

Black Hills Association Meeting
October 1, 2017

The meeting was held at Belle Fourche UCC. Rev. Del Neumeister opened with worship and communion.

Jill Kundtz called the meeting to order. Roll call was done by each church giving a report on the three most important things that have gone on in their church. Seven of the ten churches were represented.

Jill Kundtz reported for Regional Health, Rapid City Hospital. Phase I of Construction is complete and the garage is open for employee parking only, right now. Phase II began with the demolition of the ER entrance, MRI/CT, and Physicians Building. Emergency parking is now at the old Rehab Building. The entrance is a distance, though it is covered. Wheelchairs are available.

Del Neumeister gave the report for Belle Fourche. A Lift will be put in their church, they just voted on this. There will be a soup supper in November. The church has started a "Team Vision" group. This group is to help move worship into the 21st century.

Dustin Bartlett gave the report for Custer. They have been working through a church growth and revitalization program. It started with Bible study. They now have four active small group Bible studies. They completed a congregational vitality survey. They had ten church members do an interview of other church members and community leaders as part of a listening campaign. They will take all the inspiration from the Bible studies, survey, and listening campaign to a retreat at Placerville. Then they will come up with a new mission statement and new programs and missions.

Susan Huffman gave the report for First Congregational, Rapid City. Rev. Kathleen Batchelder will be retiring on October 31, 2017. There will be a celebration of her ministry on October 15th. They received a Genesis grant from the denomination for Disability Advocacy Education and anti-bullying. They had 68 people attend Placerville Sunday on the 17th of September.

Alan Bishop gave the report for Hermosa. They will have a soup and pie supper on October 28th. There will also be a country store open. This will take place from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Their Lift is almost complete. The back-pack program is going strong. They have 52 students using it. They have A LOT of donations, right now they are turning down donations.

Del Neumeister gave the report for St. Onge. Women's Fellowship has been started up again. They are meeting in the early evening to accommodate those who work. There have been about 25 members attending worship. They just finished serving the Spearfish Food Pantry. They were there Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the whole month.

John Daum gave the report for Spearfish. Their average attendance has improved to at least 60 members per Sunday. Bible study and prayer times during the week are getting more popular. They met at Placerville and discussed where the church is heading. Very interesting ideas were discussed.

Melinda Williams gave the report for South Park, Rapid City. They gave school supplies to South Park Elementary and provide a collection point for a clothes closet for the school. They have a key and can access the church for sweat pants, shirts, socks, coats, mittens, etc. They have a Community Garden. It has been a successful community outreach with both church and community involvement. They have a group called "Sparks" which has 40-50 kids on Mondays. The kids come from their church and the surrounding community. A meal is provided by church members. Activities are led by Sharla, Kerry, and Kylie Steever. They will be having their turkey dinner on November 4th.

Patty Aurand told us what she is doing as the chaplain from Spearfish.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Ben Anderson moved to accept the minutes, Melinda Williams seconded. Minutes approved.

Financial report was given by Melinda Williams, for Al Schaefer. The bank account has moved to 1st Interstate. Notices have been sent to the churches for their associations dues. We have a cash balance of \$6,565.02.

South Dakota Conference report was given by Gordon Rankin. He said, "Thank you" for all the support for Hurricane relief.

He talked about 3 Great Loves initiative-love of child, neighbor and earth. They are looking for story curators. This person would gather stories and send them on to National office.

There are ten churches in the Search in Call process. Kori Lehrkamp, pastor in Edgemont, has been reappointed and Perry Wilson is now preaching there.

Retired Authorized Ministers gathered in Rapid City Oct. 2nd and East River gathering will be Oct. 18th.

Boundary Training will be October 22nd in Pierre.

November 1st at 7p.m., at the Sioux Falls Arena, the ELCA Synod and reformation partners will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Reformation.

The Youth Event at Placerville will be Nov. 10th-12th. The theme is, Engage: Faith is Not a Spectator Sport.

The Conference annual meeting will be May 4th-6th, in Yankton. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President, will be the keynote speaker.

The Regional Youth Event will be June 19th-22nd at Grinnell College.

Carmen Gill, the Conference registrar, will be retiring at the end of the fiscal year.

There will be a special meeting on October 14th in Chamberlain to elect our Executive Conference Minister and to approve the budget.

The Media Center is closing.

Kerry Steever gave the Placerville report. They had a good summer, the numbers were up 5%. They had a great staff. They made an ER trip every week during camp. They have had good attendance from off sight groups. Several churches

have had retreats and picnics. 1st Congregational in Rapid City will be hosting and women's retreat in a couple weeks. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, will be the speaker at Fall Youth Event. They had a surplus in money in 2016 and 2017. They have \$300,000 in pledges for the campaign to build another lodge at Placerville. They will need more money. The cost has increased since the campaign has started. They have talked to Engineers about what to do for the road into camp. The answer was, not much. During work camp they cleaned out the building with the water tank. Squirrels had gotten in there and made a mess. While cleaning they found a hole in the water tank. They are not sure yet if the tank will be fixed or buy a new one which would be about \$6,000 plus labor.

Dustin Bartlett gave the Board of Directors report. There is a new feel to the Board, with the Tri-Conference set up. The Board will have to step up and take on some of Carmen's responsibilities. They met in Sioux City in September and unanimously approved Rev. Bridgett Stevens to be the Executive Conference Minister. The budget will be better with the Tri-Conference situation.

Del Neumeister gave the report on the Committee on Ministry. They are working on Boundary things for Gordon. They met with the new minister from Sioux Falls, 1st Church. A discussion on the Manual on Ministry took place.

Dee Anderson takes care of our web page and reinforces, send her information so she can put it on the page.

Susan Huffman talked about the 1st Congregational grant. They received a grant from the Genesis Fund of the United Church of Christ. This Grant is to be used for disability advocacy, congregational hospitality and anti-bullying in the Tri-Conference area. They thank Rev. Gordon Rankin for his endorsement, the Black Hills Association for their support, and the churches for giving Ben Anderson the opportunity to speak. 1st Congregational has three requests: Pray for this ministry and those facing the challenges of disability and/or bullying. Please consider opportunities for Ben to speak. The grant requires them to raise \$4,000 in matching funds. They are asking for a donation during the grant period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018 so they can list the Black Hills Association as one of the supporters.

No Old Business

New Business: Melinda Williams moved to give the Spring offering to the Regional Youth Event plus what it will take to make \$1,000. Alan Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

The Association is challenging all the churches in our association to send some money to help with the registration costs, approximately \$400 per attendee, for the Regional Youth Event. If you want to send money, send it to our treasurer, Al Schaefer.

Dustin Bartlett made a motion to give \$500, plus what was collected during the offering, to the Genesis Grant. Kathleen Batchelder seconded. Motion passed.

An offering was taken, \$360 was collected for the Genesis Grant.

The spring meeting will be in Spearfish on April 22, 2018.

Prayer was said meeting adjourned and a meal enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Neumeister, Registrar