



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF OUTREACH

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
x		Beth Comeaux (2018), <i>Chair</i>	x		Sue Moses (2020)
x		Sally Cassellius (2019)	x		Paula Northwood, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
	x	Birdie Cunningham (2019)	x		Jared Swanson (2019)
x		Peter Eichten (2020)	x		Peter Vitale (2020)
	x	Loretta Menke (2018)	x		Gingie Ward (2018)

GUESTS: Seth Patterson and Sara Lehman. The Board met at 6pm for a tour of the Groveland Food Shelf.

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Agenda Items

Paula led us in an opening prayer.

Immigrant Welcoming Working Group:

- Jared gave an update from the Immigrant Welcoming Working Group. It started last June to start looking into the possibility of Plymouth becoming a sanctuary church. Those interested quickly realized there were many steps involved and it was a long process. There were also other options to pursue such as sanctuary supporting churches. The group picked up steam in the fall after Fellowship Concerns and hosting a table in Guild Hall.
- Daniel Romero, from First Congregational Church in Minneapolis, has been a contact for the working group. He's been active in recruiting volunteers to attend deportation hearings to provide emotional support to those going through the process. He asked if Plymouth would be interested in sponsoring one of the prayer vigils before the hearings. Another program is "Conversations With Friends." This involves letter writing to detainees or going to Albert Lea to visit detainees in jail for weekly face to face conversations.
- Two members, John Humphrey and Mary Kay Souter offered a study group this winter to learn about the immigration and deportation system in the United States.
- Jared also mentioned MIRAC- Minnesota Immigration Rights Action Committee.....encouraging churches to adopt a Sanctuary Now Platform. The group has started to look at endorsing this platform.

100 Hands:

- Sara Lehman and Seth Patterson presented about the Wednesday evening intergenerational service activities; 100 Hands. Every week, some form of service activity takes place in Jones Commons on Wednesday evenings, 6pm to 7:30pm. Plymouth members tie blankets, knit cowls to give away, pack groceries, etc. To date, they have produced 2000 sandwiches, 2000 lbs of food for the food shelf, 28 fleece blankets and helped prep for Christmas Festival They've also stuffed envelopes, created hot chocolate tubes for the youth, and assembled 300 sacks of holiday candies for 3rd Sunday meal. Finally, they constructed 2 storage boxes for Habitat for Humanity, and helped create 80 feminine hygiene packets (not covered by SNAP.)

- They've spent \$2800 since October and have exhausted the budget for the program this year. They would like it to be funded by gifts rather than a budget item. So far, they have one \$1000 gift and another \$1000 pledged. Early sessions were smaller. Now they need approximately \$200 per week. Next week is Haven Housing, a shelter that serves women and children and they are making decoupage boxes with personal care items.
- They are requesting money from the Sandbo fund, since their work serves the immediate neighborhood which is what the funds are meant to do. They would like \$2000 to get them through the rest of the year. They will continue to build the program and develop the self-sustaining model so that next year they will not rely on money from the church.
- We discussed the criteria and process for granting access to the Sandbo funds since none were every officially developed. Peter Eichten suggested someone from the board sit down with Loretta and come up with 4 or 5 criteria for the rest of the board to approve. Beth agreed to do this.
- The board then approved \$2000 for 100 Hands.

Other:

- Paula talked briefly about the new Growth Task Force will be nominated after Easter.
- Need to fill at least two positions on the Board of Outreach next year. Beth asked the board to start thinking of possible candidates.
- There's a new job description for the Board of Outreach. Beth asked the board to look over the documents and make edits, suggestions
- Paula passed out an activity calendar for the church to look for possible conflicts when scheduling events.

Next Meeting

April 11, 2018

6:30-8:00pm , Room 203

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vitale, secretary*