



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2017

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
	■	David Astin (2020)			
■		Josh Scharback (2019)	■		Seth Patterson, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
■		Becky Dougherty(2020)	■		Jan Rabbers (2018)
	■	Becky Dunn (2018)			
	■	Greta Hallberg (2018)		■	Ging Wiandt (2018), <i>Chair</i>
■		John Humphrey (2019)			

GUESTS: na

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Board vote on proposed Sunday morning schedule change—4 present of 8 voting members—will get outstanding votes by email response to these minutes—we believe we need at least 5 in favor (out of 8 voting members) to be able to say we as a board support moving ahead with this proposal.

Here is the motion we voted on: The Spiritual Formation Board endorses the proposal to restructure worship service and education times on Sunday mornings to include:

- 9:00-9:50 First Service
- 10:00-10:00 Fellowship / Education (with information tables set up in Guild Hall)
- 11:00-12:00 Second Service
- 12:00 More fellowship

We amended the motion to add, “recognizing that the end times may be subject to change.” Rabbers made the motion; Humphrey seconded. 4 out of 4 voting members present voted in favor.

Discussion of proposed Sunday morning schedule change

There was a great deal of discussion. The rationale for starting each segment on the hour is that it will be easy to remember, and people won’t have to worry about quarter till or quarter after. The only previously undiscussed issue

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.

we came up with was: Will parking be an issue? For example, if older members with no kids want to arrive at 11, will they have to park far away?

Connections – Saturday night event

Not happening this spring, too many other changes going on at this time

New Members/Families/Relationships

Money available, but we need to understand and agree on why we're spending it and what we hope to accomplish

One key issue: Plymouth is not hospitable—we don't approach new people, and/or we just leave right after church

BRAINSTORMING

How do we increase new members, new families, member relationships?

How do we get our congregation members to SPEAK to new people (and each other)?

Have members of our congregation go out and bring in new members—then they have investment

Multiple greeters – greet new people – one greets – one says “Let me take you there”

Greeter at front of sanctuary at end of service – invite new people to come up front after worship, someone to take them into Guild Hall, introduce them to others

At Benediction, shake hands of people near you (worked at a different church)

Plymouth seems to be becoming more participatory – social justice requires participation

Identify by neighborhoods – organize neighborhood get-togethers

What do other churches do to welcome new people / families?

“On Being” episode on creating a welcoming church – Nadia Boltz-Weber (spelling?) book Pastorix

Put something in the service to get people to interact

How to change our culture?

Need a common cause, like the marriage amendment

We want to love each other; we're just not very good at it

(Notice how few of the suggestions here involve expenditure of funds.)

Next Meeting

April 10, 2018, 6:30pm

*Respectfully submitted,
John Humphrey, secretary*