

Minutes from the Augustana District Annual Women of the Word Fall Gathering
September 18, 2021
Crossroads Lutheran Church – Dawson, MN

“Women of the World Word”

Augustana District (AD) Women of the Word (WOW) met after the Covid year caused us to cancel our 2020 gathering.

Registration and fellowship opened at 8:30 am and we gathered and started with a welcome at 9 am.

Displays available in the entry area included: ILT (Institute of Lutheran Theology), Grace Christian Outreach Ministries (focus on women’s Mexican prison ministry), and the WOW scrapbook.

Pre-worship praise singing was led by Mary Kruger. The opening communion worship service was led by Crossroad’s Pastor Sarah Carlstrom. The sermon was based on John 17:6, 14-19. As a sign of the Covid journey we have traveled this past year and a half – the communion host and wine were in a sealed cup. Our mission focus for the day was Grace Christian Outreach Ministries, and they were the recipients of our offering. Soloist Emmy Bothun sang a sending song.

A brief time of leg stretch was taken. Coordinator Mia Mills introduced Pastor Randy Freund who shared about LCMC 3.0 and AD council initiatives.

Our first speaker was Bonnie Wasberg, her theme wrapped around: “Women of the World-Word: What’s the difference?”

A delicious lunch was prepared by Crazy Apron Catering and served by Crossroads ladies with guests seated at tables with those they did not know.

The afternoon speaker, Pastor Julie Smith, talked about “WOW: Sent into the world.”

Our business meeting was opened by Coordinator Mia. She thanked our host church, all the ladies welcoming and serving us, Pastor Sarah, the speakers, and the existing board.

Secretary Jan Kreie moved our attention to the minutes from our 2019 gathering, each participant had a copy in their packet. There were no questions, a motion and second to approve was made, the minutes remain as printed.

Treasurer Bev Swenson presented the Treasurer’s report. A printed copy was on the back of our agenda. The current balance in our checking account is \$4,185.44. A motion and second to approve was made, and the report accepted.

There were two items of new business before the gathering.

1 – Updates and changes to our Policy Statement were presented. Everyone had a printed copy of the policy with the changes recommended. Secretary Jan explained that most changes were made to the officers and their duties. The changes reflect how the board has been structured and operating the past two years. Mia also shared how the board has functioned. A motion was made, seconded, and the policy statement presented was approved. This will be posted on AD website, in the ‘Church’ drop down area under WOW.

2 -- Officers election. Coordinator Mia introduced each of the current board members and they talked about their position. There are four positions that need to be filled. Those who are willing to serve are: Jodi Dalsgaard (vice coordinator) and Diane Anderson (treasurer). The positions of secretary and member at large are currently open.

Mia set a five-minute break and requested that we talk in small groups about filling the open positions. After the break, Marcia Heinje accepted the nomination to serve as secretary and Jan Kreie accepted the nomination to serve as the member at large.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates that were presented. Pastor Julie Smith installed the newly elected board members. The new board members are: Coordinator – Jane Evers (New Hope, Comfrey, MN); Vice Coordinator – Jodi Dalsgaard (St. Johns, Springfield, MN); Treasurer – Diane Anderson (Christ the King, Hutchinson, MN); Secretary – Marcia Heinje (Living Word, Milbank, SD); Ex-Officio – Mia Mills (Hazel Run, Hazel Run, MN); Members at Large -- Marian Thorston (St. John's, Springfield, MN) and Jan Kreie (Faith, Hutchinson, MN).

Newly elected Coordinator Jane Evers invited all to attend the 2022 AD WOW Gathering at New Hope Lutheran Church in Comfrey, MN. It will be held September 17th. She highlighted the bookmark that has many details and encouraged us to share that information with our congregations.

To conclude the business meeting, Mia recognized ladies who are first time attendees at our gathering. Details gathered by Treasurer Bev include: 71 paid registrants; at least 15 churches from the AD were represented; an additional 6 people were part of the speakers or presenters; and three churches streamed the gathering: St. Peters (Sanborn NY); St. James (Niagara Falls, NY) and Peace (Nevis MN).

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the business meeting.

Our closing worship included a presentation and prayer by the Grace Christian Outreach Ministries.

Evaluations were collected in the back of the sanctuary as participants left.

Submitted by:

Jan Kreie, WOW Secretary 2021