**LLWL Network DRAFT MINUTES – Wednesday March 19, 2025**

**7pm** – via Zoom

Meeting started at 7pm.

Welcome – Susan Pleasance

Attending: Susan Pleasance, Paul Kneebone, Nancy Payne, Darlene Hallett, Derek Marsellus, Shawn Pearce-Chambers, Lisa Norman, Ruth Olley, Diane McCracken, Roger West, Barbara Warden, Robert Bennett.

Regrets: Tanna Edwards, Linda Wagner.

Land Acknowledgement - Susan

Opening Prayer – Susan, from the current *Gathering* magazine.

Business arising from October meeting

·         Question to Covenant Support regarding role of LLWL at ECOR meetings-guest or voting members? You must be a rep. for a specific CofF. But there are no written guidelines on this matter that we could find anywhere.

**Report from LLWL Forum:**

·         2025 LLWL Renewal deadline is fast approaching -March 31st, 2025- please submit all documents in one email.  So far Paul has received complete packages from 9 LLWLs.

·         9 people being contacted re: scheduling their LLWL interviews – in May. They will be contact directly about their availability. Some will schedule during the day, when possible.

·         Retirements and Milestones:

* Retirements: Carol Cunday and Chris Ingersoll – March 2024, Darlene Peddle - April 2024, Debbie Sherwin – December 2024.
* Milestones: Phyliss Tamlin and Mary Kay – over 30 years as LLWL’s.

Comment was made that perhaps we should recognize others with similar milestones (i.e., 20-25-30 years). We should send out a note to all LLWL colleagues reaching such significant milestones. When did the formalized LLWL program start? 2004 (Susan Pleasance) – involved 8 different courses, delivered at the presbytery level. There have been lay preachers as a designation since Union in 1925. Ruth – her program started before 2004 (Ruth Oley & Carolyn Johnson with the minister at St. Mark’s UC in Whitby). Paul will ask all present LLWLs to indicate what year they became LLWLs. He will also check with the names listed above (Carol, Chris, Darlene & Debbie), in case we missed any of these milestone dates.

**Spring Learning Event** – is there anyone on the LLWL Network who would like to take the lead on this event? Barbara Warden offered her services. Also, John Young could be a possible speaker (Cathy Gradante recommendation) – on his recent book. Barbara’s would deal with topic of speaking-listening. Might work with both speakers – am & pm. Date? May --- either 3rd or 31st as possible dates. Location? Bridgenorth or wherever? John Young has summer place near Belleville. Maybe try and schedule him for the fall (after Thanksgiving & before snow flies), so we can all read his book beforehand. So, Barbara Warden for either Saturday, May 3rd or May 31st (depending on venue availability) with a roundtable in the afternoon. Westminster UC (Whitby), Cambry/Cannington/Woodville or wherever? We will investigate things. Paul would like to hear from anyone that has an available CofF for either date. For the Fall event, sometime after Thanksgiving – whatever Saturdays John Young is available, also including a LLWL resource sharing session in the afternoon. Paul will check with Rev. Cathy, then with John Young about his availability.

·         Updated contact information will only be name, town, phone #, and email. Paul will contact everyone to confirm they are okay with this. We could also colour code by area of our region (N-S-E-W) – same as our Master List.

·         Resignation of Rev Cathy Gradante from LLWL Forum Chairperson after the spring interviews are completed. She will continue on the Candidacy Board…

·         We are encouraged to look for 2 ministers (can be retired ministers) who would be willing to give of their time in support of this ministry of the church. Any names will, in turn, be passed along to the Covenant Support Team – who are ultimately responsible for this process.

New Business

* Siobhan Flynn – moving from LLWL to diaconal stream of ministry. [She was officially affirmed as a candidate for ministry yesterday (March 18th) by the Candidacy Board at her Suitability interview.]
* New revised checklist for both the benefit of LLWL’s and CofF re: visiting pulpit supply (looking at document written by Evelyn Chambers). Nancy suggested that we create a small working group to review this document and create a new document. Paul volunteered to take first crack at it. Start with pages 9-10 in the current ECORC LLWL. One idea was to simply add any new suggestions to this document, vs. creating a new separate document.
* Suggested topics for upcoming Learning Events. 1) Music – options, variations, including the new UCC hymn digital resource, etc. 2) Suggestion to sometime attend the annual Festival of Homiletics event (this year in Atlanta). 3) Creating prayers. Any other topic ideas --- email Susan or Paul.

* New or exciting resources to share? *The Lay Preachers Guide – How to Craft a Faithful Sermon* (Karoline Lewis) – book recommendation from Derek. She is also one of the hosts on the *Working Preacher* site.
* Saturday, April 5th – Moderator Carmen Lansdowne will be at Cambridge St. U. that day for an event with youth involvement, then preaching there on Sunday (Nancy).
* PD suggestions: Roger West just finished 2nd course at Huron College. He highly recommends this series of courses. Shawn Pearce-Chambers recommended courses from Covenant Theological Seminary – Open Education in Mississippi. Pre-recorded videos (with downloads).

Closing Prayer/Benediction – Susan Pleasance, also from the current *Gathering* magazine.

Meeting ended at 8pm.