of the process, and to pray for our congregation as we ask hard questions. **Our Prayer and Communications team are: Maggie Nancarrow and Jan Bajuneimi.**

Who are our coach and consultant?

We have the opportunity to select our own coach, which will be happening later in the process. Our consultant is Rev. Cindy Gregorson, who brought the proposal to Church Council in September.

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE

What happens during the two years of the process?

Over the next several months, the Leadership Team is participating in educational trainings about the missional church, and we will work to prepare a self-study that will require input and assistance from the whole congregation. This self-study will be completed in late January. For this study, we will probably be asking you for your input or your assistance in getting in touch with local community members. To find out more, you're invited to contact me. (mnancarow@hamlinechurch.org)

Then, we will have a consultation weekend when the team visits us, experiences worship, interviews the staff and congregational leaders, and works with us to get to know who we are. **Our consultation weekend is March 18-20.** They use our self-study, mystery worship guests, community demographics, and their experience of us as a congregation to make five strategic recommendations.

A Church Conference will be called to vote on the recommendations. We must accept all the recommendations in full in order to move forward. The recommendations become our strategic ministry plan for the next several years. If we choose to do so, we receive 15 months of coaching in order to help implement the recommendations.



The Healthy Church Initiative is an exciting and unique process. As your Communications Director, I am excited to talk with you about what we've been learning and what exciting ways there are to develop Hamline Church's unique call in its community. The other members of the Leadership Team are excited to share as well. The value in this process is its strength for naming what congregations do well, and then honing those gifts into real kingdom work that truly spreads the Good News of God.

And that is why I am truly looking forward to sharing this process with you: it is a time for us to all pause, see all the good work we do, and then help us point that good work in the direction of our greater identity as bearers of the Good News.

Peace,
Maggie Nancarow
Director of Communications

MINISTRY OF MEMORY

ANOTHER NAME FOR SAINTS

Each year on All Saints' Sunday we remember those from our community who passed away during the preceding year. This year, our team was asked to develop a visual reminder of our congregation's saints, to be displayed that day. As we solicited suggestions, a long, diverse list developed. We discovered something remarkable: they were all stewards, living graceful lives, sharing their gifts from God with others.

On the list were the women who established dining halls at the State Fairgrounds for Trinity ME and Hamline ME churches to raise funds to build a place of worship, and those ushered or greeted newcomers or offered a friendly cup of coffee on Sunday mornings. They were Sunday School leaders who told the Bible stories of God's love and forgiveness to children, youth and adults. They were trustees, cleaners and picker-uppers who cared for our facilities. They

by Mary Bakeman, Church Historian



were those who made our church a welcoming place, and those who prayed with those who were sick or mourning.

Stewardship according to Wesley begins with the nature and mission of God. Bishop Carder of Mississippi explains: "God's grace, God's unmerited gift bestowed upon humanity, is the lens through which we are to view the world and our own existence."

Saints are not relegated to the Bible or to our stained glass windows. They are among us, too. While only those who were deceased were included on our display or in the images on this page, living saints were nominated as well. All were sharing their gifts and faith with others: they rightfully can be called stewards of God's providence and reminders that God is still with us. Their stories can help today's and future generations build trust in God's love.



Rosamund Marks, a long-time member of Church of the Good Shepherd and Hamline Church, died on September 26, 2015.



SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

AS THANKSGIVING APPROACHES we celebrate the season of harvest and God's abundant blessings in our lives. This year Hamline Church will be taking a special Thanksgiving offering. A portion of this offering will go to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, to support the ongoing work to address the needs of displaced persons across the globe, including the Syrian refugees involved in the current migration crisis in Europe. UMCOR is currently working in Greece with partner GlobalMedic to help alleviate refugees' suffering. Altogether, UMCOR has provided more than \$2.2 million in refugee aid for people fleeing Syria and Iraq.

The remainder will be dedicated to the support of three missions of the United Methodist Church: the Ministerial Education Fund; Africa University and the Black College Fund. Each of these missions provides a unique way to celebrate the traditions of Thanksgiving and the sharing of plenty.

- The Ministerial Education Fund supports continuing education for pastors and clergy recruitment; provides financial aid for students in your annual conference and assists candidates for ordained ministry through scholarships and faculty salaries at 13 United Methodist Seminaries.
- Africa University is the first private university for young men and women from all over Africa offering post-secondary education through colleges and post graduate programs. The University has an annual enrollment of nearly 1200 students from 25 countries.
- Following the Civil War, the former Methodist Episcopal Church, through the Freedmen's Aid Society, established a number of educational institutions to help educate Black people newly freed from slavery. The Black College Fund provides support to 11 successor institutions that continue to educate people from all backgrounds.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of this important missions!

Second Harvest Donation

This year the church decided to donate a portion of the state fair dining hall proceeds to Second Harvest Heartland. With a mission to end hunger through community partnerships, this organization works regionally to feed our neighbors by supporting local food shelves as well as food service programs such as Loaves and Fishes at Dorothy Day.

We made our donation this week!

We raised \$5,414.

Which will provide 20,800 meals for our hungry neighbors - equivalent to the number of meals we served this year at the dining hall.

Thanks to all of you who donated your time and energy to the dining hall and made this such a successful year - for the church and for those in need.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Join the Interfaith Climate Movement

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) is offering a series of Sunday afternoon workshops on leading congregations to address climate change! The Social Justice and Missions committee has some funds available for registration costs. To sign up,, contact Diane Krueger (651-645-3255 dkkrueger@comcast.net) or Barb Edgar (651-645-7994 edgar002@umn.edu) Climate change is real and we can make a difference.

When?

Nov. 8, 22; Dec. 6, 13 from 4:00 to 7:30

Where?

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104.

HAMLIN WOMEN

Hamline-Midway Holiday Marketplace

Hamline Church Women/UMW hope that church and community members come and do Christmas shopping 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, November 7.

It's our annual craft and vintage fair, the Hamline-Midway Holiday Marketplace. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year for our church women.

Wooden toys, handmade cards, soaps, sewn items, needlework, jewelry, vintage items and products from your favorite vendors will be for sale. Take home some baked goods or buy or carry out soup from the St. Columba Women, who are joining us for this year's sale.

The event is free and open to all. Funds raised go to support our mission giving and scholarship. Support the church women and say hello to our many vendors that day.

The women have two more events before year's end, the pre-Christmas Cookie Walk Sale and our December 14 Christmas Party! Watch email or the women's bulletin board for details.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA

**Sunday, November 15 at 2:30 pm
in the Fireside Community Room**

Please join us for our 14th Annual Holiday Tea! Enjoy a delightful and tastefully planned tea menu. Be entertained by Minnesota writer, Erin Hart. Erin Hart writes archaeological crime novels set in the mysterious boglands of Ireland.

Barb Leary will be selling Holiday Tea tickets in the Fireside Community Room after church on Nov 1, and Nov 8. You can call the church office as well, 651-645-0667.

Tickets are \$30.00.

SINGLE BOARD STRUCTURE:

what you need to know

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**with New District Superintendent
Dan Johnson &
Notice of Church Conference
Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 pm**

Our new District Superintendent Dan Johnson will visit Hamline Church to meet with our congregation, get to know the story of Hamline Church and to share his vision for the United Methodist Churches in the Twin Cities.

DS Johnson will also preside over a single-issue Church Conference in which we will vote on the adoption of the proposed single board leadership structure. The proposal may be debated, but no amendments may be made. See the final version of the proposal at hamlinechurch.org/in-our-church. Copies are available in the commons. Everyone is welcome & encouraged to attend. Church members may vote.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

**and Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 17th at 7pm**

The Church Council will officially convene as a Church Conference for our annual business meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 17th at 7pm. Everyone is welcome & encouraged to attend. Church members may vote. Agenda items include: election of 2016 leadership, clergy compensation vote, and annual reports.

What is the Single Board Structure?

The Single Board structure is a proposed single Church Council, which will bring together our Administrative Council, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations Committee into one governing body.

Who is on the new Church Council?

The voting members of the Church Council are elected by the Church Conference for a three-year term. These terms are staggered so that the Council will be developing new leaders each year.

3 Trustees (3-year terms, one chair)

3 Finance (3-year terms, one chair)

3 SPRC (3-year terms, one chair)

1 Lay Leader / Church Council Chair

1 Lay Member of Annual Conference (¥252.5g "a lay member")

1 Lay Leader elect/ Vice Chair

1 Secretary

1 Member at Large

1 Pastor

How will the new Church Council communicate with the larger congregation?

The Church Council initiates 2-4 Town Hall meetings a year or issues a "State of the Church" report in conjunction with the annual Charge Conference. After the new Church Council has been in place for one year, a Town Hall meeting will be convened specifically to review the functionality of the new structure.

How will ministry teams be connected to the council?

Ministry Teams are any regular, ongoing program (such as worship or youth group), annual event, or single major event. Staff members support and resource the work of ministry teams. Each ministry team will have a designated staff or Church Council liaison. The goals and methods of the ministry team will be established by the ministry team in consultation with the Pastor in order to assure their alignment with the overarching ministry goals set by the Council.

How do I stay informed?

To stay informed, please attend the meeting on **Wednesday, November 4 at 7 pm**. Our website has the most up-to-date resources, including the full proposals, and various presentations on the values of a single board structure. This can be found at hamlinechurch.org/in-our-church/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCITING NEWS

Pastor Mariah was selected to be a part of the Collegeville Institute Fellows Program!

She was one of two UMC pastors to be selected.

Funded by a major grant from the Lilly Endowment, the Collegeville Institute Fellows Program brings an ecumenical group of participants together with professionals from other sectors of Minnesota society (education, business, health care, criminal justice, social services, etc.), with the goal of helping to strengthen these church leaders' sense of themselves and their capacities as civic leaders and public theologians.

Pastor Mariah will be participating in quarterly two-day conferences in Collegeville to explore more about her role as a public religious leader.

Want to know more?

Check out this UMC article <https://minnesotaumc.org/news/two-mn-clergy-selected-for-collegeville-institute-fellows-program/>

or

Visit the Fellowship Website <http://collegevilleinstitute.org/fellows/>

YOUTH MISSION SHAREHOLDER'S DINNER

The Shareholder's Dinner for Youth Mission Trips will be held on **Wednesday, November 11 at 6 pm.** [RSVP Online](#) or by calling Maggie Nancarrow at 651-645-0667 x105.

Kids, Youth and Kids at Heart! Participate in the Children's Pageant

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be on December 13 this year, and is open to all children! Speaking roles will be available for kids up to 6th grade. Our youngest performers have an opportunity to be in the parade of animals, or great chorus of angels! There are many opportunities for youth and older children to perform music and help with our youngsters. Kids at Heart are also invited to help the kids do a spectacular job.

Pageant Date:

December 13 during 10 am Worship

Rehearsals:

Sundays, November 22, November 29, and December 6 during Sunday School at 10:15 am

Help us plan by letting us know you're interested as soon as possible! Contact Stephanie at sbowron@hamlinechurch.org

Thank You Dining Hall Volunteers!

Aaron Anderson
Abby Sandvik
Abby Theisen
Adam Beyer
Adam Ickler
Aeden Evenson-McDermott
Aileene Vanderbilt
Al Edgar
Al Ickler
Alese Tibbs
Alex Elder*
Alex Osterkamp
Allegra Stech
Aloni Chansky
Alvin Leary
Amanda Bluem
Amanda Haymond
Amelia Fotsch
Amy Ireland
Amy Schultz
Andrew O.
Angie Haymond
Anne Thompson
Annelise Purcell
Annette Merry
Anthony Rinaldi
Armonia Balch
Ashley Ullom
Audrey Jirak
Audrey Ullom
Barb Deming
Barbara Leary
Bashir Imady
Becky Krueger
Ben Theisen
Beth Beaty
Betty Ward
Bethany Brooks
Bill Van Schyndel
Bjorn Rosten
Bob Sellers
Bonnie Gilfillan
Brian Brezinka
Brian Groth
Bruce Jonson
Caleb Bowron
Caleb Schultz
Camille Chasteen
Candyce Osterkamp*
Carol Duling
Carol Woodbury
Carole Anderson
Carrie Ronken
Cate Sandvik
Cathy Lue
Charlotte Fotsch

Chris Cheney
Cindy Roberts
Craig Bowron
Cynthia J. Smith
D'Lorah Roberts
Dan Dohmeier
Dan Watt
Daniel Schwarz
Dave Anderson
Dave Antonneau
Dave Merry
Dawn George
Deb Gewecke
Deb Richards
Dennis Boom
Denny Abbott
Diane Krueger
Don Evans
Dorothy Hendrickson
Doug Nienhuis
Ed
Elaine Christiansen*
Elaine Haymond
Elena Purcell
Eli Dreisbach
Elias Freberg
Elizabeth Pirjevec
Ella Ireland
Ellie Sandvik
Emily Osterkamp
Emily Tellander
Eric Fotsch
Eric Hendrickson
Eric Molter*
Erik Hendrickson*
Erika Ross
Erin Beyer
Evelyn Campbell
Gabriel Kellman
Genje Kufus
George Burse
Gil Young
Greg Bluem
Greg Renstrom
Gregg Dahlke
Gregg Hammerly
Gregory Schwarz
Harold Roberts
Heidi Brezinka
Helen Vulu
Henry
Holli Driesbach
I. Noone
Iris Burse
Irv Crandall
Isa Anders

Isaac Lewis
Isaac Schultz
Isak Bowron
Izzie Ullom
Jack Molter
Jake Tomlin
James Lystad*
Jamie Tomlin
Jan Bajuniemi*
Jan Uzlik*
Jane McClure
Jane McEvoy
Jane Mulcahy
Janet Krueger
Jason Freund
Jean Briese
Jean Thilmay
Jeanne LeFevre
Jeff Bouslog
Jeff Driesbach
Jeff Ozanne & His
Youth Group
Jeff Voshell
Jennie Theisen
Jennifer Peridia
Jesse Elder
Jessica Hogan
Jessie
Jill Hendrickson
Jim Greiling
Jim Karrule
Jim Schlaeppi
Jo Barte*
Joe Czech
Joelle Dahlke
John Berglund
John Jakel*
John Kufus
John LeFevre
JonErik Ickler
Josephine Fotsch
Josiah Roberts
Joyce Evans
Judy Bjork
Judy Hartman*
Julia Bowron
Julianna Stewart
Julie Dahlke
Justin Ozanne*
Karen VanSchyndel
Kathy Anderson*
Kathy Evenson-McDermott
Kathy Sundberg
Katie Green
Kay Frase
Kay Keenan

Kayden Egger
Keionna Jackson-Smith
Ken Sandvik
Kent Krueger
Kieran Ketelsen
Kim Kasling
Kimberly Eridon
Krista Evans
Kristen Purcell
Kristen Tellander
Leandra Dahlke
Lee Tremble
Libby Mehaffey
Linda Krueger
Linda Umwali
Lisa Chen
Loki Egger
Loralie Baily
Lydia Brezinka
Mackenzie Johnson
Madeline Smith
Maggie Nancarrow
Mai Cha Vang
Marge Feulner
Mariah Tollgaard
Mark Ireland
Mark Krueger*
Mark McDermott
Martha Young
Mary Bakeman
Mary Bloom*
Mary Ellen Brown
Mary Kay Bailey
MaryLou Wolsey
Matt Mehaffey
Matthew Abts
Meg Krueger
Melanie Bormett
Michael Coates
Michelle Buvik
Mindy Greiling
Monell Jakel
Na Vang
Nancy Abts
Nancy Hochbein
Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Natalie Freund
Natalie Ketelsen
Nathan Goranson
Nathan Roberts
Nic Gewecke
Nina Bluem
Nkem Akaemeh
Noah Brownlee
Norm Knuttila
Olivia D.

Pam Christoferson
Pam Lipe
Patricia Egger
Patt Alesen
Paul Krueger
Paul Lokowich*
Paul Sandvik
Penny Sandahl*
Pete Theisen
Peter Sandvik
Peter Vang
Priscilla Luitjens
Ray Faust*
Robert Fisher
Rod Alesen
Rod Olsen
Rod Force
Roger Greiling
Roger Gilfillan
Roger Greiling
Roger Kufus
Rolfe Leary
Ross Hackenmiller
Russell Rathbun
Ryan Anderson
Ryan Tollgaard
Sandra Etienne-Verdeja
Sandra Jenniges
Sandy Cournoyer
Scott Ronken
Scott Schultz
Sherrie Fisher
Shirley Wright
Simon Dreisbach
Stephanie Bowron
Stephanie Hammerly
Steve Kufus
Steve Sandahl
Tavia Etienne-Verdeja
Teresa Reneke
Terri Shefelbine
Theresa Perry*
Thomas Freberg
Thomas Perry
Thomas Schweitzer
Tim Sandvik
Tom Beach
Tom Perry*
Torchy Beach
Travis Evans*
Twylla Erickson
Virginia Anderson
Vivian Schwarz
Willia Tollgaard
Wayde Brooks
Wayne Ferlas*
Wayne Wolsey

*What you see here is a grand total of **279 PEOPLE** who came together to make our Dining Hall a joyful, spirit-led, ham-loaf-abundant celebration.*

BUT, A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE ON THE DINING HALL COMMITTEE (MARKED WITH A STAR) AND ESPECIALLY ALL THOSE WHO SPENT DAY AFTER DAY RECRUITING, COOKING, PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR THE GREAT MINNESOTA GET TOGETHER. A few people were left off our our original list! Our Apologies! This list was re-written to include those left off. Did we forget you? Let us know! mncarrow@hamlinechurch.org

SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 29 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

1. **The HCUM Church Council was convened** on September 29. Parton Mariah Tollgaard and Jan Bajuniemi were designated as Co-Chairs. Pastor Mariah gave an opening prayer.

2. **Rev. Cindy Gregorson, Director of Ministries with the MN UMC Annual Conference, was introduced.** Rev. Gregorson made a presentation on the **Healthy Church Initiative (HCI)** in which a few selected (by Bishop Ough) churches, which are seeking to increase their vitality and effectiveness toward spiritual, numerical, and missional growth, are invited to participate. An outside consultant and coach will provide assessment and guidance. The initiative is part of the Conference 3R (Reach, Renew, Rejoice) program in which HCUM has made a three-year financial pledge. Five members were chosen by the Lay Leadership committee to serve on the HCI team. A goal of churches in the HCI process is to evolve from a Consumer Church to a Missional Church.

The HCI process involves Learning; Self-Study which results in 5 each of Strengths, Concerns, and Recommendations; Decision whether to move forward with a 15-month program of introspection and planning. Rev. Gregorson would be our consultant and a coach would be assigned. Mystery visitors would appear and make reports of their observations.

Our financial commitment would be in the \$3,000-10,000 range along with 1% of our annual budget. Virginia Anderson asked if the development of our bread oven would be a consideration—it's possible.

Mark Krueger moved that the Church Council endorse HCUM proceeding with the Healthy Church Initiative. After seconding, the motion passed unanimously. This action authorizes HCUM to proceed with planning, followed by a Church Conference vote on the package after the first two steps.

3. **The minutes of the July 21 Church Council meeting were approved.**

4. **Pastor Mariah gave an Update** in which she mentioned the great Rally Sunday. Attendance the past two weeks has been around 250, while the summer attendance was generally around 150. Twelve new members have joined. Staff changes have gone well, with Maggie Nancarrow now being at full-time, while the Children's/Family position is still vacant with Stephanie Bowron filling in through December. Confirmation class has 15-16 students. Those confirmed in the Spring are visible around the church, with several helping at the Dining Hall.

The Lay Leadership committee is working on filling positions as we transition to the new year and governance format. Significant dates were highlighted: October 18—Open forum on proposed new governance, with New Council starting in January; November 4—Church Conference with District Superintendent; November 17—Church Conference to elect new leadership. Information has been distributed about the new governance proposal via the Newsletter, but additional material will be disseminated, including a Flow Chart.

5. **For the Staff Parish Relations committee,** Pastor Mariah and Jan Bajuniemi stressed that we all “need to take ownership” to find candidates for the Children's/Family ministry position—using our networks.

6. **Roger Greiling reported for the Trustees** that changes are being made in the heating and plumbing systems. The stained glass window project on the North and East

SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 29 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING *(Continued)*

sides of the Sanctuary has basically been completed, with all large windows having been addressed. A few smaller windows will be done during the fall/winter season. Expenses have been covered by donations (some anonymous) and grants.

Pastor Mariah gave an **update on the “sale” of the former CGS building** on Marshall Ave. The Holy Ghosts wanted out of the contract for deed which had been signed. The preference is to have the contract transferred to another group. The Trinity City Church, which previously rented that space, is interested in obtaining that building. There is no action on our part required at this time.

7. **From the Finance committee**, Mark Krueger informed us that finances are looking good toward the end of the year. October is expected to bring HU parking lot rental along with the Dining Hall report. Non pledge income is down this year. Apportionment payments are expected to be complete by yearend. Offerings seem to be down on Communion Sundays, possibly related to congregants being asked to place their contributions in the baskets after they commune. Reminders will be made.

8. **The new historical plaques** will be mounted in the near future. May Bakeman relayed that the **former History team has been named the Ministry of Memory team**.

9. It was noted that Cindy Gregorson is great! Pastor Mariah said that Rev. Gregorson would be our HCI consultant with someone else serving as coach. **She concluded the meeting** with a closing prayer.





HAMLIN CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST



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The Hamline Church Newsletter is a production of the church office and many dedicated ministry teams. To contribute to the January - February newsletter, please submit your articles by **December 12.**

A Special Thanks...

To **ALLYSON OPPS**, one of Hamline Church's Student Workers, for her considerable work on this newsletter.