

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Special Edition Newsletter

July 15, 2020

July 2020

Community United Methodist Church

Commissioner Candidates Respond to Pastor Scott Rosekrans' Question:

By Scott Rosekrans

I want to thank all three of the District Two County Commissioner candidates for responding to the below question regarding one of our many concerns for the Tri-Area. The ballots get mailed to district two voters on Wednesday, July 15th so this special edition newsletter is timely and, hopefully, will give you some information upon which to cast your ballot. The top two vote getters will go on to the General Election in November.

Just a reminder, we are not making any endorsements but this is what our Book of Discipline has to say regarding our political responsibility. Paragraph 164, B) Political Responsibility says; *The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.*

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Hopefully, their answers to the following question will be of benefit to you in making your decision. If you have any follow-up questions I am sure the candidate would appreciate hearing directly from you.

Commissioner Candidates,

Community United Methodist Church is very concerned about what I call the three issues that are talked about every two years when someone decides to run for County Commissioner. Every two years we are promised by the commissioner hopeful that, if elected, they will do something about living wage jobs, affordable housing, and a sewer for Port Hadlock. Commissioners come and go and there has been little, if any, progress made on any of the issues. I listened to the forum on KPTZ on Tuesday evening and, not surprisingly, these were the three topics talked about. Our question to each of you is: What concrete, real-world solutions do you have regarding these three issues which, in our opinion are interrelated, to actually do something substantive during your first term?

If you care to respond, please send your 500 words or less to CUMC@olympus.net no later than July 8th so we can get our newsletter out before the August primary. You may also include a photograph and contact information for your campaign.

Thank you for running and for your response.

Scott W. Rosekrans, Pastor



Response from Heidi Eisenhour:

I've lived in Port Hadlock for 40 years. I'm from here. In the words of a prominent local farmer, Heidi just knows us! I've also proven myself a resourceful leader, leading organizations, campaigns and projects through unsure times in the past. For example, when the bond to remodel the Jefferson County Library failed in 2001, we didn't know what we were going to do. We rolled up our sleeves and planned a scaled down remodel of the library. I played a key role in engaging the community in getting it done.

Your Pastor, Scott Rosekrans, recently asked: *What concrete, real-world solutions do you have regarding living wage jobs, affordable housing, and a sewer for Port Hadlock which, in our opinion are interrelated, to actually do something substantive during your first term?*

Yes, these three issues are interrelated and all need to be dealt with in this time of increasing food and housing insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 Crisis. Essentials workers can't find housing - including grocery checkers, teachers, fire and tradespeople and their families. The Jefferson County *Affordable Housing and Homeless Housing Task Force* recently published a report saying we would need an additional 300 housing units by 2024. And that was published before the COVID-19 reached our shores.

We are currently working on a proposal for a sewer in Port Hadlock and yes, it is one solution to address these three intertwined issues, especially badly needed affordable housing. I would prioritize gathering input from a broader swath of our community and also explore alternatives beyond this sewer, which is limited to a small part of Port Hadlock, to allow for affordable housing that works for more residents of our county, young and old alike.

A few specific priorities I would focus on to address jobs and housing are:

Heidi Eisenhour continued:

- The COVID-19 Crisis has proven that people can work effectively from home. Broadband availability would lead to more living wage jobs in our county. We need to replicate the success of neighboring counties to develop a plan and funding model to secure broadband.
- Jefferson County Code updates that would allow for solutions such as small apartments, RV Parks, co-housing communities and tiny house clusters. Working with our state delegation to craft policy changes to build the regulatory conditions, including necessary infrastructure, for these options to be feasible.
- Advocating for Jefferson County to do what the City of Port Townsend does and forego permitting fees for houses built by non-profits like Habitat for Humanity which is forecasted to build 30 more homes by 2024.

Everything is changing right now. Many of my friends have lost their jobs, some are searching for housing or moving to find work. I've talked with kindergarten teachers planning to deliver curriculum to their new students over the internet this fall. These are kids who from their first day of school - EVER - will depend on the internet. We are living in unsure times. Now more than ever, we will need to put our differences aside and work together for practical, effective solutions. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

- Heidi Eisenhour

<heidi4commissioner@gmail.com>



Response from Lorna Smith:

My grandparents came to Jefferson County as lighthouse keepers in 1903 so my family roots run deep here. My husband and I moved to Cape George nine years ago, which was a ‘coming home’ for us.

For the last 8 years I helped lead both the Jefferson County Planning Commission and Conservation Futures Board. With 25 years experience as a Snohomish County environmental and land use manager, I have the background and skills to solve real problems for our community.

Affordable housing is among my top three priorities as County Commissioner. Housing is key to creating family-wage jobs in Jefferson County. Businesses can’t locate here when there is no housing for their employees.

Affordable housing projects are complicated to build. The planning and permitting processes can be difficult, and coalitions must be formed in order to acquire funding from outside nonprofits and government sources. Identifying appropriate sizes and locations for affordable housing projects can be a challenge. ***Community support is critical.***

I have years of experience, facilitating the planning and completion of public projects. I am experienced at holding public meetings to ensure that community needs are heard. I understand how to effectively use existing tools such as the Planned Residential Development provision in our county-code.

We must also build housing for our homeless population which will likely grow as our economic down-turn deepens. Unemployment is 17% in Jefferson County. I will work with Bayside Housing, OlyCap, the Olympic Housing Authority and others to develop a homeless housing plan, including a public outreach and involvement plan, so we involve the community to assess

Lorna Smith continued:

(1) the severity of the need, and (2) the composition of the county's homeless population. Currently we have couples and families with children who are recently unemployed and have been evicted from housing as a result. As an emergency stop-gap measure we need to open up safe temporary camping locations with access to running water, including showers.

To develop housing outside the Port Townsend city limits, sanitary sewer treatment becomes the responsibility of individual land owners through the installation of approved septic systems. These systems are expensive to build and do not facilitate higher density housing or business construction.

One idea to facilitate higher density construction outside the city has been the Hadlock Sewer Project. It was first proposed almost 20 years ago, but so far funding has only covered Stage One Design. To build phase one of the proposed modular system would require \$23 million. The hookup and on-going maintenance costs to individual homeowners and small businesses is still unclear.

Large sewer systems usually require dense populations to finance. Outside Port Townsend we don't have dense populations in our county. This concerns me because I don't want families and small businesses in Port Hadlock to suffer undue financial burdens related to this sewer proposal. No one should lose their home or business because of costs related to this sewer proposal. I will do everything in my power to make sure that is the case.

Lorna Smith

Candidate for Jefferson County Commissioner, Dist. 2 (D)

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Response from Amanda Funaro:

Hello Scott,

Thank you for your questions and consideration as the next District 2 Commissioner for Jefferson County.

The work that your congregation at the Community United Methodist Church is doing to support our neighbors in need is not just commendable, but critical. I agree with your congregation's assessment that these top three issues are deeply related. For me, they are not just a platform to get me in office – but reflect the work and volunteerism to which I have always committed my time and energy.

I am not devoted to the build-out of a sewer system in Port Hadlock if it means bankrupting our county or its residents. I do know that we need to come up with some commonsense solutions to wastewater management to increase density countywide. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution to our housing crisis. I have been working this past year and a half on our Homeless Housing Taskforce and I know we have a need for 270 additional housing units in Jefferson County by 2024. We must get creative and figure out how to provide shelter for human beings who dwell within our community. Having grown up here, I have personal experience with housing insecurity. I am grateful for my long-standing relationships and the support of friends, without whom, I too would have been sleeping in my car. This is not an issue that we can continue to kick down the road, it has real people and real consequences attached to non-action. I would like to immediately address some of the on-site sewage (OSS) codes to allow for tiny houses to utilize holding tanks as a

means of creating more transitional housing. I also propose that we take a long look at the land resources of the County and determine what can be used for development. Additionally, the ongoing review and revision of the permitting process, which makes it easier for landowners to build, stands to increase our inventory of housing. From my observation, when communities are in the mode of building, jobs are created.

I know that job creation is not directly in the wheelhouse of the Board of County Commissioners but there are barriers that we can reduce and opportunities we can say yes to. I believe that if we build and support smart infrastructure, we can increase our density, naturally create jobs, and protect our ecology at the same time. Committing to wide-reaching broadband access has the potential to create jobs from the development of the project, through build-out, create additional lasting jobs in the county, and potentially attract more web-based businesses to our county. At the very least it provides opportunities for our local businesses to pivot their current offerings thereby not eliminating jobs in an already sensitive economy.

I will not make assertions that I can solve all of our problems, but I can assure the residents of Jefferson County that I will work tenaciously to meet the needs of our residents – ALL of our residents. It is my hope that I have an opportunity to build bridges that carry all of us to a resilient future we cannot see.



Amanda4CountyCommissioner

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"Working Families for a Working County"

THAT CHURCH

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Photos by Scott Rosekrans

Our Welcoming Banner

Food Bank



Social Distancing



CREATING CONNECTIONS

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Monthly Devotion

Chirpy

March 21, 2020

By Kirsten Holmberg

For twelve years, Chirpy, a seagull, has made daily visits to a man who'd helped him heal from a broken leg. John wooed Chirpy to himself with dog biscuits and was then able to nurse him back to health. Though Chirpy only resides in Instow Beach in Devon, England, between September and March, he and John Sumner find each other easily—Chirpy flies straight to him when he arrives at the beach each day, though he doesn't approach any other human. It's an uncommon relationship, to be sure.

John and Chirpy's bond reminds me of another uncommon relationship between man and bird. When Elijah, one of God's prophets, was sent into the wilderness to "hide in the Kerith Ravine" during a time of drought, God said he was to drink from the brook, and He'd send ravens to supply him with food ([1 Kings 17:3-4](#)). Despite the difficult circumstances and surroundings, Elijah would have his needs for food and water met. Ravens were unlikely caterers—naturally feeding on unseemly meals themselves—yet they brought Elijah wholesome food.

It may not surprise us that a man would help a bird, but when birds provide for a man with "bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening," it can only be explained by God's power and care (y. 6). Like Elijah, we too can trust in His provision for us.

Loving God, please help me to trust in You to meet my needs no matter what my circumstances might be.



Community United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Doors Open Minds

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Church office email: cu.mc@olympus.net

Church Office Hours:

10am - 2pm, Tuesday - Friday

Web Site: www.HadlockChurch.com

Learning Circle: 9:00am

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 10:15 am

Fellowship Time: 11:15 am

Scott Rosekrans, Pastor

Email: pastor@scottrosekrans@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours:

10 am - 3 pm, Monday & Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm, Tuesday