



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Attendance:

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

GUESTS: none

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Summer Communion will be held August 5 and will be served to the congregation in the pews.

Item 3.

Opening Thought – Karen read a selection: “The Fear of What is Different” from The Book of Awakening by Mark Nepo

Discussion Items for Immediate Future

“Ambassador Stories” as monthly agenda item

Bryce Hamilton made a commitment to talk to someone he didn’t know every Sunday and challenged other members of the Board of Membership to also do this. At their monthly meetings, board members would share their stories. This is a way to imbed reaching out to others on Sundays. This will be a regular agenda item for our board to share similar stories.

Feedback from congregation regarding service times change

Overall the response has been positive about the change. The people who are uncomfortable have more to say about the idea, but the actual number of responses have been more in favor of the change.

The preacher would be the same at both services and the theme would be the same for both services. The First and Second Services would not be duplicates of each other, but would use similar scripture and theme. Each service will continue its current “culture”, with the First Service being more participatory. There will be a new Church School

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.

curriculum next year. Beth isn't familiar with the curriculum and doesn't know if it will follow the lectionary. Currently, the preachers do follow the lectionary.

Karen sent several different attachments with the agenda for tonight, which included surveys of families attending First Service. There were a number of families who expressed concern about 9 am start time.

Some concerns have been expressed about children in Second Service. Families will need to make a choice which service to attend. There are already some children who stay in the Second Service and choose not to go to Church School. There will be nursery care for Birth – 3. There will continue to be a basket of books & coloring sheets for children to use during Second Service.

According to the church-wide survey, the message was "Do not mess with the Second Service". This change in schedule would not change the culture of the Second Service.

At the end of the Second Service, there is a pattern of everyone listening to the Postlude and applauding instead of greeting their neighbor. There are conflicting views of what the end of the service should look like.

How could our worship reflect our commitment to Social Justice, Racial Justice? How do we take that passion and incorporate that into worship?

A large part of the congregation comes to be uplifted by the music at the Second Service.

Who are we as a church? – We need to define that. Who we are should be reflected in our worship.

Beth: The Board of Worship can create a culture around worship.

The Board of Spiritual Formation did pass the same resolution as Board of Worship.

Need to plan:

- What should First Service look like?
- Need to plan the 10-11 time. That time is "owned" by the Board of Spiritual Formation. Would it make sense to have some joint meetings with both boards?
- Something to measure this against is the first 3 top goals revealed in the church-wide survey
- If we are going to seriously talk about Second Service, need to bring Philip into the conversation

Karen will talk with Ging about plans for implementing the new schedule. The schedule change would start Rally Day.

Date for summer communion at Second Service

- July 29 vs. August 5?
 - Summer Communion will be passed instead of intinction
 - Board agreed Summer Communion will be August 5
 - When we pass Communion instead of serve by intinction, we need more people to help with set-up and clean-up.
- The 2014 updated Bylaws don't mention anything about frequency or dates of Communion. The older version of the bylaws did specify dates of Communion.

Continuing First Service through the summer

- Will continue to meet June, July & August
- First Service will not meet on Memorial Day weekend or Labor Day weekend
- First Service will not meet May 20, Youth Sunday

Focusing on First Service being “community-centered” vs. “family friendly”

What is the ‘purpose’ of each service? How do we accurately describe the two services? Is the First Service more participatory? Second Service is ‘traditional’ – “traditional worship with a progressive message” was former tagline.

To provide people a choice, the First Service shouldn’t be marketed as “families only”. Jasper & Rossi have difficulty finding people to be the hosts.....tends to be usually families with children. Would be helpful to have a First Service committee to help with recruitment.

One goal we have to mix generations more. Does labeling First Service “family friendly” discourage some people from attending?

Date to close sanctuary balcony for the summer

Suggestion made that balcony be closed starting Memorial Day weekend.

Attendance at Second Service on Confirmation and Youth Sundays

How to encourage congregational support for children and youth?

Have dates been set for 2019?

Encourage people to come to the dance on May 19.

Discussion Items for 2018-2019

Being beverage servers in Guild Hall after Second Service for one month

No time to discuss this

Best ways to measure attendance at worship services

No time to discuss this

Themes for the year as proposed by clergy

Beth, Paula & Seth have discussed themes for the church year. They would like the Board of Worship to be involved in the discussion.

Blessing of the animals service

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi: October 4

Karen suggests doing this on a Saturday. Beth is happy to lead it. Jeff previously led a similar service a few years ago.

Liaisons for committees

- Second Service Worship Hosts Committee
 - Need to identify new person to liaison and be in charge of schedule for ushers & greeters. Karl had agreed to organize this for only 1 year so we need a volunteer.

- Karen asked Karl for the list of all the people who currently volunteer. Karl's approach has been to avoid a spirit of sacrifice and a spirit of panic. Paula has said the confirmands will be on the usher team with their parents. Karl currently uses a team of 8 ushers.
- First Service Committee
- Memorial Service Committee
- Communion Committee
 - Nancy will ask Nancy Gores for a list of former volunteers and will check if any of them are willing to help with set-up and clean-up on Communion Sundays.

Arranging for greeters for First and Second Services

Ran out of time – discuss next month

Next Meeting

- Will discuss logistics of schedule change.
- Also need to discuss greeters.
- We need to designate someone to succeed Karl as liaison & scheduler of ushers for Second Service.
- We need to explore possibility of meeting with Board of Spiritual Formation

Next Meeting: June 14, 2018, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Opening Thought: Karl

Closing Thought: Jamie

Closing Thought – Penny: poem by Ezra Pound

What thou lov'st well remains, the rest is dross

What thou lov'st well shall not be reft from thee

What thou lov'st well is thy true heritage

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*