PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF UTAH

MINUTES OF THE SPRING GATHERING, APRIL 19-20, 2019

SPRINGVILLE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPRINGVILLE, UT

“Transformation”

The 2019 Spring Gathering began Friday, April 19, with registration from 5 to 6 pm, by Cottonwood PW members Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz and Colleen Alter. Name tags were made by Jane Lee Vondette. Displays included the Martinpur book sales, Horizons, Kathleen Bowen’s Haiti mission fundraiser, promotion for the 2019 PW Synod Gathering to be held in Sheridan, WY, and Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz display on recycling and decomposition of various material types. Loyda Kyremes icebreaker involved questions about spring. Attendees revolved among tables to meet new friends and answer the questions. Dinner, a delicious potato bar with desserts, was prepared and served by PW Springville and PW American Fork ladies.

After dinner all participants assembled in the church sanctuary where we were welcomed by Moderator Carol Day. Jane Lee Vondette shared a devotional about transformation in faith and lit the Christ Candle. Verlane Seiler welcomed first-timers: Eryn Gorang, Denise Heil, Wendy Holloway, Betty Ann Olmsted, Ariane Simo, Barbara Walsh, Peg Wyngarden, and Edith Steinke. Then the ladies of Springville PW presented a wonderful skit highlighting outstanding women from their congregation, since its birth in 1877.

Karen Durrant introduced our speaker for the evening, Eryn Gorang, who works for United Way, in Granite School District at Woodrow Wilson School. The school serves a large refugee population. Eryn served a Fulbright Fellowship in South Africa and is continuing her education in Public Policy at Duke University this fall. Eryn’s workshop focused on education policy for refugees in Utah, the challenges and assets new refugees present in schools, and strategies for how Utah can better serve that population. Small groups discussed scenarios of a refugee father, students and a teacher, how schools could better help and understand their needs. She also included information on ways to volunteer to serve refugees, which will be posted on the PW Utah website.

The evening ended with prayer and a homework assignment to review the 2018 Fall Gathering minutes.

Saturday, April 20, began with opening music led by Kathleen Bowen and accompanist Sylvia Sharman. Marilynn Collins lit the Christ Candle and shared a devotional on the phrase “God bless you” and encouraged participants to greet each other with that phrase. Several first-timers (included in the previous list) were recognized by Verlane Seiler.

The business meeting was opened by Moderator Carol Day at 9:40 am. Minutes of the 2018 Fall Gathering were approved as presented. Lynn Erickson presented the 2018 financial report and the 2019 Budget. She explained several specific line items: a $500 memorial to the Thank Offering for Mary VanScoyk, synod gathering scholarships, and hope that income be greater than the deficit budget presents. Projected income for 2019 is $6,150.42; projected expenses $6687.95. Lynn reminded all present that Birthday Offering donations are due June 10, as are second quarter pledge payments.

Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz offered special thanks and a gift to the women completing their terms on the Coordinating Team: Pauline Forster, Secretary; Karen Durrant, Newsletter; Eva Edwards, Horizons. She did not include herself, but she also deserves many thanks. Sally then presented the nominees for positions on the PW Utah Coordinating Team: Janet Wortley, Historian; Marilynn Collins, Secretary; Verlane Seiler, Vice Moderator (2 year), Sharon Fowler, Newsletter; Eva Edwards, Horizons; Linda Olson, Justice, Peace and Mission. Nominees were elected by acclamation.

The 2019 Coordinating Team members are:

Moderator, Carol Day (2021)

Vice Moderator, Verlane Seiler (2021)

Secretary, Marilynn Collins (2022)

Historian, Janet Wortley (2022)

Treasurer, Lynn Erickson (2020)

Networker/Search North, Mary Hargis (2021)

Networker/Search South, Loreen Heil (2020)

Pastoral Resources, Rev. Nancy Holve (2020)

Newsletter, Sharon Fowler (2022)

Horizons, Eva Edwards (2022)

Justice/Peace/Mission, Linda Olson (2022)

Website Administrator, Jane Lee Vondette (2021)

(plus all the PW Congregation moderators)

Carol Day presented information about the PW Synod Gathering, to be held in early August, in Sheridan, WY. Scholarships are available to cover registration and partial mileage.

A new Together in Service project is being promoted by PW -- personalizing pillowcases to be sent to children in Haiti. Information can be found online on the national PW website, the Utah PW website, and in Horizons. Flyers are also available from Marilynn Collins.

The 2019 USAME, taking place in July, will be in the New York finger lakes area, and will focus on women in the American women’s rights movement of the early 20th century, and continuing issues affecting women in the area. The theme is “Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women.” Jeri Joy of Sheridan, WY, is the synod representative and will present her experience at the Synod Gathering and at Utah’s Spring Gathering in 2020.

The summer Coordinating Team planning meeting will take place in Springville on July 13.

The 2019 Fall Gathering will take place in Richfield, September 20-21. Loyda Kyremes is in charge of the program, a focus on racism. It is hoped that Adrienne Andrews, Vice President for Diversity at Weber State University, will be a speaker. All present were invited to read the book Anxious to Talk About it: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism by Carolyn Helsel, to prepare for the meeting. It is also an excellent resource for PW circle meetings.

In Announcement time, Nancy Holve reminded everyone that the distance from the Wasatch Front to Richfield is exactly the same as that from Richfield to the Wasatch Front. We expect her to drive it, so let’s do the same! Marilynn Collins shared that the Synod and the national PW coordinating teams are looking for leaders in a variety of positions. Please contact her, and Lynn Erickson (a member of the PW Synod search committee) if you are interested in serving.

The offering from the worship service this afternoon will be shared between RockStarr Ministries and the USAME participant’s account.

The business meeting closed at 10:30 am and everyone moved to the fellowship hall for a break. Snacks provided by First Presbyterian Ogden PW.

Following the break, Jane McCoy (Presbyterian Women’s leader in Cedar City) led participants in an art activity, creating agamographs, which are pleated designs that, when looked at from two angles, show two different designs. Images are transformed by the angle of view. While participants were coloring their designs, Denise Heil presented a workshop on “Transformation: God’s Plan in Action.” Denise is the wife of the pastor in American Fork; she grew up in the Netherlands and has done mission work around the world. She explained at length how we can all be better disciples if we allow God to transform out lives, priorities, and actions. Following her presentations, all moved back to the sanctuary for a power point and presentation by Laurin Crosson. Laurin is a survivor/leader in the movement to assist prostituted women escape to a new life; she runs a safe house in Provo. Laurin educated us all with information about the most vulnerable (those aging out of foster care), what the life of trafficked victims/survivors is like, and how society and our laws fail them.

Lunch was served at 1:30 pm. Thanks to the women of Community of Grace for our meal of chicken salad croissants and cookies.

Rev. Nancy Holve led worship to end the gathering. Her focus was John, 4:7-21 “Love One Another”. The service included the installation of CT officers, using a liturgy from the March/April 2019 *Horizons* magazine, and communion.

Secretary, Marilynn Collins

Attendees: **40**, including 3 guests and 1 scholarship 

Least coin offering:  **$3.29**

Hunger offering:  **$57.43**

Martinpur books donations:  **$9.00**

Worship offering (1/2 each to RockStarr and USAME): **$422 total, split $211 each**