



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>		X	Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>	■		Jerry Jorgenson (2018)
■		Rossi Clem (2019)	■		Penny Needham (2018)
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>	X		Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
■		Karl Jones (2019)		X	Vacant (2020)

GUEST: Seth Patterson

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. The Board of Worship endorses the proposal to restructure worship service & education times on Sunday mornings to include:

- 9-9:50 First Service
- 10-10:50 Fellowship/Education (with information tables set up in Guild Hall)
- 11- noon Second Service
- Noon – more fellowship

Opening Thought: Penny – read about worship from “Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC” by Fredrick Buechner

Discussion regarding changing Sunday worship & education times

Proposal:

- 9:15 am – 10 am (about): First Service – stay in Chapel for now, if growth continues will need to change location
- 10:10(about) – 10:50 am: Education/Fellowship – coffee after First Service; Church School & Sunday Forum would start about 10:15; would allow inter-generation offerings, could be more creative. Confirmation would probably meet in this hour.
- 11 – ?: Second Service
- After Second Service have another coffee hour

Change would start this fall (Rally Sunday)

Has been shared with committee for Children, Youth & Families and that committee supports the idea

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.

Would have 2 different worship services with common education/fellowship hour – the education/fellowship time is the point at which we are **all together** on Sunday

This schedule allows for a longer First Service; participants have been asking for more content so this extra 15 minutes will support that.

Need to make this decision rather quickly because planning for educational events needs to start before June

Discussion:

- Church school teachers would no longer have to choose between attending worship or teaching
- Offers opportunities to be together across age groups
- The hour of education/fellowship could “fail” but it could also succeed in building connections
- Will families be able to make it by 9:15? – some families are used to getting family out the door earlier on school days
- Concern: may be important to allow people to hear about it sooner & even vote at it at the Annual Meeting instead of only being decided by boards
 - Waiting until Annual Meeting in June makes planning for next Fall more challenging
- Seth would like to do survey of First Service attenders – once have support from Board of Worship & Board of Spiritual Formation
- Suggest also doing survey of those who attend Second Service
- Similar schedule was proposed in 1980s and voted down
- How do we develop a concise, simple survey that will provide useful information?
- Need to have some conversations before a survey
- This schedule change fits with 3 top concerns of recent survey as well as concerns in survey 20 years ago
- “Church” – people go to worship and then do something together
- Build some time in for mingling & getting to the next event
- The biggest push-back may be from Adult Forum planners – Adult Forum currently uses 1 hour+
- How about having a ‘test Sunday’ – just do it one Sunday this spring?

Jerry moved that the Board endorses changing the Sunday morning schedule to include two worship services with an education/fellowship hour in between. After discussion, Karen proposed a revision: The Board of Worship endorses the proposal to restructure worship service & education times on Sunday mornings to include:

- 9-9:50 First Service
- 10-10:50 Fellowship/Education (with information tables set up in Guild Hall)
- 11- noon Second Service
- Noon – more fellowship

Rossi seconded. Passed unanimously

- If Board of Spiritual Formation also endorses this change, would then take to Leadership Council. Would then educate the congregation – articles, times to discuss. If hear a lot of negative feedback, then re-think.
- Important to get a variety of lay people to address – collect stories from a variety of people who aren’t on boards, use those stories in this campaign....’this is what people in this church are saying’
- This is something that we think will build relationships and build inter-generational connections (goals identified in survey)
- Don’t assume people will rebel...when clergy have this discussed this with people, there is positive response
- This could be an opportunity to pull people in – not just deciding behind closed doors
- Leadership Council meets Holy Week
- Easter could be a good time for a bulletin insert; could have conversations during the month of April
- What impact would this schedule have on the Family Potlucks?
- Suggest we all talk with other people in the congregation about this idea.

Lent & Easter worship services and activities

Wednesday night activities

- March 14 – Jamie
- March 21 – Karen
- March 28 – Nancy: pretzels & other Lenten breads (hot cross buns, semlor buns)

Maundy Thursday – communion

- 7:30 pm
- Bread-baking was cancelled for lack of interest
- Karen will take care of preparing the elements

Good Friday – walking the labyrinth

- 9 am – noon, walk the labyrinth in the Chapel
- MJ will come at 10 am to provide some education

Easter Sunday – 3 services

- 6:30 Sunrise – start outside and then move to Chapel
- 9 am
- 11 am
- Easter Egg hunt 10 – 11 am

Committees of the Board of Worship

Status & liaisons to each

At last Leadership meeting, emphasized that work of boards should include more than just board members. Karen suggests we get more people involved. Jamie volunteered to help recruit.

Worship Hosts

Karl is liaison and this group meets monthly.

Communion

Need to identify more people – possibly people who used to help with Communion for Second Service

First Service

Jasper & Rossi handle this, but finding volunteer family hosts is getting more difficult.

Worship Spaces (paraments, artwork, candles)

Memorial Service

Next Meeting

Plan for Board Fair on 4/22 to attract new members for Plymouth's 6 boards

Continue to discuss committees at next meeting

There is a 160th Birthday Party in May 20th – parts being planned by Community Life, Children Youth & Family

Next Board meeting will be Thursday 4/12/2018, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in Fireside Room

Opening thought by: Karl

Closing thought by: Nancy

Closing thought: Karen – from 2011 Lenten Meditation Book “I was a stranger & you welcomed me”

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*