



# Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## BOARD OF OUTREACH

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 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:** Jan Neville, Caring for Creation Committee and Tom Haigh, Immigrant Welcoming Working Group

### ***Actions Taken:***

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### ***Agenda Items***

Sally led the meditation, reading a blessing for Earth Day by Jeff Sartain.

**Caring For Creation:** Jan presented on behalf of the Caring for Creation Committee. Seth is their staff liaison. The group has been in existence for 12 years working to make PCC more environmentally sound by encouraging recycling and composting, hosting a sustainability fair, installing the rain garden, sponsoring educational programs, and engaging in some political activism. They are committed to helping PCC reduce our carbon footprint and shift to renewable energy. They have also been active in pursuing building upgrades and efficiencies like the the solar panel campaign which was kicked off 2 years ago.

The amount of solar panels we have at Plymouth satisfies about 5% of our needs. We are signed up to receive energy from a Solar Garden but have been unable to access energy as of yet, since they are full due to popularity. Peter E. asked for clarification on solar gardens and their relationship to the larger electricity grid in the United States. Currently, solar gardens still operate through the larger grid system, and is not truly independent.

Currently, the committee is continuing with education by sponsoring Sunday Forum speakers, as well as a film this past March on the topic of the Mississippi River. The Producer/Director spoke at the screening. They are still engaged in advocacy when appropriate bills come forward. They continue to work on carbon neutrality of PCC, (parking lot lighting, electric car charging stations, etc.)

Earth Day is approaching, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. For the next 100 hands Wednesday evening activity, they will be sponsoring the making of seed balls, (clay/dirt/seeds) which will be handed out to the congregation on Earth Day.

They hosted the Harvest Festival last fall and visited Sunday School classes for two Sundays, creating “Vision Boards” for how the children want to see the world in 20 years. Activities included a potluck, a slideshow, and a demonstration of a solar panel powering a fan. They plan to do more partnering with families in the future as a means of building community and growing the membership of the committee. Currently the group has about 6 active members.

They want to continue to incorporate the values of stewardship into the core values and identity of Plymouth and connect to the issue of “growth.”

What they are looking for from the Board of Outreach is support for the activities of the CCC by helping getting the word out about their programs via the different modes of communication available to us.

**Leadership Council:** Paula gave the Leadership Council update and reminded us that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have representatives from all of the boards after the 10:30am service in Guild Hall for informational and recruitment purposes. She also asked us to keep considering how we can do things differently within the board as it pertains to Growth. Paula would like every board and committee to set a goal for tangible growth. Each board will be being given a \$1000 increase in the next budget period. We will continue to work on nominations for future board members.

Tom Haigh, from the **Immigrant Welcoming Committee Working Group joined us.** The Group started last summer to address Sanctuary Church status. They determined it was premature to establish that right now, but important to show support for the immigrant community. Tom Haigh encouraged attendance at the immigration hearings at the Whipple Center at Fort Snelling. He talked a bit about, ICOM (Interfaith Committee on Migration.) Daniel Romero is very effective and active locally in the group. He also mentioned the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) which has developed a Sanctuary Now Platform. Minneapolis is the first target for the platform and was introduced at the caucuses in February. The goal is to get the Minneapolis City Council to adopt as many resolutions as possible from the platform. The Working Group would like Plymouth to endorse the platform officially so that MIRAC can use that endorsement at higher levels as they pursue their agenda. The Board agreed by consensus that Beth will bring the Board's endorsement to the Leadership Council next week for their consideration.

MIRAC is also involved with Poor People's Campaign initiated by MLK Jr. William Barber is leading a national effort focused on environmental justice, racial justice, economic justice and antimilitarism. MIRAC is taking the lead for racial justice in MN and planning "40 Days of Action" this spring. Saturday, April 14, 9:30 to 1pm MIRAC is sponsoring a training session at Plymouth for training on successful behavior in non-violent disobedience.

**The Sandbo Fund** was discussed and we edited the language and criteria for the disbursement of the funds.

Mary Welfling, archivist, has a volunteer who will help us compile job descriptions of all of the committees and boards. We will need an annual report of every working group and committee starting in 2019.

#### **Next Meeting**

May 9th, 2018

6:30-8:00pm , Room 203

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*Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Vitale, secretary*