

Minutes of the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Utah Community Presbyterian Church Cedar City

September 15-16, 2017

"Five Smooth Stones on the Road of Faith"

The Gathering began on Friday evening September 15 with Registration at 5:00 p.m. by Torrie Leonard of Cedar City Community Presbyterian Church (CPC). As the women gathered they browsed the display tables that held information on Horizons magazine, Church Wide Gathering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, samples of mission projects; procedure dolls, little dresses for Africa, receiving blankets, and used books a fundraiser for the girls' high school in Pakistan.

At 6:00 Gen Phelps and Sonya Swatsley lend the gathering in an icebreaker designed to prompt conversation by making links to mutual past experiences. Following a blessing dinner was served by CPC Music during dinner was provided by guitar, violin and voices of Des and Sara Penny.

At 7:20 p.m. we gathered in the Sanctuary where Lynn Erickson opened the gathering with a 'History of Presbyterian Women and its Publications' from PW (USA) website October 11, 2015. This highlighted 200 years of women striving to find their voice and place working as strong women who took tough positions on issues relating to Peace, Hunger, Trafficking, and War. They connected across the country providing funding, support and prayer. Lynn lit the Christ Candle.

Carol Day recognized 17 first time attendees:

Beverly Dressen, Cathy Ewert, Dawn Hendrix, Elaine Moores,
Gaylene Knoke, Gloria Cheeseman, Lynne Brown, Mallory Turner,
Mary Shurtleff, Nadine Hansen, Ruth Fotheringham, Sara Penny,
Sherry Larsen, Susan Allmon, Torrie Leonard, Sherry Hughe,
Elza Camacho

These women are from Community Presbyterian Church Cedar City.

Nancy Pearson, the pastor of CPC welcomed the women to the gathering and presented the program theme "Five Smooth Stones: On the Road of Faith. She encouraged us to explore the character traits represented by David's five smooth stones by tumbling them around in our mind and heart so that a change can come about. We read the story of David & Goliath from I Samuel 17:32-50. Nancy presented each stone/character trait explained how David exemplified it, brought in another scriptural reference, gave an example from her own life then

inspired the gathered women to develop this trait in her own life. She spoke about the stones of Past Successes, Prayer and Priorities on Friday night and Passion, Perseverance on Saturday morning. We were given a booklet with Bible references and application prompts to follow and record Nancy's presentation.

Nancy closed her presentation with prayer. Lynn extinguished the Christ Candle. There were two centers for meditation and reflection available to participants.

Saturday September 16 registration began at 8:30 with music in the sanctuary by Ruth Kinney & Christine _____. Karen Durrant gave the devotion "Grace in the Middle" by Alicia Bruxvoort, a mother's reflection as she comforts her child that we all need God's Grace as we struggle through the middle of life's events, Grace to sustain, give perspective, courage and hope.

After Nancy Pearson completed her presentation of the Five Stones we went to two half hour workshops by being in two groups and switching. Gen Phelps facilitated a workshop where we created a bag of five stones and Bible verses to take home with us. Susan Allman led us through a process of discerning what our priorities actually are and how we can rework the choices we make in our daily activities, attention and time management. She had us make three lists: things I love to do, things I have to or need to do, and things I don't have time to do. Snacks were provided in between the workshops by First Presbyterian Ogden.

The business meeting started and the minutes of the Spring Gathering for the Presbyterian Women in Utah at Mt. Olympus Presbyterian Church were presented by Carol Day, Springville Community, who was acting as secretary in Pauline Forster's absence. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Mary Van Scoyk, Trinity Presbyterian Ogden, presented the budget. A motion was made, seconded and the budget was accepted as submitted. A clarification was made in the printed financial report that the ending amount in the savings account is \$2679.17 as appears in the notes not the amount in the cash summary. A motion was made to accept the financial report, seconded and passed. Mary also highlighted the Thank Offering's 15 recipients of grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000. They are detailed in the July/August *Horizons* magazine

Marilynn Collins, Trinity Presbyterian Ogden, urged us to look at the display tables including the sample of mission projects that have been made by Trinity, First Presbyterian Ogden and CPC Cedar City. She asked us to take *Horizons* materials and enter the drawing. We were given a 10% off coupon for the CPC Cedar City Thrift shop. Marilynn explained the proposed bylaw change that would dissolve the Celebration Giving/Together in Service coordinator position. Times have changed and individual PW groups are creating a variety of projects. The only national link is Knitting 4 Peace. It was proposed that in the future mission concerns will be a part of the Justice & Peace position, this is also reflected in the

proposed bylaw change. This will be voted on at the Spring Gathering so we are to bring it back to our local PW groups for discussion.

Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz, Cottonwood Presbyterian, represented the networker search committee showing us the openings for the coming year: Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Horizons, and Justice and Peace. She urged us to look into our congregations by demonstrating a passion for PW, count up our past experience for confidence, prioritize, and persevere in prayer. A discussion followed that led to the posting of open positions on the website with a brief blurb and a PDF with more information.

Lynn Erickson, Community of Grace, talked about the upcoming events: Feb 24, 2018 PWPCCT planning meeting at Springville Church, April 13-14, 2018 PWP Spring Gathering at the Japanese Church of Christ Salt Lake City, Church Wide Gathering August 2-5 2018 Louisville, KY (please have scholarship applications to Lynn by Dec. 15 2017) and PWP Fall Gathering 2018 at 1st Presbyterian Ogden September 21-22 2018.

Lynn presented gifts to past officers Lee Bechtel and Jane McCoy thanking them for their service on the coordinating team.

Carol Day, Marge Gaines, Emily Lower, Springville Community Presbyterian Church, presented a skit inviting us to come to the Church Wide Gathering. With the help of Mallory Turner, Colleen Alter, and Karen Keene we were introduced to the theme "Arise Shine Your Light has Come".

At 12:00 the women of Trinity Presbyterian of Ogden served us a sandwich and salad lunch.

We were welcomed to worship by music from Harry Taylor and Nancy Pearson in the pulpit. As we entered we were given a rock. Nancy urged us to leave the rock representing burdens behind. Instead we are to clothe ourselves in compassion with love as a cloak over all, allow peace to rule our heart and let the word of God dwell within us.

The offering will be given to the Cedar City Family Support Center that provides a 24 hour crisis nursery and parent support in the community.

Communion was served by Nancy Pearson, Jeannette Nosker, Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz and Lynne Brown.

Our prayer was a time of calling out places, people, and churches.

Lynn Erickson closed the gathering at 1:55

Special offering (Family Support Center) \$341.45
Cents-Ability offering \$7.20

Least Coin Offering \$3.60
Martinpur Book Sales \$22.65
There were 54 people in attendance

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Day

Acting CT secretary