

Mountain Sky Conference Board of Laity Meeting
January 13, 2022

Present: Co-Lay Leaders Nancy Flint, Gayla Jo Slauson, Barry Welliver, members Sandy Brown, Linda Cockett, Curtis Gay, Ken Hazlitt, Cindy Snodgrass, Susan Wheeler, Sue Yeager, and conference staff Annie Arnoldy and Kaitlin Kahrs.

The meeting began at 6:32 with Nancy Flint welcoming everyone. Linda Cockett presented a thoughtful devotion and prayer centered upon Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat and dreams in general. Hers was a reminder that God is always with us, equipping us for our challenges; and His dreams are bigger than ours, so we need to focus on our visions to take the right path.

The introduction exercise for the evening was to answer the question, “What's on your bucket list?” Answers included sitting outside for 20 minutes and doing nothing, being sensitive to other(s), having more patience, getting rid of stuff, and building trust in God.

Tezenlo Thong is recovering from COVID, and is resting at home.

The September 16, 2021 minutes were brought forward; there were no changes. The motion to approve was passed unanimously. (Welliver/Cockett)

REPORTS

Annual Conference 2021 was discussed. A positive comment was that the technology was smooth. A concern was that there was little-to-no discussion on the petitions, and Cindy Snodgrass explained how difficult it was for her to speak to her petition, since she was not one of the recognized speakers.

Susan Wheeler spoke about the **Quiet Disciple (QD)** mailing which was sent to the district lay leaders on Jan. 12. She mentioned that, although the QD award is considered a “lifetime achievement” award, there are three age-group categories in which people are placed: youth – up to 18, young adult – up to age 30, and adult - for all other ages. Therefore, young people are not prohibited from receiving the award more than once. Lay Leaders will modify the template letters and send them to the district administrators for distribution to the churches in their districts.

It is expected that a QD representative from each (sub-)district will be invited to annual conference in June. This portion of the QD practice was not brought forward as the Mountain Sky Conference was established, because of logistical problems, time, and budgetary constraints. Several laity leaders are anxious to bring it forward now as part of the QD tradition, because it brings recognition to laity who are deserving of a “thank you” from the conference for serving their local communities so admirably.

Kaitlin Kahrs gave the board a tour of the **website** she has been creating and updating. Everyone should now take the time to view the site individually. The offerings are easier to find and to navigate, and information is up-to-date.

Curtis Gay reported that the **Lay Servant/CLM** website is up-to-date except for the new classes from parts of the Pacific Northwest and California/Pacific conferences [with whom we are sharing classes.] The Hispanic community is being encouraged to move forward with their courses. Trinity District has a new Lay Servant Director. Nancy Flint will reach out to Montana East and West District Superintendents to make sure they are aware of Lay Servant Ministries in their districts.

Annie Arnoldy announced that **Annual Conference (AC) 2022** will be in person June 16-18 in Helena, MT for worship sessions and other group sessions, plus ordination, and online only on Oct. 21 and 22 for plenary and legislative sessions [after General Conference.] Then AC 2023 will be in Colorado Springs, CO in October.

The Lay Leader Election is scheduled to take place at the June AC Session in Helena. One person will join Nancy and Barry in leading the triumvirate for the next two years. Gayla Jo is opting to serve for one term only. Those people who were nominated at last AC need to submit their applications by April 10. Other new[self-appointed] nominees must submit their applications by May 1.

There was time for **Breakout Groups**. In the ten minutes allotted, the groups were to suggest how the board should move forward. The ideas were then discussed as a whole group. Two suggestions were: first, to have a BOLM retreat, so we could get to know one another in a face-to-face setting. The co-lay-leaders are already working on that idea. A second idea is to have the district and conference lay leaders meet together periodically via zoom, followed by a meeting with the lay leaders and other leaders who make up the BOLM – including the Lay Servant Director, the Scholarship Committee, the UMW/UMM Presidents, and at-large people. The rationale behind this – not because *we used to do it this way* – but because the the lay leaders have more business to conduct, and zoom meetings by necessity are shorter, and less gets done if the whole group meets for only 2 hours.

FINAL COMMENTS

The UMC District Response Team has been working with the **Marshall fire** victims, and are connecting therapists for area clergy. FEMA is also assisting victims. Monetary gifts are best to give at this time. UMCOR is always a safe organization for sending checks for causes such as this. Or one can send checks to Rev. Claire McNulty Drews, pastor of Louisville UMC, 741 Jefferson Ave., Louisville, CO 80027.

The Co-Lay Leaders expressed enthusiasm over Ann Michels' vimeos. If one has not seen the vimeos that are available online, they recommend that we watch them, as a follow-up from her AC 2021 speech to us. The vimeo links are: <https://vimeo.com/651318847> and <https://vimeo.com/659682357>.

It was requested that a survey be taken to determine the optimum date for the next meeting. Too many people have commitments to the dates that have been recently chosen. Kaitlin will do that.

Barry Welliver closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Yeager, Secretary

