

Minutes: Heartland of Texas Emmaus Community Executive Board

Burnet First United Methodist Church

November 4, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Ti Mynk, Tom Ruiz, JoAnn Dilworth, Susan Nevills, Jason Teague, Janice Hinojosa, Troy Ellett, Allen Mynk, David Hinojosa, Kelsey Mills, Richard Wendrock, Tom Bornschein, Angie Martinez, Suzanne Taylor

Visitors: Susan Ellett, Anne Kuhlmann, Leslie Tomlinson

Opening: Kelsey Mills opened with prayer at 6:56 p.m. Ti called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Tom B. made the motion to accept minutes and Kelsey seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

HOTEC Spiritual Director Comments: Jason read 2 Corinthians 3:6 about the Spirit giving life while the letter kills. He related it to modern rules and asked that we remember the purpose of rules in what we are doing.

Treasurer's Report: Susan presented treasurer's reports for September and October, noting that the October report is incomplete pending receipt of final numbers from the latest walk. Suzanne made the motion to accept both reports and Jason seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Ti reported that the newest machines to make lanyards with her yarn so she was unable to bring samples for board members to see until they get different machines.
- Ti brought up the Upper Room donation that we make in November. We previously voted to donate 5% of proceeds from gatherings which comes to \$241.70. Allen made a motion to donate \$250.00 and Troy seconded, and the motion passed.
- Further discussion ensued on last month's discussion about Candlelight and the tabled motion to move it to the Family Life Center and use real candles. (October motion by Kelsey, second by Janice). Points of discussion included: requires additional set up and take down, use of electric candles reduces fire hazard while lit candles would require giving some specific instructions and safety parameters. Specific questions that need to be answered are: Who cleans up any damage that occurs? What will be done in case of burns to people? Whose insurance covers damage? Jason will contact Church Mutual on behalf of both the church and Emmaus to find out about coverage and will specifically ask their thoughts on use of live flames in a procession. Jason added that he does not think using lit candles in the sanctuary is a good idea. Feelings about use of sanctuary vs. Family Life Center were mixed. Richard made a motion to table until next month, and David seconded. The motion passed with one opposed.

New Business:

- Report on 2019W from Board Representative, Lay Director & Spiritual Director:
 - Suzanne Taylor presented the Board Representative Report for 2019W.
 - Lay Director and team members worked well together and followed UR guidelines for meetings, training and job assignments.
 - Spiritual Director and team were accessible and attentive.
 - Eagle's Wings facilities were somewhat less clean than in the past.
 - Watching God's work come alive and building of love and compassion between pilgrims for one another and between team members and pilgrims was the most memorable thing.
 - Concern was that team was very qualified and well-trained but still the search for perfection led to a degree of frustration. Let Go and LET GOD!
 - Suzanne reported that one pilgrim experienced a medical issue on Saturday evening prior to Candlelight and was taken to the hospital, and she thinks that her unmet dietary needs and sleeping arrangements at the walk led to her medical issue. Specifically, she needed a wedge pillow for reflux issues (she did not bring her own nor did she report this to anyone at the time) and required vegetarian foods (We added a kitchen team member, Susan Montesi, to handle the variety of dietary restrictions. Susan met with each pilgrim who had special requirements, including this one, at registration and was available throughout the walk for questions. The pilgrim did not raise any concerns at the walk regarding diet although she now says that she had only "2 light sides" on Friday evening and reduced fare on Saturday).
 - For future, we may want to include a clearer explanation of sleeping arrangements and ensure that inside team members stress the availability of the "needs" list.
 - Troy made the motion to accept the report and Tom B. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Adding to this report, both the Lay Director and Spiritual Director made comments.
 - Anne Kuhlmann stated that she held final team meetings at the last two gatherings and that she feels that Emmaus is truly one of God's tools.
 - Leslie Tomlinson said that this was really a learning curve for her and that she appreciated the commitment of this community. For future walks she made these suggestions: 1) be sure that notebooks remain private as they are supposed to be; 2) Sunday's schedule had quite a bit of "down" time so consider allowing pilgrims to sleep longer; 3) make sure that working on outside team is a formative experience to prepare for serving on inside team; 4) make a specific effort to communicate with all applicants for all positions to keep those in more distant communities participating and engaged.

- The Selection Committee proposed the slate of assignments for 2020M as reported. Janice made the motion to approve the slate of assignments proposed and Richard seconded. After lengthy discussion, the motion passed with one opposed.
- Ti asked if any of the men on the Board wanted to serve as Board Representative for 2020M but no one volunteered. With no one from the Board to serve, she asked the Board to consider Jesse Martinez if he is willing to serve. Janice made the motion to have Jesse serve as Board Rep and Jason seconded, and the motion passed. A phone call to Jesse confirmed that he would serve as the Board's representative, even though he is not an actual member of the board.
- Jason asked that the Board consider changing to ONE monthly gathering per month, rather than two. The purpose of splitting the gatherings was to increase participation but he doesn't believe it is working as we wanted. He made the motion to have one gathering a month starting in January, rotating amount the representative churches. He later amended this motion to one gathering a month rotating between Burnet and Marble Falls AND to present this to the membership for a vote at the December meeting. Kelsey seconded the amended motion. Discussion was split on the issue, and the vote was 5 in favor, 5 opposing with Ti casting the tie breaking vote in favor of putting it to the community for a vote. The decision will be presented to the membership at the December 2 gathering in Marble Falls.

Open Forum:

- Tom B reported that his announcements at the gatherings seems to be working. He is receiving updated information on all but 3 groups, and membership is increasing. He asks that larger groups that have closed consider splitting into two groups so they can remain open.
- Richard reported that the new website will be up by the December gathering.

Lay Director Comments: Ti asked that we continue to seek members who are interested in Board positions to replace those members who are rolling off. She currently has three people who have expressed interest.

Janice closed the meeting in prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 9 at Burnet FUMC at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Dilworth, Secretary

November 9, 2019

ADDENDUM from December 2, 2019 HOTEK Gathering:

Ti presented the slate of candidates as board members: David Hinojosa, Susan Nevills, Rich Gilchrist, and Alan Bazard and introduced those who were in attendance. She explained that UR allows up to 15 board members and that the four presented will bring our current number to 13. Someone questioned whether there is a term limit for how long someone serves in a particular position on the board, and she responded that the positions are voted on each year so that decision is up to the board. A motion and second was made to accept the proposed slate of candidates by acclimation, and the motion passed.

Jason explained the basis for his original motion to hold only one monthly gathering in order to bring more unity to the community. Following discussion in which community members voiced various opinions, Gary Bible made the motion to table to decision, and Karen Eaton seconded. The motion to table passed. It was decided that the papers that had originally been handed out as ballots would be returned as a survey so that board members gain greater understanding of the community's feelings as a whole.