



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Chad Freeburg, <i>Chair</i>	■		Ging Wiandt, <i>Spiritual Formation</i>
■		Deb Fowler, <i>Chair Elect</i>	■		Karen Barstad, <i>Worship</i>
■		Mike McCallister, <i>Secretary</i>	■		Mary Welfling, <i>Archivist</i>
■		Emi Bennett Vo, <i>Community Life</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Transitional Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		Eric Olsen, <i>Finance and Administration</i>	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Minister for Spiritual Formation</i>
■		John Kulstad, <i>Fine Arts</i>			
■		Beth Comeaux, <i>Outreach</i>			

GUESTS:

Nancy Siska, Peg Birk, and Nancy Gores, as representatives of the Transition Planning Task Force.

Actions Taken:

Item 1. The Leadership Council supported the Task Force’s recommendation for an intentional interim minister.

Item 2. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Transition Planning Task Force, the Leadership Council recommends that Beth Faeth be called as permanent minister for Pastoral Care, and that the process be consistent with the church’s bylaws.

Item 3. Following the January meeting, the Leadership Council electronically approved Brad Wieman for membership on the Board of Community Life, and Penny Needham for membership on the Board of Worship.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation / Prayer

- Offered by Emi Bennett Vo, an English translation of “A Sincere Man Am I” by Jose Marti.

Transition Planning Task Force – Preliminary Recommendation (Nancy Siska, Peg Birk, and Nancy Gores)

- The Transition Planning Task Force presented their preliminary recommendation to the Leadership Council and answered questions.
- In summary, the Task Force’s recommendation is to seek an intentional interim minister. This person should serve as an active member of the ministry team led by Paula. This person should focus on priorities related to interim ministry. This may not be a full-time role but will probably require a full-time salary.
- Questions:
 - Q: Will the interim serve as a minister (preaching, etc.)?
 - A: Part of the ministry team, so yes, should preach and participate in service. This person’s specialty will be as an interim, doing the interim work.
 - A: Not responsible for day-to-day operations, but flexible to do the interim work.
 - A: Paula would remain the acting Senior Minister.
 - A: In churches the size of Plymouth, an interim may act as an internal consultant, not managing staff, budget, etc., but preparing the institution for what is next.
 - A: Really looking for someone who can make changes.
 - A: Preaching is an important component of the role to be known to the congregation, and to use the pulpit to relate messages to the interim work.

- Q: Were budget constraints considered in developing the recommendation?
 - A: Did consider finances, but the recommendation was reached without attempting to meet a financial target.
 - A: Feel this is worth the expense.
- Q: How big is the pool of available interims?
 - A: Finding the right interim will be hard.
 - A: But serving at Plymouth will be a very interesting opportunity for the right person.
- Q: Has the Task Force discussed which members would like to continue on in the Interim Search?
 - A: Not yet, but it is part of the recommendation that some do so.
- **Motion:** The Leadership Council supports the Task Force's recommendation for an intentional interim minister. Seconded. All approved.

Discussion about calling Beth Faeth

- The Transition Planning Task Force also made a recommendation to call Beth Faeth to a permanent role in ministry at Plymouth.
- The Leadership Council discussed this recommendation and noted that the church governance has a specific process by which ministers are called, which must be set in motion by the Deacons.
- **Motion:** Pursuant to the recommendation of the Transition Planning Task Force, the Leadership Council recommends that Beth Faeth be called as permanent minister for Pastoral Care, and that the process be consistent with the church's bylaws. Seconded. All approved.

Congregational Assessment Tool (Holy Cow!) Survey – Reflections and Next Steps

- The Leadership Council discussed the findings from the Congregational Assessment Tool.
- There is broadly agreement on recommendations, though questions about interpretation of the data and the benchmarking.
- Mike McCallister will take the raw data for further analysis.
- The formal survey report will be posted for review in the Library.

Board Chairs-Elect

- Checked in with current Board Chairs about interest in serving a second term:
 - Eric Olsen is interested in serving a second term.
 - Emi Bennett Vo is interested in serving a second term.
- For the Board of Outreach, Peter Eichten is thinking about it.
- Next steps: re-assemble the Nominating Committee and formally approve the above Chairs Elect.

Church Growth Task Force Charter – Latest Draft

- Little time was available for discussion, but there is an updated draft of the charter for the Church Growth Task Force available for review. Next step is to make consistent with other Task Force charters.

Next Meeting

- Next Leadership Council **February 28, 2018** at 6:00 pm

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Mike McCallister, secretary

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.