



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Beth Faeth, <i>clergy liaison</i>	■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>	■		Jerry Jorgenson (2018)
■		Rossi Clem (2019)		x	Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>	■		Penelope Needham (2018)
	x	Karl Jones (2019)			

GUESTS:

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Board agreed we will offer imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service

Item 3. The Board commends Beth for stepping into the situation at Plymouth with grace.

Item 4. Nancy will proceed with plan to get stains removed from Communion linens.

Opening Thought: Rossi – “In Our Circle Again”

Discussion of the CAT results

- What do they mean for Plymouth Church?
- What do they mean for the Board of Worship?
- What do they mean for me, personally?
- Results shared with Leadership Council on Jan 11; 140% response compared to average attendees (more people responded than attend regularly). 1800 members, 500 pledging units. 46% responders members >20 years; 50% attend at least 3x/month or more; 90% who responded attend the 10:30 service; data reflects respondents, not whole membership. 51% responding have graduate degree. 98% responding are white. Leadership Council discussing best way to share this information.
- Of respondents, 62% > 65years old; 85% >55 years old
- Suggest that the information be shared as complete and as transparent as possible.

Minutes Procedure

Minute-taker submits draft to group within 10 days of meeting; members have 7 days to submit revisions (no response is treated as approval).

If any revisions, minute-taker forwards revised draft to group within 3 days for electronic approval; members have 2 days to respond (no response is treated as approval).

Minute-taker submits approved minutes in Microsoft Word format to the Ministry Assistant for Programs (Doug Freeman, dougf@plymouth.org) upon approval.

- Top 3 priorities
 - Develop strategy to reach new people & incorporate into life of church
 - Make necessary changes to attract families with children & youth to our church
 - Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships

Themes that emerged in survey:

- Mistrust
- Low satisfaction with how things are going right now
- Some energy around being creative and moving on

People had opportunity to enter comments – When was the experience that made you say “now **that** is church!” 358 responses. Karen reviewed and categorized.

There are a number people who are very pleased with the 10:30 service the way it is. What are some ways to attract young families??....maybe not changing the 10:30 service but looking at other possibilities.

Idea from Board of Spiritual Formation: Connections, Saturday afternoon or evening gathering around a common topic; an alternative way of doing ‘worship’ – a way to experience the divine. This might be attractive to people looking for something different than what happens on Sunday morning. They would like input from the Board of Worship. Potentially 1 Saturday per month, starting in March.

Leadership Council is encouraging boards to collaborate with each other instead of operating in silos.

Topics that Board of Worship can address:

- Ash Wednesday Service (this year on February 14)
 - In past, has been in Chapel; also has been in Sanctuary.
 - Ministers would like idea from the board – are there some new possibilities?
 - It falls the 2nd Wed. of month, what other Wednesday night activities are already happening?
 - Currently worship is scheduled for 6 pm; board meetings are scheduled later. This year the Choristers are scheduled to sing at the Ash Wednesday service.
 - How do we want to celebrate Ash Wednesday? What is meaningful for us at Plymouth?
 - Reflection circles will be during Lent – small groups meeting 6-8 weeks
 - A time of transition is a time to try things
 - How do you talk with your children about Lent? – share practices from different communities, why do some people give up candy? One friend decided to be nice to her brother for Lent. What are some spiritual practices for single people as well as families? How do I enrich my spiritual life during this time?
 - We assume we know what Lent is, but do we??
 - Is Lent an opportunity to *add* a spiritual practice instead of “giving up candy”
 - Offer opportunities of worshiping in different ways
 - Similar to Advent, Lent is a gift of time....a time to go deep, to think about what it means to be a spiritual person.
 - Acknowledging your developmental phases that mirror Christian traditions
 - We are embarking on a new time, a time of transition
 - How do we make Lent a meaningful experience?
 - Somehow, this year Lent is different
 - Why is it called Ash Wednesday?
 - How can we make it easy for children to understand?
 - Is there a Plymouth way to do Ash Wednesday?
 - The ashes are a visible sign to the world that you are a believer. A sign of mortality. Lent is a time of repentance, confession. How to frame it more accessible...not dumbing down. There is great release in recognizing our humanity.
 - Board recommends imposition of ashes, but allow people a choice
 - Beth will share our brainstorming with Seth & Paula
 - Preparation is important for children

- Possibly have an Ash Wednesday table with information. Incorporate some education about Lent.
- The Chapel accommodates about 100 people
- Is there a way to make the Ash Wednesday service intimate as well as educational?

Easter is on April 1

Beth isn't sure if both Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services are needed. In the past Good Friday services have been meditative.

Communion on February 18, 1st Sunday in Lent

- By intinction again?
- Recruiting servers
- Additional item – communion cloths are stained; Nancy has a suggestion & would like approval to proceed.

Recommend serving Communion again by intinction. Feedback about December Communion was that the experience was very meaningful. Some people said they felt there was a more personal connection.

Ideas for new Board members

- Discuss proposed summary of Board duties

Other business

Closing Thought: Karen: The 5 promises congregations want their churches to keep. Karen will send this to board members via email after our meeting

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2018; 6:30 – 8:00 pm; back in the Fireside Room

Opening thought by: Nancy GL

Closing thought by: Jasper Jonson

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, Secretary