



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Peg Birk (2020)	■		Brian Siska (2018), <i>Clerk</i>
■		Pat Born (2018)		■	Jim van Iwaarden (2019), <i>Treasurer</i>
■		Ed Curtiss (2019)	■		Greg Zoidis (2019)
■		Katie Dillon (2018)	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister</i>
■		Claire Kolmodin (2020), <i>Moderator</i>		■	Paula Northwood, <i>Minister for Spiritual Formation</i>
	■	Catherine Shreves (2020)	■		Dan Wolpert, Interim Minister

GUESTS: Allison Campbell Jensen

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Motion passed to revise amendment to the Bylaws previously voted on at the April 3, 2018 meeting.

Item 3. Motion passed that Plymouth Congregational Church take J.D. Haas in care in preparation for ordination.

Agenda and Minutes:

Opening Meditation

Claire made remarks of gratitude for the work and support of the Clergy and Deacons.

Report of the Ministers

There is a lot of positive energy around the schedule change for this fall.

Board of Community Life hosted an Interfaith Luncheon on mental health. They also sponsored a church dance as part of the anniversary celebration, which people seemed to enjoy.

Dan has been meeting with many individuals and groups. Has had an excellent turnout for silent prayer on Tuesday mornings.

Dan is exploring theological, worship, and hospitality issues and building use with a variety of people. He believes we should be more in touch with the abundance at Plymouth.

Report of the Moderator

Discussed the ordination process for the U.C.C and for Seth.

Transition Policy Task Force

The Task Force has a meeting Thursday night with outside experts on Ministry models, including Lew Zeidner.

Other Matters

Discussed the angry and antagonistic tone that people at Plymouth sometimes take with each other.

Dan discussed using the Social Discernment Cycle with the Clergy and the Deacons.

Motion passed that Plymouth Congregational Church take J.D. Haas in care in preparation for ordination.

Annual Governance Agenda

Motion passed to present a motion at the annual meeting to amend the bylaws as follows:

VIII. CHURCH STAFF

1. All ministers shall be called by the Congregation, except for interim and transitional ministers (all ministers are referred to in these Bylaws as “Ministers”). When any position of a called Minister is vacant, the Deacons shall appoint a Ministerial Search Committee from among the members of the Congregation to be elected by the Congregation. As to the Senior Minister, the Ministerial Search Committee shall consult with the Deacons as to compensation and other contractual terms of hiring, and then submit the candidate to the members of the Congregation for their approval. As to all other called Ministers, the committee shall recommend its candidate to the Deacons and the Senior Minister and upon approval by the Deacons and the Senior Minister, the Deacons shall recommend the candidate to the members of the Congregation for their approval. The selection or removal of a called Minister shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members in attendance at a meeting of the Congregation called for that purpose. The Deacons may select interim or transitional Ministers without a Congregational vote, using any process for making the selection the Deacons determine. The term of employment of an interim or transitional Minister shall not exceed 24 months without the vote of the Congregation required for the selection of a called Minister.

The changes represented in this amendment from the existing bylaws are:

- In the first sentence, added “by the Congregation, except for interim and transitional ministers (all ministers are referred to in these Bylaws as “Ministers”)”.
- Following the first sentence, lower case “minister” and “ministers” is changed to “Minister” and “Ministers”.
- Added two new final sentences; “The Deacons may select interim and transitional Ministers without a Congregational vote, using any process for making the selection the Deacons determine. The term of employment of an interim or transitional Minister shall not exceed 24 months without the vote of the Congregation required for the selection of a called Minister.”

This motion modifies the amendment voted on and passed on April 3, 2018.

Next Meeting Preview

Annual meeting

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Siska, Clerk